



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (3/11/22)

Health in California Two Years into the Pandemic

[The Public Policy Institute of California has issued](#) a series of posts reflecting on [California's experience of the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

To read their most recent updates on the state's death rate, vaccination rates, and what is expected looking ahead, [click here](#).

San Francisco Drops Vaccine Mandate for Indoor Dining, Bars, Gyms

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) San Francisco is dropping its vaccine mandate for indoor dining, bars, and gyms on Friday, seven months after it became the first major U.S. city to mandate proof of vaccination.

Not every indoor venue will be allowed to let people in without proof of vaccination – events with more than 1,000 people in attendance will still require patrons to show their vaccine card at the door.

Loosening the vaccine is a big shift in San Francisco's approach to COVID mitigation. It has been one of the most cautious jurisdictions during the pandemic, and the decision to do so shows that public health leaders are beginning to see the pandemic as endemic.

L.A. Moves to Lift Vaccine Verification Mandate at Indoor Businesses

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) Los Angeles City Council members took the first step Wednesday toward lifting vaccine verification requirements at many indoor businesses, the latest in a slew of rule relaxations as the Omicron surge steadily fades.

While not yet final, the move would have a sweeping effect in the City of Angels: removing the mandate that establishments such as restaurants and bars, hair salons, gyms, and movie theaters screen whether their indoor patrons are vaccinated against COVID-19.

Under an ordinance that will be drafted and come back to the council for final approval at a future meeting, verifying whether indoor customers are vaccinated would be voluntary. Operators of major outdoor events in L.A. also would no longer need to check if attendees are vaccinated.

The council voted 12 to 0, without discussion, to draft an ordinance amending the city rules.

L.A.'s vaccine verification requirement has been in place since November. Collectively dubbed SafePassLA, the rules ranked among the most wide-ranging implemented statewide – applying to restaurants, gyms, performing arts theaters, music and concert venues, convention centers, museums, nail salons, tanning salons, bowling alleys, card rooms and arcades.

To read more on L.A. potentially lifting their vaccine mandate, as well as opinions from those on both sides of the issue, [view the full article](#).

California Surpasses 9 Million Coronavirus Cases, Equal to Nearly 1 in 4 Residents

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) California has reported a total of 9 million coronavirus infections, fueled by this winter's Omicron surge.

The overall case count, tracked by the Times, is now larger than the combined populations of San Diego, Orange, and Riverside counties and is the equivalent of nearly 1 in 4 Californians testing positive at some point during the pandemic.

Even more stunning is how rapidly the caseload has ballooned since the arrival of the hyper-infectious Omicron variant late last year. Of the 9,001,924 total cases that had been compiled as of Monday, 3.9 million – 44% were reported since December 1st. In fact, half of California's 9 million confirmed cases occurred in the last six months. It has been more than 25 months since California's first cases were publicly reported.

But the torrent of infections has since slowed to a trickle.

Over the last week, California reported an average of 4,587 new coronavirus cases per day — down 61% from two weeks ago. At the height of the Omicron surge, the state's daily case count topped 123,000, by far the most of the pandemic.

After topping out at 2,200 cases a week for every 100,000 residents, California is now recording 82, which is considered a “substantial” rate of transmission. Some experts say the risk of infection is dramatically reduced once an area falls into the “moderate” category: below 50 cases a week for every 100,000 residents.

To read more on California's COVID-19 statistics, as well as a further breakdown of various counties, [visit the full article](#).

How Will COVID End? Experts Look to Past Epidemics for Clues

[The Huron Daily Tribune reports](#) two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the world has seen a dramatic improvement in infections, hospitalizations and death rates in recent weeks, signaling the crisis appears to be winding down. But how will it end? Past epidemics may provide clues.

The ends of epidemics are not as thoroughly researched as their beginnings. But there are recurring themes that could offer lessons for the months ahead, said Erica Charters of the University of Oxford, who studies the issue.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has waxed and waned differently in different parts of the world. But in the United States, at least, there is reason to believe the end is near.

About 65% of Americans are fully vaccinated, and about 29% are both vaccinated and boosted. Cases have been falling for nearly two months, with the U.S. daily average dropping about 40% in the last week alone. Hospitalizations also have plummeted, down nearly 30%. Mask mandates are vanishing – even federal health officials have stopped wearing them – and President Biden has said it is time for people to return to offices and many aspects of pre-pandemic life.

However, this pandemic has been full of surprises, lasting more than two years and causing nearly 1 million deaths in the U.S. and more than 6 million around the world. Its severity has been surprising, in part because many people drew the wrong lesson from a 2009-2010 flu pandemic that turned out to be nowhere as deadly as initially feared.

“We got all worried but then nothing happened (in 2009), and I think that was what the expectation was” when COVID-19 first emerged, said Kristin Heitman, a Maryland-based researcher who collaborated with Charters.

That said, some experts offered takeaways from past epidemics that may inform how the end of the COVID-19 pandemic may play out.

To read insights from experts as to how the COVID-19 pandemic could end based on past epidemics such as the flu, HIV, and the Zika virus, [click here](#).

Millions in California Will Lose Health Care Coverage if Pandemic’s Stopgap Measures Expire

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) millions of Californians face the prospect of losing health coverage this year as federal measures that vastly expanded the ranks of the insured amid the COVID-19 pandemic are set to expire this year.

Because of increased federal financial help from the American Rescue Plan, for instance, two out of every three state residents who enrolled through Covered California were able to get policies that cost \$10 or less per month. The state-based insurance marketplace reported a record enrollment of 1.8 million after the conclusion of this year’s open enrollment period, up from 1.6 million for the comparable period a year earlier.

Even middle-income Californians saw a significant benefit, with their policy costs dropping by hundreds of dollars because of the Biden Administration’s push to ensure that every American would have coverage if they were to contract COVID-19. The federal financial help will no longer be available when 2022 ends.

Californians who depend on Medi-Cal coverage also will be affected if another pandemic-related measure ends as expected in mid-April.

As part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Congress required that states provide “continuous coverage” for beneficiaries of Medicaid coverage, known as Medi-Cal in California, during the public health emergency declared by President Biden.

The emergency order will expire on April 16, ending a two-year freeze on enrollment that ensured state residents with Medi-Cal coverage would not be dropped because of changes in income, access issues or failure to meet a number of other eligibility requirements.

Anthony Cava, a spokesman for the California Department of Health Care Services, said there’s always a chance that the public health emergency could be extended, but even if it isn’t, the

federal agency that runs Medicaid has told state officials that it will give them up to 12 months, plus two additional months due to renewal processing policies, to return to normal eligibility and enrollment operations.

This means that counties will be able to redetermine Medi-Cal eligibility for their beneficiaries on a rolling basis, based on their next annual renewal date, rather than having to touch all the beneficiaries at once, Cava said.

To read more on this issue, [visit the full article](#).

Governor Newsom Orders State Agencies to Ensure Contracts Comply With Sanctions on Russia, Calls on California Businesses and Organizations to Support Ukraine

[Governor Newsom last Friday signed](#) an executive order directing state agencies and departments to ensure their contractors are complying with economic sanctions imposed in response to Russia's attacks on Ukraine. The action follows the Governor's [letter last week](#) calling for state pension funds to halt the flow of money from the state to Russia and to ban the purchase of Russian debt.

Governor Newsom also met with Consul General of Ukraine in San Francisco Dmytro Kushneruk to express California's solidarity with the Ukrainian community and discuss the state's current efforts to support the people and government of Ukraine, as well as California's long-standing relationship with Ukraine.

"California stands with Ukraine and the Ukrainian community in California – one of the largest in the country," said Governor Newsom. "Our state shares many close ties with Ukraine and will continue our efforts to support the nation's brave fight for the fundamental rights and freedoms of its people."

The executive order requires state agencies and departments within the Governor's Administration to review their contracts for commodities, services and technology and to terminate any contracts with entities that are subject to economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. government in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine, as well as any sanctions imposed under state law.

The order further requires state agencies and departments to direct all grantees, and contractors with agreements valued at \$5 million or more, to report their compliance with economic sanctions and on the steps they are taking in response to Russia's aggression in Ukraine, such as halting financial transactions with Russian entities, not transferring technology to Russian entities, and supporting the Ukrainian government and people.

The Governor is also urging businesses, non-governmental organizations and public entities in the state to similarly review their investments and contracts to ensure compliance with economic sanctions on Russia and to take actions in support of the Ukrainian government and people.

California is the fifth largest economy in the world and home to major technology, manufacturing and trade hubs. Many companies in California have already taken steps to limit economic transactions with Russian entities, combat Russian misinformation, and support Ukraine.

The text of the Governor's executive order can be found [here](#).

California Doctors Bringing Supplies, Training to Ukraine

[NewsNation reports](#) nearly a dozen Southern California doctors are preparing to leave for Ukraine, and they hope to train 1,000 new medics.

“This is very difficult to organize because we’re trying to insert a bunch of trainers into an active war zone,” said Dr. Dan Olesnicky, a tactical medical trainer. The Ukrainian-American emergency physician has spent 20 years training local SWAT teams.

Olesnicky is organizing a team that will condense what is usually a two-week training schedule into just a few days.

“There would be a team of five to eight going initially, they would be swapped out in one-week rotations,” he said. “We have over 20 people who have already volunteered to do so.”

The biggest hurdle is logistics: Just getting into Ukraine safely in order to do the training is tricky.

Ukraine is said to be out of bandages, so medical supplies and assistance are needed urgently. A Ukrainian lawyer told NewsNation’s “Morning in America” she has jumped in as a medic and got a certification in combat casualty care.

“Many people in our volunteer medical battalion are in the same situation as I am,” Tata Marharian said. “We used to be sales managers, we used to be specialists, whatever.”

The California contingent hopes to arrive next week. They’re packing thousands of emergency kits along with their targeted training plans to help save lives.

“The goal that we set is to train 1,000 people to be combat medics,” Olesnicky said. “You have to understand Ukraine has millions of people in it. If we could train 1,000 medics that would be huge.”

The group is accepting medical supply donations so Olesnicky can create [emergency kits depicted here](#). Donations may be brought to the Desert Chapel in Palm Springs, California.

California-based Nonprofit ShelterBox Helps with Aid Effort in Ukraine Conflict

[KCRA 3 reports](#) more than 2 million Ukrainians are seeking refuge and fleeing the country through safety corridors as another ceasefire went into effect Wednesday.

Poland has accepted the largest number of refugees, with over 1.2 million.

That large influx of people into Poland has many organizations from around the world heading to the country to help. That includes ShelterBox, a global disaster relief nonprofit organizations based in Santa Barbara.

ShelterBox workers in Poland are meeting with authorities, aid organizations, and local partners to address the humanitarian needs on the ground.

The organization is providing emergency shelter and essential supplies to families devastated by natural disaster or conflict.

KCRA 3 spoke to President of ShelterBox USA, Kerri Murray, Wednesday morning about their efforts and how you can help. [Click here](#) to watch the video of their interview.

\$2 Million Emergency Medical Shipment to Aid Ukrainian Refugees

[PR Newswire reports](#) Baitulmaal, a Dallas-based international humanitarian nonprofit, is preparing to ship medical aid valued at \$2 million USD to provide lifesaving humanitarian assistance to Ukrainian refugees fleeing the recent Russian invasion.

The shipment, which contains emergency medical equipment and triage supplies, will arrive in Moldova within the next two weeks, according to Baitulmaal program manager, Elizabeth Sohail. Ensuring the health and safety of Ukrainian refugees is a matter of high concern for the charity as the situation continues to evolve.

According to the UN, an estimated 1 million people fled Ukraine in the span of one week. Many have sought refuge in neighboring countries such as Poland, Hungary, and Moldova. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has killed more than 400 people and injured over 800 so far, and the situation continues to deteriorate.

To help with the emergency aid efforts for Ukrainian refugees, donors can contribute to the Baitulmaal Ukraine Emergency fund, [linked here](#).

World Dog Alliance to Provide Emergency Aid to Pets in Ukraine

[Benzinga reports](#) the World Dog Alliance (WDA) has expressed concerns over Ukrainian citizens and their pets and is arranging measures to provide emergency assistance.

The escalating military conflict between Russia and Ukraine might result in the biggest refugee crisis in Europe in the 21st century. According to a report by the United Nations, nearly 700,000 Ukrainian citizens have fled the country so far. The UN estimates that 12 million people inside Ukraine will need relief and protection and that more than four million Ukrainian refugees may need humanitarian aid from neighboring countries in the coming months.

Amid gunfire and sirens, Ukrainian citizens were forced to leave their homeland for shelter, some with children in their arms, and some with their beloved pets, who are also part of the family.

For most pet owners, it is a natural instinct to bring along their pets when fleeing from war. Even when displaced, a family remains whole as long as all members are together, and there is always hope for tomorrow.

The World Dog Alliance is collaborating with its partners in Italy and France to provide assistance to pet owners in Ukraine, such as publishing guidelines on traveling with pets during emergency situations and basic first aid procedures for injured animals.

The World Dog Alliance campaigns around the world for legislation to ban dog and cat meat, and to increase penalties for dog theft. "What people steal and eat are not just animals, but someone's family," said Genlin, founder of the World Dog Alliance.

The Flanagan Fire near Shasta Lake Now 88 Acres and 80% Contained – Updates

[ABC 10 News reports](#) fire crews are battling an 88-acre vegetation fire in Shasta County.

[According to Cal Fire Shasta Trinity Unit on Twitter](#), the fire is located near Walker Mine and Flanagan Roads. Cal Fire said “weather conditions were favorable overnight due to an increase in humidity” and crews are working to continue controlling the fire Sunday.

According to Cal Fire, evacuation orders are lifted and residents are advised to exercise caution while emergency vehicles continue to operate within the area.

According to Cal Fire, the [Flanagan Fire](#) is 85% contained.

To view the wildfire map, [click here](#).

Forecast for Wind Didn’t Stop Cal Fire Burning That Escaped, Led to 88-Acre Wildfire

[Record Searchlight reports](#) the weather forecast the day the Flanagan Fire broke out called for strong winds, but California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection officials went ahead with pile burning that blew out of control and started the wildfire that burned 88 acres and forced residents north of Redding to evacuate.

Cal Fire’s Shasta-Trinity Unit acting Chief Sean O’Hara said it was not windy when crews began burning piles of limbs and brush on a hillside west of Lake Boulevard on Friday morning.

Crews had been working in the area to clear brush and trees to reduce the fire danger. Rather than leave the brush, crews made slash piles they burned that day.

At least one of the piles escaped containment lines about 10:30am, and pushed by wind, the fire burned some 88 acres and forced numerous residents in the area of Walker Mine and Flanagan roads to flee, Cal Fire said.

“So, early in the morning, you noticed that there was hardly any wind, but right around that noon-ish-11 o’clock-noonish time, all of the sudden those winds start hugely affecting or coming through, O’Hara said.

“Unfortunately, these are some of the risks that happen (when) trying to mitigate all the fuels that we have a problem with. Unfortunately, we caused an emergency. We are not in the business of creating emergencies. We’re in the business of mitigating them,” O’Hara said.

But at least two weather forecasts, produced by separate government agencies, predicted the winds that eventually blew the burning brush pile out of control Friday.

The National Weather Service issued a forecast at 3:40am Friday that predicted winds at 10 to 15 mph and gusts to around 25 mph. These breezes were forecast to increase in the afternoon, with gusts at about 35 mph, according to the weather service.

To read more on the incident that caused the Flanagan Fire, [view the full article](#).

New Biden Wildfire Commission Looking for Prevention Experts to Shape Federal Policy

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) the federal government on Thursday will begin accepting applications for a newly created commission designed to shape the nation’s management of wildland fires.

The Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission is seeking potential members with expertise in wildland fire prevention, federal officials say, and hopes to assemble a diverse collection of people from rural, urban, and suburban communities.

Members will include representatives of tribal and state and local governments, especially those from areas like California that are at a high risk of wildfires.

The group is expected to recommend a set of national policies next year to manage wildland fires and rehabilitate affected areas, with the first meeting likely to be held in late spring of this year. It will deliver a report to Congress with its recommendations one year after the first meeting.

The deadline for applications is March 25.

The commission was established last year by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, a roughly \$1 trillion measure that, in addition to creating the group, will spend \$8.25 billion attempting to reduce wildfire risk. The commission will operate under the Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

President Joe Biden has promised that the federal government will become more involved in preventing and mitigating the effect of the fires, though climate change scientists warn they are likely to only increase in severity in the coming years amid rising temperatures globally.

What Are ‘Ghost Guns’ And Why are Local Experts Saying They are So Dangerous?

[ABC 10 News reports](#) major California law enforcement agencies have reported that approximately 30% or more of all guns they recover in crimes are privately manufactured firearms.

ABC 10 spoke with Garen Wintemute, an emergency medicine physician at UC Davis Medical Center who also directs the California Firearm Violence Research Center.

Privately manufactured firearms, more commonly known as “ghost guns,” are made completely outside the regulatory framework, do not have serial numbers, are completely untraceable if used in a crime and have no record of their existence.

“We need to think about strategies that make it harder to acquire ghost guns or ammunition,” Wintemute told *ABC 10*.

On February 28, the gunman who killed his three daughters, a chaperone who was surviving his visit with the children and himself at an Arden-Arcade church was armed with an unregistered “ghost gun.”

Authorities do not know how the shooter obtained the gun despite him being under a restraining order that prohibited him from possessing a firearm.

Following last week’s incident, Wintemute says it is important for everyone to recognize what strategies will be effective in preventing this from happening again.

Wintemute says that, in order for law enforcement to intervene and do something about a gun, they need to know that it’s there. However, ghost guns are not easily traceable, and it makes it hard for law enforcement to do something about them.

In October, California added ghost guns to the list of weapons that can be legally seized under gun violence restraining orders.

“Right now, authorities are simply going to the suspect’s door and in essence saying, ‘Hey, sorry, but you cannot have those guns anymore. Please give them to us,’” Wintemute said. “However, those laws are not routinely enforced.”

Wintemute says it will be very expensive to routinely enforce those laws, so the state, thus far, has chosen not to take that step. Wintemute says people can also help prevent gun violence by thinking about whether or not they want to be a gun owner. He noted that, in households where guns are present, the risk of death goes up. He also said that people can become part of their community efforts to prevent gun violence and to speak out if they see something happening.

Huntington Beach Police Pilot Fought to Save Helicopter before Deadly Crash, Report Says

[*The Los Angeles Times* reports](#) the pilot of a Huntington Beach police department helicopter desperately tried to keep flying before crashing into the ocean last month, killing another officer, investigators said in a preliminary report Wednesday.

The two officers were responding to a report of a group fighting in the neighboring city of Newport Beach on the night of February 19, when the aircraft crashed in a narrow strip of water in Newport Bay between Lido Isle and the Balboa Peninsula. Witnesses said boaters rushed to pull the officers out of the helicopter, which landed upside down in shallow water.

The pilot was injured, and 44-year-old Nicholas Vella, a 14-year Huntington Beach Police Department veteran, died in the crash.

A preliminary report issued by the National Transportation Safety Board said the helicopter was orbiting about 500 feet above the ground and the pilot had slowed to keep a camera aimed on the scene when the aircraft suddenly “yawed aggressively to the right,” meaning its nose veered in that direction.

The pilot tried to correct and stop the rotation, but the helicopter began to make a spinning descent, the report said.

According to the report, Vella, who was the tactical flight officer, radioed to police, “We’re having some mechanical issues right now,” and then said: “We’re going down, we’re going down.”

Although helicopter blades can keep spinning from air flow with reduced or no engine power – a process known as autorotation that is taught as an emergency maneuver – the pilot told investigators that he wanted to keep the engine running because he was over a populated area, the report said.

“Because it was dark, he had no horizon or accurate external reference, but he could see the lights of houses approaching, and sensed impact was imminent,” the report said.

The pilot reduced airspeed and the helicopter hit the water on the right side, where Vella was sitting.

“The pilot recalled a sudden smash and saw water and glass coming toward him as the canopy shattered. He felt the rotor blades hitting the water, everything then stopped, and within a few seconds he was submerged,” the report said.

The pilot used a rescue air bottle to breathe and managed to get out of the helicopter. The cause of the crash will be determined at the end of the NTSB investigation, which could take 12-18 months, the agency said.

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **2022 Listos California Cert Support Grant (LC) Program RFP – Extended;** *disaster prevention & relief*
 - Funded by: Governor’s Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Tuesday, March 15, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$500k
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
- **2022 Listos California Target Grant (LG) Program RFP – EXTENDED;** *disadvantaged communities; disaster prevention & relief*
 - Funded by: Governor’s Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Tuesday, March 15, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$6 million
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
- **2022 Listos California Tribal Grant (LI) Program RFP – EXTENDED;** *disadvantaged communities; disaster prevention & relief*
 - Funded by: Governor’s Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Tuesday, March 15, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$1 million
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
- **2022 Listos California Statewide Grant (LS) Program RFP –EXTENDED;** *disaster prevention & relief*
 - Funded by: Governor’s Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Tuesday, March 15, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$8 million
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)

Toxicology Driving Under the Influence/Driving Under the Influence of Drugs: Crime Laboratories

[The California Highway Patrol](#) has created the Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program (CTFGP) to disperse grant funds from The Control, Regulate, and Tax Adult Use Marijuana Act (AUMA) to local governments and qualified nonprofit organizations for the education, prevention, and enforcement of impaired driving laws pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code Section 34019.

With the passage of Proposition 64, the AUMA, in 2016 California voters mandated the state set aside funding for the California Highway Patrol (CHP). It is the intent of the CHP to enhance traffic safety by administering AUMA grant funds to educate the public regarding the dangers of impaired driving, fund efforts to remove impaired drivers from the roadway, and advance research into impaired driving issues.

Toxicology Driving Under the Influence (DUI)/Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID) laboratory grant funds shall be used to improve and advance the standardization of practices in toxicology crime laboratories supporting DUI/DUID projects to aid in the enforcement of traffic laws related to DUI of alcohol and other drugs, including cannabis and cannabis products.

Grant applications shall be submitted through the online Grant Management System (GMS). Applications will be reviewed and approved through the GMS. Notification of awards will be sent to the awarded grantees electronically.

Eligible cost categories include: Personnel, Travel, Equipment, Consultants/Contracts, and Other Direct Costs.

Eligible applicants include public agencies and local governments.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Friday, March 18, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$6 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).

2020 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) For Federally-Recognized Tribes in California RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created this program to support building or sustaining security enhancement projects that fall within one of the Cal OES HSGP Investment Justifications. Statewide preparedness activities must address high-priority preparedness gaps across one or more of the 32 core capabilities, in addition to requiring a direct nexus to the Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, or Recovery from acts of terrorism.

Each year, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announces a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). The intent of the Program is to support state, local, and tribal efforts to prevent acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events and to prepare the nation for the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the security of the United States.

HSGP provides funding to implement investments that enhance terrorism preparedness and serve to build, sustain, and deliver the 32 core capabilities across the five mission areas of Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. The building, sustainment, and delivery of these core capabilities require the combined effort of the whole community, inclusive of children, individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, diverse communities, and people with limited English proficiency. A list of the Mission Areas and Core Capabilities may be found [here](#).

Eligible applicants include tribal governments and federally-recognized tribes located in California.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, March 21, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$650k. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2022 Best Practice Initial Child Interview Video Training (VQ) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created the VQ Program to educate first responders on how to properly conduct a forensically-sound, trauma-informed victim interview

during an initial child sexual abuse investigation to ensure successful prosecution. This will be accomplished through the creation of three training videos.

Background Information: The initial minimal facts-finding field interview of the child sexual abuse victim is essential for law enforcement (LE) and Child Protective Services (CPS) for safety planning, potential prosecution, and for service referrals. It puts the abuse/sexual act in context, can provide timeframes necessary for medical evaluation and evidence collection, and identifies other parties/witnesses. Effective forensically-sound interviews are imperative to the overall success of the investigation.

Programmatic Description: The purpose of VQ Program is to educate first responders on how to properly conduct a forensically-sound, trauma-informed victim interview during an initial child sexual abuse investigation to ensure successful prosecution. This will be accomplished through the creation of three training videos: a Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified video for law enforcement (LE); a video specific to Child Protective Service (CPS) personnel, and one for the broader category of first responder mandated reporters. These training videos are to be made available statewide.

Eligible applicants include businesses, individuals, nonprofits, public agencies, and tribal governments.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday, March 22, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$200k. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2021-22 Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Reporting System (ES) Program RFP (2nd Release)

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created the ES Program to improve the system of sharing information for suspected child abuse cases by establishing an electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR) system that will be used by district attorney offices, local law enforcement, and county child welfare services departments.

For many years, the Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR) has been shared by county agencies primarily by fax, which has become technologically outdated. This method of sharing critical information is insufficient for timely and reliable communication.

In 2005, Los Angeles County identified the need for an electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report System (eSCARS) and developed a secure web-based database that is used by the Los Angeles County Department of Child and Family Services, the district attorney's office, and local law enforcement agencies.

In fiscal year 2016-17, the Cal OES Victim Services Branch released an RFP to fund three additional counties with CJA funds to develop and implement eSCARS. Santa Barbara County, Yolo County, and Fresno County were awarded funds and are currently finalizing their eSCARS development.

Through interviews with Santa Barbara County, Yolo County, Fresno County, and Los Angeles County, the eSCARS Guidance Document (Attachment A) was developed by NPC Research. The Guidance Document provides detailed steps for developing an eSCARS. This document must be used by the counties selected for funding.

The Applicant must be a county district attorney's office and must have cooperative participation with their county child welfare services department and local law enforcement agencies.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Wednesday, March 23, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$400k. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).