



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (1/14/22)

Upcoming Oversight Hearing

SUBJECT: The Impact of Ambulance Patient Offload Delays on Emergency Response

WHEN: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

WHERE: State Capitol, Room 437

Governor Newsom Announces New \$2.7 Billion COVID-19 Emergency Response Package

[Governor Newsom's Administration](#) unveiled a proposed \$2.7 billion COVID-19 Emergency Response Package on Saturday – including a \$1.4 billion emergency appropriation request – to bolster testing capacity, accelerate vaccination and booster efforts, support frontline workers, strengthen the health care system and battle misinformation. The Governor's budget also calls for new legislation to implement supplemental paid sick leave policies given the current situation being driven by the Omicron variant to better protect our frontline workers.

“From day one, California has taken swift and direct action to battle COVID-19 with policies that have saved tens of thousands of lives, but there’s more work to be done,” said Governor Newsom. “Our proposed COVID-19 Emergency Response Package will support our testing capacity, accelerate vaccination and booster efforts, support frontline workers and health care systems and battle misinformation, with a focus on the hardest-hit communities.”

To read further details as to what the overall package includes, [view the full press release](#).

Governor Newsom Visits Los Angeles County COVID Testing Site to Present Emergency Response Package

[NBC Los Angeles reports](#) California Governor Gavin Newsom was in southern Los Angeles County on Wednesday, visiting a COVID testing site and highlighting his COVID-19 Emergency Response Package.

The Emergency Response Package is part of Newsom's "California Blueprint" budget plan. It would provide money for increased vaccination and booster shot efforts, statewide testing, and an increase in medical personnel, according to a statement from the Governor's office.

"California has led the nation's fight against COVID-19, taking actions that have saved tens of thousands of lives," the statement reads.

California has a [projected \\$45.7 billion surplus](#), driven by incredible growth in tax collections during the pandemic. Newsom's budget plan, shared Monday, would use some of that money to fight COVID-19, climate change, crime, high costs of living and the homelessness crisis.

California Teeters on Edge of More COVID Shutdowns

[CalMatters reports](#) starting Wednesday, Sonoma County is [banning large gatherings](#) for the next month. Los Angeles County on Tuesday [urged residents](#) to postpone nonessential gatherings and avoid some activities. The state prison system on Saturday [suspended in-person visits](#) as COVID surges among employees and inmates. A growing number of hospitals are [cancelling or postponing certain surgeries](#).

Although both [Gov. Gavin Newsom](#) and [Dr. Mark Ghaly](#), the state's top health official, have repeatedly stressed that California doesn't foresee further COVID-related shutdowns, they're happening anyway as more people enter quarantine — raising questions about how long the state will be able to keep overburdened and understaffed schools, health care facilities and businesses open if the omicron wave doesn't peak soon.

Los Angeles Unified, the state's largest, reopened Tuesday — but, with more than 62,000 students and staff testing positive for COVID, nearly 2,000 district employees had to step in to keep things running. Hayward Unified on Monday moved online for at least a week after more than 500 students tested positive and teachers were absent from more than half of classrooms. Palo Alto managed to avoid shuttering Monday only after 450 parent volunteers filled positions ranging from custodians to in-classroom roles; parents have also been asked to help supervise classrooms in Sacramento City Unified.

Meanwhile, students and teachers in both [Oakland](#) and [San Francisco Unified](#) are threatening sickouts, saying they won't show up to school without heightened health and safety protocols. West Contra Costa Unified, which reopened Tuesday after closing for two days with no instruction, is now requiring employees to wear KN95 masks and students to wear surgical masks.

The situation is similarly dire in other workplaces. More than 800 of 12,200 Los Angeles Police Department employees are out sick this week, and COVID-positive officers tend to be gone for an average of 24 days, Chief Michel Moore said. Santa Clara County on Monday backed off from a booster mandate for health care workers at the request of already strained hospitals. And nearly 4,000 prison workers [were COVID-positive on Tuesday](#), a more than 212% increase from the beginning of the month.

Restaurants are also shuttering across the state, and the mayors of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland and San Rafael recently joined 21 others across the country [in begging Congress](#) to provide emergency relief to stave off permanent closures and “catastrophic” economic impacts.

New Variants, New Regulations: Updates to the Emergency COVID Standards Take Effect January 14th

[The National Law Review reports](#) last month, California's Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (“OSHSB”) readopted and revised the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards (“ETS”). By and large, OSHSB's revised ETS retain most of the key requirements of the prior version, which had last been updated last June. However,

the [revised ETS](#), which will take effect on January 14th, also aim to conform the existing rules to the latest requirements and recommendations from the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”). A summarized version of some of the more notable updated provisions can be found by [visiting the full article](#).

U.S. COVID Hospitalizations Hit New Record High, Raising Risks for Patients

[NPR reports](#) the Omicron-driven surge has sent COVID-19 hospitalizations skyrocketing across the U.S., reaching a new pandemic high this week with 145,982 patients hospitalized.

This exceeds the previous high recorded in January last year, according to data tracked by the Department of Health and Human Services, from more than 5,400 hospitals in the country.

Patients with COVID now fill about 30% of ICU beds in the nation and pediatric COVID hospitalizations [are also at the highest rate](#) of the pandemic.

The record-breaking numbers are a sign of just how quickly the omicron variant has swept across the country. Overall, infections are also at record levels, with the U.S. averaging more than 700,000 new cases a day.

And researchers and health workers warn that the crowded conditions could be leading to a rise in avoidable deaths, as clinicians struggle to provide the level of care they would normally.

"Things are looking grim and substantially worse in many ways than even just a year ago," says [Dr. Doug White](#), a critical care physician at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

To read further warnings of crisis from various state and hospital leaders across the nation, [click here](#).

Omicron Brings Fewer Serious Illnesses, But California Hospitals Are Overwhelmed as Cases Soar

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) California’s healthcare system is expected to face continued stress in coming weeks as the Omicron variant spawns new waves of coronavirus infection, even as new research shows the latest phase of the pandemic is producing significantly less severe illness.

Officials say they are focusing on protecting hospital operations, which are facing severe staffing shortages as workers get infected, but they hope the system can withstand Omicron. They continue to urge people to do all they can to avoid getting infected.

Omicron “is less severe than previous variants,” Gov. Gavin Newsom said at a press briefing in Paramount on Wednesday. Intensive care units are nowhere near as busy with COVID-19 patients as they were a year ago.

But it’s also true that never before in the pandemic have so many people been simultaneously infected with the coronavirus. And that is leaving emergency rooms inundated, ambulances facing delays dropping people off at hospitals, and patients seeing their scheduled surgeries canceled.

There is “enormous pressure, ultimately, on our healthcare system,” Newsom said.

Kaiser Permanente Southern California temporarily postponed all scheduled surgeries that require an inpatient stay in the hospital after an operation. The move came after a number of hospital systems across California reported being forced to postpone at least some scheduled procedures.

And the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has begun reporting what officials called a “troubling increase” in COVID-19 deaths. On Wednesday, L.A. County reported 39 COVID-19 deaths, the highest daily tally since Sept. 22, when the summer Delta surge was fading.

Nonetheless, Newsom and others have expressed guarded optimism that Omicron’s meteoric rise may be met with an equally quick fall — a trend experienced in other countries where the variant arrived earlier.

To read more on the Omicron variant and how hospitals are expected to be affected, [visit the full article](#).

Avoid Using Emergency Departments or 911 for Mild COVID-19 Symptoms, Sacramento Health Officials Say

[ABC 10 reports](#) Sacramento County Public Health officials are calling on people to avoid using emergency departments and 911 for mild COVID-19 symptoms and testing.

The [plea from public health](#) comes as the omicron variants spreads throughout communities in California. Officials said the hospitals are needed for people with severe symptoms and other critical illnesses.

Anyone with a non-emergency situation is asked to either get ahold of their healthcare provider or head to an urgent care facility. Officials added that emergency departments shouldn't be used to get tested for clearance purposes, such as for trips, concerts or employment.

“Most people who contract coronavirus do not need to visit a hospital emergency department and can recover from their illness at home or by seeking primary care treatment,” said Public Health Officer Dr. Olivia Kasirye in a news release. “Those seeking testing should do so from one of the many community testing sites, not an ED.”

To view the most recent COVID-19 cases rates for Sacramento County, view the dashboard below. For a list of vaccination clinics, [visit the Sacramento County Public Health Vaccination website](#) or [MyTurn.ca.gov](#).

Facing Understaffed Hospitals, California Temporarily Allows Asymptomatic Workers to Return After Positive COVID Test, Exposure

[Fierce Healthcare reports](#) healthcare labor groups are pushing back against an emergency decision by the California Department of Public Health to permit healthcare personnel who tested positive for COVID-19 to return to work if asymptomatic, foregoing both an isolation period and follow-up testing.

[The temporary guidance](#), published Saturday, is in effect through Feb. 1 for general acute care hospitals, acute psychiatric hospitals and skilled nursing facilities.

It aims to address “critical staffing shortages currently being experienced across the healthcare continuum because of the rise in the omicron variant,” according to the notice.

In addition to the update for asymptomatic healthcare personnel who initially tested positive, the guidance also permits workers who were exposed but do not have symptoms to resume work “immediately without quarantine and without testing.”

Both the exposed and test-positive healthcare workers should be assigned to work with COVID-19 patients when possible, according to the guidance.

Additionally, these workers “must wear an N95 respirator for source control. Facilities implementing this change must have made every attempt to bring in the additional registry or contract staff and must have considered modifications to non-essential procedures,” according to the guidance.

Hospital employers in California are not bound to the public health department’s guidance and may choose to implement stricter return-to-work requirements.

Still, healthcare worker groups within the state released statements the same day condemning the California Department of Public Health’s temporary guidance.

SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West (SEIU-UHW), a healthcare union claiming more than 100,000 participants, said the state health department’s decision to drop “common-sense” testing and isolation requirements would only serve to increase workplace outbreaks and endanger patients.

“Our union will fight for safe working conditions for hospital workers who have continuously put their lives on the line during this pandemic,” Dave Regan, president of SEIU-UHW. “We intend to expose any hospital employer who knowingly puts patients at risk by forcing COVID positive caregivers back to work.”

The California Nurses Association (CNA) agreed that the new guidelines were “in effect guaranteeing more transmission” and suggested that the state had caved to the requests of private industry.

More than 35% of California hospitals reported experiencing critical staffing shortages, well over the national average of roughly 1 in 5, [according to Department of Health and Human Services data](#).

California also isn’t the only area where workforce shortages are driving a faster return to work for healthcare workers. Per a Sunday report from [the Associated Press](#), Dignity Health has told its Arizona hospital employees that they may request clearance to return to work if they had a positive COVID-19 test but are either asymptomatic or have improving mild symptoms.

These decisions come just a couple of weeks after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shortened its nationwide isolation guidance for healthcare workers and the general public alike. Those decisions were [similarly panned](#) by labor groups, prominent public health experts and the American Medical Association for, among other things, not requiring a negative test after a five-day isolation.

To view the full temporary guidance, including updated guidance regarding quarantine, [click here](#).

Ambulances Going Back to ‘Assess and Refer’ in Face of Outbreak

[The Business Journal reports](#) for the fourth time in 18 months, the Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency has implemented its Assess and Refer Policy in efforts to alleviate hospital strain.

Dan Lynch, EMS director, said the policy is in effect for Fresno, Madera, Tulare and Kings counties. Upon an ambulance arriving to a patient who calls 911, the emergency medical team will assess whether it’s an emergent scenario that requires patient transport to the emergency room.

According to the Fresno County Department of Public Health and the Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency, emergencies qualify as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, bluish lips or face and inability to wake or stay awake.

Ambulance providers are being directed to respond to calls, and if the patient meets criteria with non-emergent medical conditions, they will be referred to a nearby urgent care, clinic, telehealth service or private physician.

“We are really working very, very hard to try to keep people that do not need to be at an emergency department out of the emergency department. It’s very, very important,” Lynch said.

The Central Valley is experiencing a triple threat, as Lynch described it – increased emergency calls, overwhelmed emergency departments and a skeleton crew at the hospitals. Because the hospitals are full, patients get admitted but have nowhere to stay except in the emergency room beds until other beds open up. In some hospitals, ICU patients are taking up emergency room beds.

It’s not uncommon for ambulances to wait hours in order to turn over their patients to hospital staff.

“You can’t just drop and go – you actually have to turn over to a team member who’s responsible for the patient’s care,” said Interim Health Officer Dr. Rais Vohra.

To combat this problem, the state has supported hospitals with special staff – Ambulance Patient Offload Teams. Since hospitals are already worn thin, these supplemental health care workers will help meet that guideline so ambulances can transport more patients.

Lynch said there are more than 350 Covid-positive patients in the hospitals, which sets the Valley back to similar numbers in September when the Delta variant was rampant.

“We’re expecting this to get worse before it gets better, and so we’re preparing for that,” Lynch said.

Lynch said implementing the policy cuts the transport volume by about 20%, or about 60 patients a day.

Blood Shortage Forced Trauma Center to Close for Hours, L.A. County Says

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) blood shortages forced the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services to shut down one of its trauma centers to new patients for hours earlier this week

— a step it had not taken in over three decades, officials at the county department said Wednesday.

The trauma center at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center closed to new patients for more than two hours on Monday, according to a department spokesperson. It had to reach out to other hospitals in the DHS system for blood in order to reopen.

Dr. Marianne Gausche-Hill, medical director of the Los Angeles County EMS Agency, said L.A. County had not had to close a trauma center to patients because of inadequate blood supplies in more than 30 years.

Dr. Christina Ghaly, director of the health services department, said that the critical shortage in blood, combined with surging hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients and staff shortages, could affect how hospitals can care for the public “in much more serious ways” than the surge last winter, resulting in canceled surgeries and delayed care for people in need.

She argued that unless blood banks in Southern California make sure that the limited supply is prioritized for designated trauma centers in L.A. County, “we could see trauma centers forced to close down more frequently and for longer periods of time in the coming weeks.” Ghaly urged Angelenos to donate blood if they can.

The Red Cross, which says it is now facing its [worst blood shortage](#) in over a decade, has faulted dwindling donations amid the pandemic and flu season. High school and college students, who once accounted for a quarter of its annual donors, have become much less likely to give as on-campus blood drives have been canceled.

The blood shortage is just one of the forces straining local hospitals: Surging numbers of healthcare workers have gotten infected with COVID-19 as the highly contagious Omicron variant has spread.

In the face of those staff shortages, California is allowing asymptomatic healthcare workers who have tested positive for the coronavirus to return to work immediately— a policy that has alarmed many workers and community members.

Governor Newsom Issues Emergency Proclamation to Support Recovery from Winter Storms

[The Office of Governor Newsom issued](#) an emergency proclamation on Saturday, adding Trinity County to the state of emergency proclaimed the week prior, to assist several counties across the state impacted by recent winter storms.

To support the ongoing response and recovery efforts in the counties under the state of emergency, today’s proclamation also waives certain licensing requirements and fees for out-of-state contractors and others working with California utilities to restore electricity.

The State Operations Center has been activated to coordinate the emergency response efforts underway across the state. Governor Newsom also last week directed members of his Cabinet to take appropriate actions to mitigate the impact of weather conditions on the most vulnerable Californians, including coordinating with investor-owned utilities to rapidly restore power.

The text of Saturday’s proclamation can be found [here](#).

In San Diego, Governor Newsom Highlights Plan to Confront Homelessness Crisis

[The Office of Governor Newsom announced](#) that following the unveiling of his California Blueprint, Governor Newsom visited a homeless encampment in San Diego on Wednesday. The visit was intended to highlight his proposed additional \$2 billion package – for a total of \$14 billion – to the state’s multi-year plan to [confront the homelessness crisis](#), which will create 55,000 new housing units and treatment slots when fully implemented.

“This past year, California has been able to move 58,000 individuals off our streets and into the housing and treatment they desperately needed,” said Governor Newsom. “The California Blueprint will double down on those efforts, focusing on clearing encampments, while also setting the groundwork for long-term systemic change with significant investments in mental health and substance abuse treatment to get vulnerable people off the streets.”

Under Governor Newsom’s nation-leading Project Roomkey and Homekey programs, California has provided temporary shelter for 50,000 Californians and helped another 8,000 secure more permanent housing through the state’s purchase of motels, hotels and other buildings. In 2021, Governor Newsom invested a historic [\\$12 billion](#) to help get the most vulnerable people off the streets and into the mental and behavioral health services they need. The California Blueprint will bolster last year’s investments with an additional \$1.5 billion for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing to get people off the street and into treatment, and \$500 million toward Encampment Resolution Grants for local jurisdictions to implement short- and long-term rehousing strategies for people experiencing homelessness in encampments around the state.

To read more on the California Blueprint, [visit the full press release](#).

Victims of Windy Fire Have Until January 15 to Sign Up for Debris Removal

[The Porterville Recorder reports](#) less than a week remains for owners of properties that sustained structural damage in the Hopkins, Washington, Windy, French, Fawn and River Complex fires to enroll in the state's Consolidated Debris Removal Program.

Saturday, January 15 is the deadline for owners of properties affected by those fires to sign up for the program. Under the program administered by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Cal OES, and the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, CalRecycle, in collaboration with county officials, participating property owners incur no direct costs.

Despite the recent inclement weather in areas affected by this year's fires, state debris officials report crews continue to make progress in removing wildfire debris from participating properties.

To date, crews have removed more than 168,000 tons of burned metal, concrete, ash and contaminated soil from properties whose owners have enrolled in the state's Consolidated Debris Removal Program after this year's wildfires.

The 168,325 tons of eligible debris removed to date includes 104,845 tons of ash and debris; 33,016 tons of contaminated soil; 3,465 tons of burned metal; and 26,999 tons of burned concrete.

For the safety of crews on the ground, debris removal officials have placed a temporary pause on operations until it's safe to resume operations, including properly sorting, excavating and transporting debris via large haul trucks through rural communities.

So far, crews have completed the removal of eligible debris from 755 properties. The 754 cleared properties represent 45 percent of the 1,664 properties participating in the full debris removal program. Another 396 properties in those counties are participating in the hazardous tree removal program.

Property owners opt into the program by submitting a Right-of-Entry form to their county, which allows the state to begin work on their property.

For those affected by the Windy Fire, information is available at <https://tularecounty.ca.gov/emergencies/>

Governor Newsom Statement on Death of Barstow Firefighter

[Governor Newsom Monday issued](#) the following statement regarding the death of the Barstow Fire Protection District Engineer David Spink:

“Jennifer and I join all those mourning the tragic loss of veteran firefighter David Spink, who was fatally injured in the line of duty. On behalf of all Californians, we extend our deepest condolences to his loved ones and colleagues at this difficult time. Engineer Spink’s legacy lives on in the community he served for over three decades and through his son Dallen, who has followed in his footsteps at the Barstow Fire Protection District.”

Engineer Spink, 56, passed away on January 9, 2022, from injuries sustained when he was struck by a vehicle on December 5, 2021 while providing emergency care to victims of a traffic collision on Interstate 15 in Barstow. Engineer Spink began his career with the Barstow Fire Protection District in 1990 and was promoted to the rank of engineer in 1999.

Engineer Spink is survived by his wife Coleen; father Walt; brothers Logan and Ryan; and son Dallen, who serves as a Firefighter/Paramedic at the Barstow Fire Protection District.

In honor of Engineer Spink, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program;** *disadvantaged communities; disaster prevention & relief; environment & water*
 - **Funded by:** Department of Water Resources
 - **Deadline: Friday, January 14, 2022**
 - **Total estimated funding:** \$190 million
 - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online application:** [linked here](#)
- **Wildfire Resilience;** *disaster prevention & relief; environment & water*
 - **Funded by:** Coastal Conservancy
 - **Deadline: Friday, January 14, 2022**
 - **Total estimated funding:** \$17 million
 - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)

- **Public Defense Pilot Program;** *disadvantaged communities; law, justice, and legal services*
 - Funded by: Board of State and Community Corrections
 - Deadline: **Friday, January 14, 2022**
 - Total estimated funding: \$148.5 million
 - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
- **State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP);** *agriculture; environment & water*
 - Funded by: CA Department of Food and Agriculture
 - Deadline: **Tuesday, January 18, 2022**
 - Total estimated funding: \$45 million
 - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online application:** [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

California ReEntry and Enrichment (CARE) Grant

[The CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation](#) has created the CARE grant program to provide grants to eligible non-profit organizations to fund CARE grant programs at one or more California prisons.

Applicants must develop a specific proposal designed to meet the unique needs and requirements of the specific grant program(s) proposed, as well as meet the needs of the incarcerated individuals in California prisons, where the CARE grant programs will be provided.

This project will provide \$5 million in grants per year for three terms (\$15 million total) to eligible non-profit organizations to fund transformative programs in one or more California prisons. The grant period begins on July 1, 2022 and ends June 30, 2025.

Grants shall be awarded to fund programs that provide insight-oriented, transformative justice programs focused on increasing empathy and accountability among participants that can demonstrate that the approach has produced, or will produce, positive outcomes in correctional environments as stated in California PC § 5007.3.

Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for a CARE Grant(s). Organizations that do not have a non-profit status may operate under the sponsorship of a fiscal agent with non-profit status for purposes of grant eligibility.

If the applicant is a multi-state organization with headquarters in another state, the applicant must have physical offices in California and currently provide services to California residents.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Wednesday, January 26, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$15 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2021-22 Emerging Family Justice Center (FE) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created the FE Program to support emerging Family Justice Centers (FJCs) to meet the criteria defined in California Penal Code § 13750.

The 2021-22 California State Budget designated \$10,000,000 of General Funds for a one-time program for grants to FJCs, \$1,100,000 of which will be distributed competitively. The California Penal Code § 13750 defines FJCs.

The purpose of the FE Program is to support emerging FJCs to meet the criteria defined in California Penal Code § 13750.

To be eligible for funding, an Applicant must be a governmental or community-based victim service provider in the process of establishing services which meet the criteria for an FJC, per Penal code § 13750, and not be eligible for funding through the non-competitive Family Justice Center (FJ) Program for fiscal year 2021-22.

Applicants must be in California.

The deadline to apply is **Wednesday, January 26, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$1.1 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program

[Sierra Nevada Conservancy](#) has created the 2022 Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program with the primary priority of planning and implementing forest health projects that promote wildfire recovery and forest resilience and support the goals of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Program.

Fires are becoming larger and more damaging, and the 2020 and 2021 fire seasons were among the most severe in the state's history. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is taking significant steps to fund projects that can reduce wildfire risks and respond to recent wildfire damage. This program seeks to create more-resilient forest landscapes, reduce wildfire risk, and accelerate recovery from recent wildfires.

California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan identifies three goals that are strongly aligned with the WIP: healthy and resilient natural places, safe communities, and sustainable economies. Both plans also stress the importance of climate resiliency, regionally tailored solutions, the linkages between ecological and economic health, the importance of low-intensity fire, and the need to work strategically across land ownership boundaries. This grant program aims to support projects with the following, additional focal areas: multi-benefit projects, landscape-scale projects, high-impact projects, wildfire recovery, and projects developed under the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity program.

To be eligible to receive a grant award from the SNC under this program, projects must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Be located within or provide services to the Sierra Nevada Region as defined by current SNC governing legislation
2. Be consistent with the SNC mission and program areas as defined in the SNC Strategic Plan.
3. Be consistent with the requirements of the funding source and budget provisions.
4. Be complete by 01/01/2028.
5. Result in a clear, demonstrable, and enduring public benefit

6. Meet all California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, as applicable.

Consistent with provisions of the program funding and objectives of the proposed project, the SNC may give favorable consideration to projects which involve California Native American tribes; were developed under the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity program; address fire recovery objectives; directly benefit severely disadvantaged (SDAC) or disadvantage (DAC) communities; engage a workforce development effort, including but not limited to tribal workforce programs, California Conservation Corps, or other training programs; employ a collaborative approach in project development or implementation; leverage private, federal, or local resources; or enable the equitable geographic distribution of SNC resources.

Application Process:

Proposals are developed in conjunction with SNC. To initiate consideration of a project, please contact the appropriate contact [SNC Area Representative](#) and the Area Representative will assist the applicant to determine if the project meets SNC criteria. If it is determined that SNC will consider the project, the Area Representative will share the SNC proposal form with the applicant and assist in developing the project.

Eligible applicants include:

- Public agencies: any city, county, special district, joint powers authority, state agency, or federal agency
- Qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofit
- Eligible Tribal Entities which is one or both of the following: (1) Recognized by the United States and identified within the most current Federal Register; (2) Listed on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission as a California Native American tribe.

Eligible geographies include the [Sierra Nevada Conservancy \(SNC\) region](#) as defined by the Conservancy's current governing legislation.

While match funding is not required, it is considered in the project evaluation process.

The deadline to apply is **Monday, January 31, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$25 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).