



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (3/31/22)

Upcoming Policy Hearing

WHEN: Monday, April 4, 2022

WHERE: State Capitol, Room 444

AGENDA: [linked here](#)

Convoy Protesting COVID Mandates Rolling on to California

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) a group of truck drivers protesting COVID-19 mandates on roads and highways around the Washington, D.C., area in recent weeks will head to California next, an organizer announced Sunday night.

During a livestream of the People's Convoy nightly rally Sunday, organizer Mike Landis read a list of measures aimed at controlling COVID-19 in California, The Herald-Mail reported.

"I think stopping those is more important at this point in time than getting the emergency declaration repealed because that's already in place and we need to stop stuff like these bills from getting in place," Landis said, "otherwise, the rest of us that don't live in California are going to end up subject to the same situation."

The convoy arrived in the Washington region in early March with plans to snarl traffic on the Capital Beltway to make their feelings known to lawmakers. The effort follows similar demonstrations by truckers in Canada upset at vaccine requirements to cross the Canadian border.

The group has stayed at the Hagerstown Speedway for the last three weeks, regularly traveling as a group of big rigs, cars and campers along the beltway and downtown streets to protest COVID-19 mandates and seek a repeal of the pandemic state of emergency.

One image the group posted to social media three weeks ago shows more than 160 vehicles and called on others to join them at the speedway. On its website, the group said it was heading to California to protest bills coming up for votes soon.

"If passed, these bills set the stage for other states to introduce similar laws. We know that what starts in CA, spreads to other blue and purple states, and potentially at a federal level," the group said in its announcement. "This affects everyone!"

Landis did not say when the group would leave, but he invited people to convoy Monday to a rally in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, before they pack up and head west, and hinted at a possible return. "We're not done here," Landis said.

"We'll go to California and raise awareness along the way and hopefully get more people like we did on our way here. And then, once we stop this, we'll come back to finish this job."

As FDA OKs Another COVID Booster, Some Experts Question Need

[Medscape reports](#) the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today authorized Americans over the age of 50 to receive a second COVID-19 booster shot, even though many top infectious disease experts questioned the need before the agency's decision.

The FDA granted emergency use authorization for both Pfizer and Moderna to offer the second booster — and fourth shot overall — for adults over 50 as well as those over 18 with compromised immune systems.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) must still sign off before those doses start reaching American arms. That approval could come at any time.

"The general consensus, certainly the CDC's consensus, is that the current vaccines are still really quite effective against Omicron and this new BA.2 variant in keeping people out of the hospital, and preventing the development of severe disease," William Schaffner, MD, an infectious disease specialist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, said prior to the FDA's announcement Tuesday.

"Given that, there's no need at the moment for the general population to get a fourth inoculation," Schaffner told *Medscape Medical News*. "Our current focus ought to be on making sure that as many people as possible get that [first] booster who are eligible."

Monica Gandhi, MD, an infectious disease specialist at the University of California, San Francisco, agreed that another booster for everyone was unnecessary. The only people who would need a fourth shot (or third, if they had the Janssen vaccine initially) are those over age 65 or 70 years, Gandhi said.

"Older people need those antibodies up high because they're more susceptible to severe breakthroughs," she told *Medscape Medical News*.

Daniel Kuritzkes, MD, chief of infectious diseases at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, said the timing of a booster and who should be eligible depends on what the nation is trying to achieve with its vaccination strategy.

"Is the goal to prevent to any symptomatic infection with COVID-19, is the goal to prevent the spread of COVID-19, or is the goal to prevent severe disease that requires hospitalization?" asked Kuritzkes.

The current vaccine — with a booster — has prevented severe disease, he said.

An [Israeli study](#) showed, for instance, that a third Pfizer dose was 93% effective against hospitalization, 92% effective against severe illness, and 81% effective against death.

A [just-published](#), randomized controlled study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (*NEJM*) found that a booster of the Pfizer vaccine was 95% effective against COVID-19 infection and that it did not raise any new safety issues.

A [small Israeli study](#), also published in *NEJM*, of a fourth Pfizer dose given to healthcare workers found that it prevented symptomatic infection and illness, but that it was much less effective than previous doses — maybe 65% effective against symptomatic illness, the authors write.

Giving Americans another booster now — which has been shown to lose some effectiveness after about 4 months — means it might not offer protection this fall and winter, when there could be a seasonal surge of the virus, Kuritzkes told *Medscape Medical News*.

And, even if people receive boosters every few months, they are still likely to get a mild respiratory virus infection, he said.

"I'm pretty convinced that we cannot boost ourselves out of this pandemic," said Kuritzkes. "We need to first of all ensure there's global immunization so that all the people who have not been vaccinated at all get vaccinated. That's far more important than boosting people a fourth time."

To read further information and opinions regarding booster shots, [visit the full article](#).

Why It's So Difficult to Assess Pandemic Risks Right Now

[The New York Times reports](#) California in recent weeks has inched away from its strictest pandemic policies, lifting its indoor mask mandates and some vaccination requirements. The state last month released a [long-term plan for living with the coronavirus](#), instead of treating it as an emergency.

But at the same time, thousands of Californians continue to contract Covid-19 daily, while concerns grow that a new wave could be coming to the United States.

If it seems particularly difficult to assess Covid dangers right now, that's because it is.

California has entered a new phase of the pandemic, in which its residents have more responsibility for deciding on safety precautions than ever before. And unfortunately, humans are not very good at understanding risk.

Our perceptions are influenced by news coverage, policies, our personal experiences, the behaviors of people around us and so much more. Sometimes, or perhaps even often, our judgment is wildly off.

Take this Stanford [study](#). In May 2020, the average American believed the risk of catching the coronavirus while grocery shopping was 40 percent, and 62 percent when on public transportation, the researchers found.

At that time, the fraction of Americans who had ever tested positive for the coronavirus was less than 1 percent.

Add to that the fact that the risk of severe Covid varies from person to person, and that the prevalence of the virus differs across communities and changes constantly, and the calculation becomes extremely complicated. There's no universal answer.

Anne Rimoin, an epidemiologist at U.C.L.A., said she worried that there was another, new factor at play too: pandemic fatigue. She has been tracking a highly transmissible coronavirus [subvariant](#) that's fueling a surge in Europe and becoming increasingly common here.

"Everybody is ready for Covid to be over," Rimoin told me. "It's like a kid in the back seat of a car saying, 'Are we there yet? Are we there yet?' We're not there yet."

But it can be difficult to translate those small risks into behavioral changes, experts say.

The decisions we make — Will I fly to that wedding? Should I eat at an indoor restaurant? — tend to be yes-or-no choices, not behaviors we can modify by, say, 10 percent, said Craig McKenzie, a psychology professor at U.C. San Diego.

So we're all searching for a threshold at which we can stop adjusting our behaviors to avoid Covid, he said. And some people may already feel they have reached that place.

"Flu is a risk, flying is a risk, driving is a risk — we can't attend to all of them," he told me. "At some point I have to act as if this doesn't matter because, if the risk is one in a million, should I change my behavior?"

Local Governments Spending COVID-19 Money on Unrelated Projects

[The Washington Examiner reports](#) flooded with cash after Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act last year, state and local governments have devised some creative ways of spending their stimulus funds.

A number of state and local governments experienced budget surpluses in 2021 after bringing in higher-than-expected levels of revenue.

California is projected to finish the fiscal year with a budget surplus north of \$50 billion thanks to state income and corporate taxes.

The state of California received \$26 billion from President Joe Biden's signature partisan spending bill, and local governments within the state divided up another \$16 billion in stimulus money.

The ARP [doled](#) out \$350 billion to state and local governments in what was described at the time as emergency relief funding.

The Treasury Department placed few limits on what recipients could spend the money on, giving states and cities the flexibility to tailor their programs to local needs.

Local governments that received ARP funding were required to file reports to the federal government that detailed how they plan to allocate their share of the stimulus. Virtually all used at least some of the funding on the kinds of COVID-19 relief efforts that lawmakers advertised when negotiating the size of the relief bill, according to the [Brookings Institution](#), which tracks the spending reports.

Many cities created job training and placement programs for people who lost their livelihoods due to pandemic-related closures.

Others used significant portions of their relief funds to replace revenue losses and fund city services, such as by shoring up their police and fire departments. Still others invested heavily in

expanding internet access, addressing homelessness, and providing support for small businesses still struggling to get back on their feet.

But many local governments spent vast sums of money on matters unrelated to COVID-19 or the secondary effects of pandemic restrictions.

Despite the surpluses of cash sitting in state and local coffers, the White House has continued to request more emergency COVID-19 funding in recent weeks, citing the depletion of federal funds for booster shots and testing kits.

House Democrats quashed an effort earlier this month to pay for the administration's latest request — in large part with unspent ARP funds in states and cities.

Maps: Tracking the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

[The New York Times has posted](#) maps tracking the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Various maps include where Ukrainian forces have mounted counterattacks, NATO's sharp increases of forces in Eastern Europe, where Russian forces have made advances, and more.

To view the various maps, [visit the Time's full article](#).

The Pentagon is Sending Six Navy Planes and 240 Troops to Germany

[The New York Times reports](#) the Pentagon is sending six Navy attack planes and 240 troops to Germany, the latest Biden administration effort to warn President Vladimir Putin that the tough fight he is facing against Ukraine is nothing compared to the fight he is facing against Ukraine is nothing compared to the fight he would face should he strike a NATO country.

Defense officials said that the EA-18G Growlers — electronic warfare planes that pave the way for stealth attacks by jamming enemy air defenses — are not meant to be used against Russia in Ukraine.

“They are not being sent because of some sort of acute threat that was perceived or some specific incident that happened,” the Pentagon press secretary, John F. Kirby, told reporters during a news conference on Monday. But, he added that Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III “wants to keep options open.”

The planes are the latest move in the administration's steady escalation of troops and resources to Europe, as NATO and Russia edge closer to conflict than at any time since the military alliance was formed in 1949.

President Biden has maintained that he will not send American troops to fight Russia in Ukraine. But he has also said repeatedly that any Russian attack on a NATO member country would be seen as an attack on the alliance.

“These Growlers, as those of you who are familiar with the platform know, are equipped for a variety of missions, but they do specialize in flying electronic warfare missions, using a suite of jamming sensors to confuse enemy radars, greatly aiding the ability to conduct suppression of enemy air defense operations,” Mr. Kirby said.

76 Tons of Donated Medicines, Supplies for Ukraine Arrive in Poland via FedEx Charter

[Direct Relief and FedEx Corp. \(NYSE: FDX\) announced](#) the safe arrival of a FedEx humanitarian relief flight into Warsaw, Poland, delivering 76 tons of critical medical aid for Ukraine on Sunday, March 27, 2022.

Aid aboard the FedEx Boeing 777 cargo aircraft included an emergency field hospital donated by the State of California and substantial quantities of emergency medicines and supplies, including trauma and wound care medications, chronic disease medications, oxygen concentrators, and Covid-19 antiviral tablets. Direct Relief team members were on site for the offload and final-mile distribution to Ukraine.

All items were provided at the request of, and approved by, Ukraine's Ministry of Health.

Supplies on the flight were donated by companies including 3M, AmerisourceBergen, Baxter, Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation, Inc., Hikma Pharmaceuticals, McKesson, Merck & Co., Inc., Pfizer Inc., TEVA, Unilever, and Viatrix, among others.

Direct Relief and FedEx have been collaborating to deliver critical aid for more than 28 years. Together, the organizations are able to assist communities in need around the world by leveraging logistical expertise to transport critical aid where and when it is needed most.

Since February 24, Direct Relief has provided more than 125 tons of medical aid in response to the crisis, from field medic packs — which contain items to address trauma, including tourniquets and wound dressings — to diabetes and cancer medications.

FedEx has committed more than \$1.5 million (U.S.) in humanitarian aid to support those impacted by the conflict in Ukraine, including \$1 million that has been allocated for in-kind shipping with the company's longstanding nonprofit partners.

It's Time to Prepare for Wildfires: 6 Steps from the Fire Safe Council

[The Mendocino Voice reports](#) Northern California is facing potential high fire risks in the coming months after a historically dry winter, but there are still a number of useful steps you can take to prepare for emergencies. The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council is a good place to start connecting with local resources and preparedness info, and they've put together a list of steps to take now to make sure you're ready for the warmer months.

The Fire Safe Council has also put together [a quiz](#) to test your knowledge, and by taking the quiz, you'll also be entered to win one of several emergency preparedness prizes. [You can take the quiz here.](#) There will also be a Homebrew Festival and Wildfire Safety Expo held May 21, 2022 to help connect you with more emergency preparedness resources.

To view the 6 steps to preparedness from the Fire Safe Council, [visit the full article.](#)

Prepare For Bear Activity in Aftermath of the Caldor Fire. Keep Tahoe Bears Wild!

[The Lake Tahoe Interagency Bear Team, a partnership between the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State Parks, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and the USDA Forest Service,](#) is asking all community members to expect increased bear activity following the Caldor Fire as bears prepare to emerge from their winter dens.

Generally, fire can be a revitalizing event for a forest, with downed logs providing great forage spots for hungry bears looking for insects such as termites and grubs. Wild animals are typically resilient and able to adapt to fire and other environmental changes: it is part of their nature. However, during last year's Caldor Fire, some bears and other wildlife were forced to flee from the flames. While some bears were hit by vehicles on highways, others may have traveled to the Tahoe Basin for refuge, while many sheltered in large pockets of unburned forest or were temporarily displaced.

During the evacuation last fall, when streets and homes were empty and no one was around to secure houses, vehicles, dumpsters, or other attractants, habituated bears in the Tahoe Basin – meaning those bears already comfortable around people or those bears that look to people, their homes, and cars for food – were left to roam neighborhoods freely with little resistance. These habituated bears suddenly had no humans yelling, making noise, chasing or hazing them, and no electric deterrents because of power outages.

The lack of consequences during the evacuation period will have rippling and lasting effects on bear behavior for seasons to come.

Because bears are so intelligent, once they learn something, it's difficult to break their bad habits. For this reason, it's extremely important to be proactive in preventing bad habits from forming in the first place.

To read more on this issue and what you can do to prevent or deter this kind of bear behavior in the future, [visit the full article](#).

New Test Predicts Sepsis Before Blood Clots Cause Permanent Organ Damage, Markedly Increasing Survival

[Science Daily reports](#) in a potential paradigm change for sepsis diagnostics, a new test predicted sepsis soon after infection in mice -- well before blood clotting and organ failure -- enabling early antibiotic treatment and markedly increased survival. The findings provide a platform to develop rapid and easy-to-perform clinical tests for early sepsis detection and clinical intervention in human patients.

The collaborative effort by a research team including scientists from UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego, and Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute (SBPMDI) is detailed in a new study published in the *Lancet* journal, *eBioMedicine*. The team succeeded in detecting a catastrophic shift in blood protein abundance soon after infection that can predict sepsis well before disease symptoms and organ damage arise.

The project was led by Professor Michael Mahan of UC Santa Barbara, along with professors Dzung Le of UC San Diego, and Jeffrey Smith and Jamey Marth of SBPMDI. Additional collaborators include UCSB scientists Douglas Heithoff and Scott Mahan, as well as SBPMDI scientists Genaro Pimienta and Won Ho Yang, and University of Sydney veterinarian scientist John House.

Sepsis is the number one cause of death in U.S. hospitals. In the clinic, sepsis is diagnosed by a symptom-based approach that may include kidney or liver failure, blood clotting or bleeding -- which often occurs well after permanent organ damage. Thus, molecular diagnostics that detect infection at early stages of disease to minimize host injury are sorely needed.

"The key finding was identifying proteins in the blood that arise very soon after infection -- well before overt disease symptoms," Mahan explained. "Early detection is critical for clinical intervention to increase survival in sepsis patients."

This research was funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, and the U.S. Army Research Office via the Institute for Collaborative Biotechnologies cooperative agreement and contract.

To read full details on the study, including how the test was carried out and researchers' plan for the future, [visit the full article](#).

Crisis in the Valley: Don't Hide the Scars. Discussing Addiction, Overdose, and Recovery

[Fox 26 News reports](#) one of the larger [stigmas surrounding addiction](#) is the users should simply stop.

The fact is, it isn't that simple.

The withdrawal symptoms from quitting cold turkey are so intense, they can be fatal. To a large degree, the decision to stop using drugs isn't up to the user, because it isn't a matter of willpower.

Dr. Rais Vohra, an Emergency Physician at Community Regional Medical Center and Fresno County's Interim Public Health Officer, explains that using drugs gives people big surges of chemicals like dopamine and serotonin.

Over time, people have to use more and more just to feel normal.

The changes they're going through aren't choices, he says. They have a brain disease.

The good news is, there have been amazing advancements in addiction treatment.

In the past, people would have to go to methadone clinics every single day to get medication that would help them stave off withdrawal symptoms and cravings.

Now, Dr. Vohra says there's a new program that lets you get a prescription for a daily pill that will do the same thing for a dollar a day.

To read more on these advancements in treatment, opinions from experts, real-life stories of survivors and families of those who lost their battle, [visit the full article](#).

16-Year-Old Girl Allegedly Sexually Assaulted in Back of Ambulance

[Newsweek reports](#) a 16-year-old girl was sexually assaulted while she was a patient in the back of an ambulance after falling ill at school, she and her family have alleged.

The teenage girl, whose identity has been withheld but is from Murrieta, California, told NBC local reporters she was attacked on Friday (March 25) after her school called an ambulance for her following an undisclosed medical emergency.

She spoke on camera, with her face pixelated, and told the news channel: "He asked my name and age. He asked me if I'm sexually active and I said 'no.' She continued, "What really concerned me was he kept pressing that subject."

She alleged the ambulance worker then sexually assaulted her, beginning his attack by forcibly kissing and groping her— which made her freeze in fear.

On Friday March 25, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department said Jason Anderson, 22, of Wildomar, California, an employee of American Medical Response (AMR), was arrested and booked on sexual assault-related charges.

Investigators also said other women may have been attacked by the same paramedic and have released his photograph in a bid to encourage more alleged victims to come forward.

Jason Anderson was booked into the Cois M. Byrd Detention Center for sexual assault related charges with a minor and is being held on \$75,000 dollar bail.

"The Riverside County Sheriff's Department believes there may be additional victims that have yet to come forward and any victim is encouraged to contact Investigator Wesley Martinelli from the Southwest Sheriff's Station at (951) 696-3006."

Anderson's employer, AMR, released a statement to *Newsweek* saying: "We were informed of an alleged incident involving an AMR Riverside employee. Following an internal investigation of the allegations, the incident was reported to the Riverside Sheriff's Department for further review."

"The employee in question was placed on administrative leave during the course of our internal investigation and has not worked since the day the alleged incident took place. AMR will cooperate fully during the course of the Riverside Sheriff's investigation."

Cal OES Releases More Than \$2 Million in Funding to Ensure Continuity of Domestic Violence Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic

[The Sierra Sun Times reports](#) continuing efforts to protect Californians from domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has awarded \$2.1 million to community organizations across the state.

Administered by Cal OES, these grants will help ensure continuity of domestic violence services with costs associated with technology needed to provide remote services, community outreach, emergency preparedness efforts, and overtime for additional staff, safety planning, and more.

"It's essential the state continues to support domestic violence survivors, even during the pandemic," said Cal OES Director Mark Ghilarducci. "The funding going to local organizations will help ensure there is no interruption in essential services to those who need it."

Known as the Domestic Violence American Rescue Plan Program, funding is supported through the Family Violence Prevention and Services/Domestic Violence Shelter and Supportive Services Grant, with additional funding from the [American Rescue Plan](#). The funding provides grants to offset the expenses related to providing these critical services during the pandemic.

These grants are awarded through a competitive process for which organizations, particularly those working in support of domestic violence and non-shelter supportive services and/or prevention activities or similar criteria may apply.

To view the breakdown of the distribution of funds awarded, [visit the full article](#).

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Post Fire 2021;** *disaster prevention & relief*
 - Funded by: Governor’s Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Thursday, March 31, 2022 (TODAY)**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$7,787,780
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online Application:** [linked here](#)
- **Wildfire Resilience Block Grant;** *disadvantaged communities; education; environment & water*
 - Funded by: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
 - Deadline: **Friday, April 1, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$10 million
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online Application:** [linked here](#)
- **Adult Reentry Grant Program;** *disadvantaged communities; employment, labor, & training; food & nutrition; health & human services; housing, community, and economic development*
 - Funded by: Board of State and Community Corrections
 - Deadline: **Friday, April 8, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$63.65 million
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

Family Homelessness Challenge Grant, Round 1

[Cal ICH](#) will fund innovative applications that accelerate efforts by local jurisdictions and continuums of care to address and end family homelessness by making families’ experiences of homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

Applicants shall present an innovative proposal that includes a self-identified prioritized objective that complements, augments, or strengthens a community’s efforts to address and end family homelessness.

Background: The California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) was created in 2017 to oversee the implementation of Housing First policies, guidelines, and regulations to reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness in California. The Council's mission is to develop policies and to identify and coordinate resources, benefits, and services to prevent and work toward ending homelessness in California.

Eligible Applicants:

- Local Jurisdiction – means a city, including a charter city, a county, including a charter county, or a city and county, including a charter city and county.
- Continuum of Care – as defined in Section 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Eligible Population to Serve: • FHC-1 funds may only be used for proposals serving family households with dependent minors that are experiencing homelessness. o Family households

with dependent minors may include but is not limited to pregnant parents, parenting youth, households engaged in reunification and/or child welfare services. o Homeless is defined in Section 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as that section read on May 1, 2018.

Available Funds for This Round: \$30 million will be distributed across a minimum of two rounds of funding. This RFA is for Round 1 of funds totaling \$15 million (FHC-1). Awards for FHC-1 will be determined through this competitive RFA process.

Subsequent Rounds of Funding: Grantees that are awarded Round 1 funds, remain in compliance with FHC-1 requirements and demonstrate reasonable, sufficient progress toward their self-identified, prioritized objective may apply for the second round of grant funding (FHC-2). Only FHC-1 grantees are eligible to compete for FHC-2.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Saturday, April 30, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$15 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).

Notice of Funding Availability – Round 2 Homekey Program

[The Department of Housing and Community Development](#) has created this program to make funding available to local public entities to develop a broad range of housing types, including but not limited to hotels, motels, hostels, single-family homes and multifamily apartments, adult residential facilities, and manufactured housing, and to convert commercial properties and other existing buildings to Permanent or Interim Housing for the Target Population.

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

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, May 2, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$1.45 billion. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

Rural Fire Capacity

[The Rural Fire Capacity Grant Program](#) provides funding to organize, train, and equip fire departments in rural areas and rural communities to prevent and suppress fires.

Cost-share funds will be awarded to local governments to provide assistance to rural areas in upgrading their capability to organize, train, and equip local forces for fire protection. Awards will be limited to a minimum of \$500 and a projected maximum of \$20,000.

Further assistance may be provided through loans from other sources of Federal funds for purchase of major items of equipment and facilities.

Proposed projects should be compatible with existing protection of state, county, and local areas. Communities or agencies imposing strict boundary limits, i.e., excluding rural residents will not be considered in this program.

The use of funds for new fire engines and other vehicles are not allowed. However, the cost of the conversion of vehicles obtained through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program (FEPP) to water tenders, engines, brush trucks, and equipment trucks may be funded under the RFC grant.

Training of local fire forces in both wildfire and structural fire techniques is a primary goal of this grant. The program should include a basic training program of at least 40 hours. In addition, an advanced training course of at least 40 hours should be developed.

Communications, for alarm systems and dispatch capabilities, should be considered an integral part of the rural fire department. Funds are available for the development and purchase of radio equipment for dispatching centers, vehicles and alert monitors, and pagers.

Requests for construction projects of any type are NOT fundable.

Requests for HAZMAT, extrication, rescue, medical aid, and other non-fire training costs or materials are NOT fundable.

Funding for departments must meet at least one of the following qualifications:

1. A single fire department serving a rural area or a rural community with a population of 10,000 or less.
2. Area fire departments (fire districts, townships, etc.) may serve an aggregate population of greater than 10,000 as long as the service area of the fire department includes a rural area or a rural community having a population of 10,000 or less. The RFC funding must be used to benefit the rural population.
3. A single county or town with a population over 10,000 which is served by two or more fire districts operating entirely within the bounds of the county or town may qualify as long as the service area of a given fire department includes a rural area or a rural community or the population of the fire department's jurisdiction is 10,000 or less. The RFC funding must be used for the rural area.
4. A single community with a population greater than 10,000 and having a single fire department with one or more fire stations may qualify. The fire department must have a service area that includes a rural area or community that does not exceed 10,000 population. Also a single community with a population greater than 10,000 which also provides fire protection to an adjoining rural community of 10,000 or less population by contract may also be eligible provided the RFC funding is used entirely to support the rural community.

A single community fire department serving a population greater than 10,000 and not providing protection to a rural area or to a rural community is not eligible for RFC financial assistance.

Matched funds can be provided in anyway except the use of other 13Federal grant dollars.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Wednesday, May 4, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$1.5 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2022-23 Specialized Emergency Housing (KE) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created this program to expand emergency shelter/emergency housing assistance and provide supportive services for victims of crime with specialized needs (e.g., elderly, youth, men, disabled, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+), non-English speaking, culturally or religiously marginalized, etc.) who cannot be served through a traditional shelter. In addition, victims must be allowed to choose which supportive services best fit their needs.

The VSB has several programs that address shelter needs and supportive services for victims of crime. However, traditional shelters and services aren't always the best choice for victims with specialized needs (e.g., elderly, youth, men, disabled, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+), non-English speaking, culturally or religiously marginalized, etc.). Barriers exist that affect their ability and willingness to engage, and finding alternative shelter can be extremely challenging.

Since 2017, California has implemented the Housing First Model as defined in Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Section 8255 to address the prevalence of homelessness in California. The Housing First Model is an approach to connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness quickly and successfully to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements.

In fiscal year 2021-22, W&I Code Section 8255 was amended and the language to exempt "programs that fund state shelters" was removed. Therefore, shelter programs such as the KE Program are required to adopt guidelines and regulations of the Housing First Model (see W&I Code Section 8255 for the core components of Housing First).

The purpose of the KE Program is to expand emergency shelter/emergency housing assistance and provide supportive services for victims of crime with specialized needs (e.g., elderly, youth, men, disabled, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+), non-English speaking, culturally or religiously marginalized, etc.) who cannot be served through a traditional shelter. In addition, victims must be allowed to choose which supportive services best fit their needs.

For a proposal to be eligible to compete for funding (i.e., read and rated) all the following conditions must be met:

- The Applicant can be a governmental or non-governmental entity.
- The proposal must be submitted per the instructions in C. SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND REQUIREMENTS.

Requires a cash and/or in-kind match equal to 20 percent of the total project cost. Applicants may request a partial or full match waiver (match waiver requests are not considered during the Proposal Rating process).

To request a match waiver, Applicants must submit the VOCA Match Waiver Request form (Attachment A) with their proposal. One form per each VOCA fund source is required. All sections of the form must be completed.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, May 23, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$9.6 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).