



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (4/22/22)

The Committee's Next Policy Hearing

WHEN: Monday, April 25, 2022, at 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: State Capitol, Room 444

[Agenda](#)

Uber? United? Southwest? LAX? Who is Lifting Travel Mask Rules, Who's Keeping Them

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) one of the longest-running and most visible measures imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic came to a sudden end this week, when a [judge in Florida struck down](#) the federal requirement that travelers wear masks aboard public transportation.

Monday's ruling effectively makes masks optional on trains, buses and airplanes. But some transit agencies and facilities are still urging residents to voluntarily mask up, pending further clarification from the federal government.

To read the full details as to where things now stand, [visit the full article](#).

Despite Coronavirus Uptick, There's Hope L.A. County Can Avoid Another Surge

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) despite a recent rise in coronavirus cases, Los Angeles County's public health director said this week she remained hopeful the region could avoid another major spike by taking sensible precautions.

The number of newly reported coronavirus cases in L.A. County has risen by 42% over the last two weeks, from an average of 725 a day to 1,030, according to a Times data analysis. On a per capita basis, L.A. County is now averaging about 71 cases a week for every 100,000 residents; transmission went from being moderate to substantial two weeks ago, when the rate climbed above 50.

In central New York State, health officials are closely watching even [newer Omicron subvariants](#) — BA.2.12 and BA.2.12.1 — which are estimated to be 25% more contagious than their parent subvariant, BA.2, that is [dominant](#) nationwide.

BA.2.12.1 has been detected in California, said Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, a UC San Francisco infectious-diseases expert.

Some experts say people who have eased up on precautions may want to be more cautious to avoid infection.

Yet there remain some optimistic signs that the latest increase in cases could end up being more of a blip than the start of a new surge.

The share of emergency room visits in L.A. County related to the coronavirus remained low last week, at just 3%. Officials would express a medium level of concern if that figure was 5% or greater, and a high level of concern if it was more than 10%. During the peak of the Omicron surge in early January, 29% of emergency room visits were related to COVID-19, county Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer told reporters Thursday.

On Thursday, 228 coronavirus-positive individuals [were hospitalized](#) in L.A. County. That's a decrease of 21% from two weeks ago and nearing the lowest single-day patient count recorded throughout the entire pandemic, which was recorded 10 months ago, when the tally was 212.

Another point of worry would be if the amount of coronavirus detected in sewage systems doubled over a 10-day period. But, for now, the coronavirus levels in wastewater have remained stable, Ferrer said.

She emphasized that residents should remain cautious, and urged them to wear masks, stay home if they're sick, get up to date on their shots, and test before social gatherings.

To read more on the current uptick as well as how health officials are remaining optimistic about preventing a surge, [visit the full article](#).

California Extends, Intends to Update COVID-19 Cal/OSHA ETS

[JD Supra reports](#) on February 28, 2022, California Governor Gavin Newsom extended the second readoption of the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health's (Cal/OSHA) COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) currently in effect, moving the ETS's expiration date to May 5, 2022. The Cal/OSHA Standards Board has also proposed that a new version be implemented via a third readoption of the ETS, which will be discussed as an agenda item at its [upcoming meeting on April 21, 2022](#).

The [proposed Third Readopted ETS](#), if implemented, will make some additional material changes and clarifications, including acceptable return-to-work criteria, elimination of certain cleaning and social distancing requirements, and creation of a "returned case" category of workers recovered from COVID-19.

[Click here](#) to read further details.

Live Coverage: Russia Invades Ukraine

[CNN reports](#) on live coverage of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The live coverage is continuously updated and covers a wide variety of issues surrounding this invasion. [Click here](#) to view the most up-to-date coverage.

Maps: Tracking the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

[The New York Times reports](#) Russia has amassed troops in an attempt to seize eastern Ukraine, now its [main objective in the war](#). The Russian military seems intent on encircling Ukrainian troops in the Donbas region by advancing from several directions, including south from Iziium and north from Donetsk.

While fighting has continued across the east in recent days, Russia's military has not yet started a large-scale ground offensive in Donbas, according to military analysts, and its gains have been limited so far. Russia has taken initial steps — missile attacks, long-range artillery barrages and small detachments probing Ukrainian defenses — that may be laying the groundwork for a wider push.

So far, neither side has a clear upper hand.

Russian forces amassed near Iziium have probed south, in the direction of the critical city of Kramatorsk. But they have been met by significant Ukrainian defenses to the south of Iziium and have made little progress. In an apparent attempt to divert Russian forces from Iziium, according to military analysts, the Ukrainian military conducted counterattacks east of Kharkiv, recapturing some small towns this week.

At a second front in the northeast, near Sievierodonetsk, Russian forces appeared to make limited progress after bypassing the city. Russia captured the town of Kreminna, according to Ukrainian officials, and have carried out attacks nearby in Rubizhne, which remains in Ukrainian hands.

Russian troops may try to head toward Kramatorsk from the southeast as well, from near Donetsk city, in an effort to cut off Ukrainian troops from two directions. Areas around Donetsk have seen near-constant fighting for the last month, with residents reporting frequent shelling.

In the south, Russian troops have been massing across a fourth front between Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk. That front has been relatively quiet for weeks. However, Russian units in the city of Mariupol are expected to head there if they can capture the city. Although fighting has continued there for two months, Russian forces now control almost the entire city, with a sizable number of holdouts positioned in a [major steel plant](#).

Ultimatum Ignored in Mariupol as Attacks Intensify in East Ukraine

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) Russia tightened its grip around Ukraine's last stronghold in the besieged port of Mariupol, whose desperate defenders, holed up in underground shelters beneath a massive steel plant, pleaded for international help, declaring that they were "probably facing our last days, if not hours."

Along hundreds of miles of a scythe-shaped battlefront in Ukraine's east, the din of Russian bombardment echoed in cities and towns, while Moscow's ground forces made a series of what Ukrainian military officials described as probing attacks that did not yield any substantial new territorial gains.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a video address to the nation that nearly all of Russia's combat-ready forces were "concentrated on the territory of our state" and just outside its borders. Moscow, he said, was deploying "almost everyone and everything that is capable of fighting."

To read further updates on these escalations, [click here](#).

American Firefighters Assisting in Ukraine

[KFBK News Radio reports](#) American firefighter and firefighters from other countries, who have no connection to Ukraine other than their humanity are there to help the overworked and

overwhelmed Ukrainian firefighters. A group of firefighters from California are working with the [non-profit Project Joint Guardian](#) on the frontlines of the destruction in Ukraine. The non-profit is part of the [U.S. and Mexico Firefighters United group](#) which is a non-profit organization that was started by a Southern California firefighter. The group was reportedly started as a way to assist fire departments in Mexico to ensure they receive the training and equipment needed to provide fire and emergency services, and now they are gearing up to send California firefighters in the current war between Ukraine and Russia.

[Cosumnes Fire Department](#) firefighter and paramedic Oleg Klepach, who was originally born in Ukraine, is preparing to head to his home country to help first responders as the Russia-Ukraine crisis continues. "The community has come together and assist me, my family and my friends and families in Ukraine as well," Klepach said. "My family and I appreciate all the support that has been outpouring from the community."

More information about the [U.S. and Mexico Firefighters United group](#) and how they are supporting the people of Ukraine can be found [here](#).

Governor Newsom Tours Oroville Dam, Speaks of Statewide Drought

[The Chico Enterprise-Record reports](#) five hundred feet below the water level at Lake Oroville, Governor Newsom held a press conference Tuesday to highlight California's response to climate change and is entering its third year of severe drought.

Newsom joined DWR Director Karla Nemeth at the Hyatt Power Plant beneath the Oroville Dam – which shut down in 2021 because of record low water levels – to provide an update on California's state water resources.

"For the first time in the project's history, we were not able to run these turbines late in the summer season which of course is a real challenge when we have rising temperatures, extreme heat events," Nemeth said. "You start to see the thread of climate resiliency and how we manage water — how we make sure that we have enough power to support California and wildfire risk."

Lake Oroville plays a key role in the state's water delivery and power generation providing water to 27 million Californians from Butte County down to Southern California and producing 800 megawatts of electricity — enough to power a city like San Francisco.

"The fact that this facility shut down last August; that never happened before. ... And the prospects that it will happen again are very real," Newsom said, saying that California had its driest January, February and March in its history.

At the conference, Newsom said extreme dries and extreme wet climates now require the state to have a different approach to its water delivery systems that were "designed for a world that no longer exists."

"We want to take a more adaptive model; a more flexible model; we want to build off the architecture we inherited," Newsom said. "But we recognize that we have to localize solutions in ways we haven't in the past."

In an effort to have a more resilient and flexible approach to the drought, Newsom said the state published its [Water Resilience Portfolio](#) that spells out 100 specific action items for its response to the state drought.

New Toolkit Helps Citizens Prepare for Earthquake Survival

[*The Fort Bragg Advocate-News reports*](#) on April 3 and 4, Rio Dell, located about 108 miles northeast on Highway 101, experienced three earthquakes. On April 3, two earthquakes registered consecutively at 4.1M and 3.9M. On April 4, an earthquake of 2.9M followed. Suppose a cell phone user in that area did not receive any text warnings. In that case, the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) does operate an alert system available to anyone on the West Coast. Although drought and wildfire dominate the natural disaster news, earthquakes need not catch Californians so off guard that survival isn't likely.

The San Andreas Fault extends along the California coastline for about 750 miles. It borders two tectonic plates, the Pacific and North American Plates. Constantly grinding against one another, the Pacific Plate moves northwest while the North American Plate moves southwest. This fault line reaches southern Mendocino County on land via Fort Ross in Sonoma County, passes through Manchester, and then travels along the Coast of Mendocino County to Point Arena. Here the fault line veers offshore and passes underwater nearby Mendocino and Fort Bragg. The fault swings back onto the coastline south of Shelter Cove, North of Westport. The likelihood of a significant earthquake close to Fort Bragg is a given, not a mere possibility.

The San Andrea Fault is extremely active and has been the cause of many significant earthquakes of large magnitude. This past April 18 marked the 116th anniversary of the deadly San Francisco earthquake of 1906, which had a magnitude of at least 7.8. On the magnitude scale, 8.0 represents an earthquake powerful enough to destroy nearby communities completely. The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake in the Bay Area registered at 6.9, classifying it as a major earthquake. Both quakes were felt in Mendocino County since the shock waves can travel up to 300 miles from an earthquake's epicenter.

Unlike tsunamis, earthquakes cannot be predicted. However, the technology exists for alerting the public to a nearby earthquake shortly before we feel the shocks. This technology is being constantly improved and updated to shorten the time between earthquake detection and accurate public alerts. Cell phone users can already receive notice of earthquakes from FEMA's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA). The Amber Alert system is a prominent part of it. Millions of cell phone users subscribe to this federal alert system for various warnings. Unfortunately, this system's earthquake alerts do not make use of current technology that is more precise in assessing quakes and is faster to inform the nearby public.

If phone settings are adjusted to receive emergency alerts, users can download the free service, MyShake App, in English or Spanish, at the Apple App or Google Play stores. Android phones are already automatically subscribed to Android Earthquake Alerts, which uses the same technology as the MyShake App. The MyShake App provides audio and visual warnings for a magnitude 4.5 or higher and Modified Mercalli Intensity III (weak) shaking. WEA, on the other hand, sends alerts for greater magnitudes and intensities.

The science behind this alert system relies upon basic earthquake behavior since earthquakes send out two different types of waves. Ground sensors detect P-waves, the first type to occur. That data is transferred to an earthquake alert center which determines the location and size of the quake. A continually updated message is immediately sent to users, and it may arrive either before, during, or after shaking begins in your area.

The second set of S-waves and surface waves follow the P-waves. These waves are the ones that cause damage. In general, how close seismic sensors are to each other, how quickly the data can move, how deep it started in the earth, and whether it moved through sand, solid ground, or bedrock determines the length of the warning. The closer you are to the epicenter, the faster you receive an alert.

An earthquake early warning is not a prediction. The purpose of the alert is to give people precious seconds before shaking starts to “Drop, Cover, and Hold On.” You may receive a warning when there is no earthquake, although this should be rare. This technology will improve as all agencies and partners continue to collaborate on fine-tuning it along with the California Integrated Seismic Network (CISN). This network uses cell phone towers and a statewide microwave system which supports the state’s 911 system and the radio communications of many state and local agencies.

Cal OES also has recommendations for advance preparation for earthquakes. These can be downloaded from their website, caloes.gov, in the form of posters or booklets to assist the public in the practical steps to take before, during, and after a quake. The website also offers a magazine, “Living on Shaky Ground,” published by CSU Humboldt, which is geared to the North Coast region. The information allows the reader to think through all the decisions that come into play after this type of disaster. Especially helpful are two checklists that can be downloaded, “Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety” and “Emergency Kit Checklist.”

The “Seven Steps” include where to go in your house or place of business for the safest protection, what to do if you are driving, why you shouldn’t use phone service afterward to locate family members or friends, why you will need cash in small bills, what to keep in an emergency kit, and also remind you to consider your pets. To address the reality of financial hardship, the website also advises the purchase of inexpensive earthquake insurance, which is not included in homeowners’ policies.

Also included are various toolkits and resources designed for specific sectors of the state’s population such as business, medical, utilities, K-12 Education, first responders, and more. These are easily accessed at <https://earthquake.ca.gov/get-prepared>.

Every county has a state OES office, usually located with other county government buildings. Its purpose is to coordinate needed response services with the county government and other local agencies during and after disasters. In Mendocino County, the state OES office is located at 951 Low Gap Road, Ukiah, CA. The office phone is 707-467-6497, and the website is [linked here](#).

Reapers Used to Fight California Wildfires

[GPS World reports](#) the General Atomics Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) is usually a weapon of war. Most of us picture them loaded with missiles to be fired on terrorist hideouts, with video of the impact appearing on the six o’clock news. Soldiers in small control shacks guide these worldwide attacks, while politicians watch the outcomes remotely with their own direct TV coverage. This is how we tend to think of these destructive systems.

However, Reapers recently have been helping fight the huge fires devastating the California landscape — a more humanitarian, supportive role for a military asset.

The California Air National Guard (ANG) has been assisting firefighters for many years by using helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft to determine the intensity of large California fires and to plot their boundaries.

In the past 10 years, with the availability of large reconnaissance UAVs and assistance from the Federal Aviation Administration to develop and approve operational procedures, an approach has been formulated to employ Reapers, with the potential to reduce costs and greatly improve response times.

Having large UAVs at altitude in civilian airspace requires an accompanying chase plane to ensure safe operation. With proven onboard detect-and-avoid capability and visibility through crew monitoring, the chase aircraft only monitors the Reaper's climb to operational altitude. Using infrared and video from onboard cameras, data is downlinked and post-processed to create fire maps. Artificial intelligence (AI) automates this procedure to provide incident commanders with a near-real-time situational overview.

Besides mapping the fire, the incident commander can keep track of firefighters on the ground and gain a clearer picture of the fire's intensity, rate of growth and direction. With a high altitude view of the landscape, Reaper pilots also help determine the best evacuation routes. Video downlinks provide real-time fire dynamics to commanders and even to firefighters on the ground who carry handheld devices.

When equipped with long-range fuel tanks, Reapers can remain on task for up to 18 hours. The pilot and systems operator in their remote mission-control shack can hand over control to a new crew for such a long mission. The new crew can even be in a different location when it assumes control.

The experience gained in California regarding flight approvals, operations and use of data is being shared with remote UAV crews and emergency-response controllers in other U.S. jurisdictions as well as other countries. The procedures can be used not only for firefighting, but also for earthquake, flooding and hurricane response.

Fire Victims Ask California for an Unusual Form of Help

[*The San Francisco Chronicle reports*](#) advocates for wildfire victims brought an unusual pitch to Governor Newsom's office this week: Lend \$1.5 billion of California's cash reserves to help repay survivors whose compensation is tied up in Pacific Gas and Electric Corporation stock.

The proposal, one of several brought by the Fire Victim Trust, was meant to right what these advocates view as two fundamental wrongs. The state's fund created to help repay survivors of utility-sparked wildfires excluded the very group of people that inspired its creation. Instead, half their compensation is dependent on the value of PG&E shares, which have failed to recover as much as predicted after bankruptcy in 2019.

John Trotter, the retired justice managing the trust, said that without intervention of some kind, about 66,000 wildfire victims will receive only about half of what they're owed unless he waits what might take years for PG&E shares to recover. California can wait for PG&E stock to increase in value, but these individuals cannot, he said.

The 2018 Camp Fire and most of the 2017 North Bay and 2015 Butte fires were deadly and destructive blazes started by PG&E equipment that forced California to confront its burgeoning wildfire crisis and led the state's largest investor-owned utility to declare bankruptcy.

PG&E agreed to pay survivors \$13.5 billion, split between installments, totaling \$6.75 billion in cash plus 477 million shares of company stock. The court created the Fire Victim Trust to evaluate claims, make payments and decide when to sell its company shares.

But since that agreement, PG&E equipment has ignited more fires, including the 2019 Kincadee Fire in Sonoma County, the 2020 Zogg Fire in Shasta County and last year's Dixie Fire, which grew to nearly 1 million acres in the Sierra Nevada.

Those fires have compounded PG&E's financial woes. The corporation's stock would have to be at least \$14.15 a share for fire victims to approach the \$13.5 billion. Trotter sold the first batch of stock in January, 40 million at \$12.09 a share, and another 60 million shares last week for \$12.04 a share.

A PG&E spokeswoman said the company made its final cash payment to the trust in January, completing its obligation to the Fire Victim Trust. PG&E has supported the trust's efforts to maximize payments to victims and "continues to urge the Fire Victim Trust to compensate victims as quickly as possible."

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

Feinstein, Padilla Announce Nearly \$30 Million to Support Rural Communities Across California

[Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla \(both D-Calif.\) announced](#) that California will receive \$29.9 million to support public schools, roads, and other municipal services through the [Secure Rural Schools program](#). The program was reauthorized for fiscal years 2021 through 2023 by the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#).

"More than half of the forests in California are on federal land so it's imperative that the federal government remains committed to supporting the communities in or near our national forests," said Senator Feinstein. "The funds we secured in the bipartisan infrastructure law are part of that commitment and will support schools, roads and other public services in California's rural communities."

"The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is creating jobs and improving the resilience of our rural communities," said Senator Padilla. "With nearly \$30 million coming to California, we can support projects that will make it easier for children to get to school, improve the stability of our infrastructure, and better prepare emergency services. This is critical funding when so many of California's rural communities face an increased threat from wildfires in nearby national forests."

The Forest Service retains a portion of Secure Rural Schools program funds to support projects that improve forest conditions and support jobs in rural communities. Resource advisory committees, made up of residents representing varied interests and areas of expertise, review and recommend projects that meet their local needs.

Since 1908, 25 percent of Forest Service revenues from timber sales, mineral leases, livestock grazing, recreation fees and other funding sources are shared with states and counties that have national forests. By the 1990s, Forest Service payments from these sources began to decline, largely because of long-term diminished volume in timber sales. The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 authorized enhanced payments to help states and counties fund local services otherwise at risk because of this decline in revenue.

Over the past 10 years, the Forest Service has distributed \$2.6 billion through the Secure Rural Schools program. This year, states will receive \$238 million for distribution to counties. Each state's payment amount is determined by various factors set in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including the number of counties electing to share in a state's payment.

Feinstein, Padilla Announce \$6.7 Million in Forest Restoration Funding for California

[Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla \(both D-Calif.\) announced](#) federal funding for three California forest restoration projects totaling \$6.7 million. Forest restoration projects are a critical tool to reduce the risk of severe wildfires.

In addition to decreasing the risk of devastating wildfires by removing the fuel that feeds them, these landscape restoration activities establish forest vegetation by planting, seeding and natural regeneration; reduce or eradicate invasive plants; and enhance stream habitat.

The funds are part of the U.S. Forest Service's Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program and were made available through a combination of funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and annual appropriations.

"Wildfires are a near-constant threat for California, and some of the best tools to combat that risk are large-scale forest restoration programs that remove dead and dying trees and restore native vegetation," Feinstein said. "I thank the Biden administration for providing these funds and will continue to work with USDA and the Forest Service to increase the scale and frequency of forest restoration projects. These restoration projects are also the focus of my bill, the *Wildfire Emergency Act*, which has received a hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and I expect to advance out of committee in the coming months."

"I applaud the Biden-Harris Administration for continuing to prioritize California when funding projects that will help prevent wildfires," Senator Padilla said. "This funding will protect communities while improving the health of our forests and California's resilience against wildfires. The work done now removing excess, dead, and hazardous vegetation will restore key areas of our forests and improve our watersheds. Preparing for fires and responsibly managing our public lands requires a collaborative effort and these projects will be carried out with renewed cooperation between federal, state and tribal government partners."

The California projects that are receiving funding include:

- \$757,000 for the Dinkey Collaborative, a 154,000-acre project in the Sierra National Forest that is a critical site for restoration due to unprecedented levels of hazardous fuels caused by Southern Sierran tree mortality.
- \$3 million for the Western Klamath Mountains Fire and Fire Resiliency Project, a 1.2-million-acre project in Northwest California to protect communities and critical

transportation routes. Work will include increasing watershed health and ecosystem resilience and preparation for traditional controlled burns.

- \$3 million for the North Yuba River watershed in Northern California covering 356,000 acres. This watershed, which provides clean water for homes, communities, businesses and ecosystems, is a critical project site due to its high wildfire hazard potential and susceptibility to insects, disease and drought.

\$44M in California State Funds Requested for First Responder Training Facility

[KCRA 3 reports](#) Assemblymember Ken Cooley and the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District announced early Friday morning the request for \$44 million for the third phase of enhancements at the Zinfandel First Responder Training Facility.

The facility is over 50 acres in size, and the \$44 million would be a one-time state funding request to create new features to further first responder training on the grounds.

“Obviously the centrality of this location, with the airports, with all of the amenities, of the Sacramento region, it’s also a big big plus,” Cooley said.

The grounds, which are used by a multitude of agencies, have helped facilitate training for crews who have assisted in over 200 large-scale California disasters.

“The location here between the 80, the 5, the 99, and the 50 is the perfect location for resources to be staged for anything on the northern side of California,” said Sacramento Metro Fire Chief Todd Harms.

Assemblymember Cooley and local emergency experts call the training facility a central hub for any disasters across the state of California.

“This training facility will ensure that Sacramento Metro firefighters and our regional fire and EMS agencies are prepared to continue to answer calls anywhere in our beautiful state,” said Sacramento Metro Fire’s Parker Wilbourn.

The \$44 million would add indoor and outdoor spaces, driving and emergency vehicle operation, special ops training grounds and more.

According to Cooley, the vote on the one-time expense is slated for June of this year.

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **2022 Best Practice Initial Child Interview Video Training (VQ) Program RFP;** *health & human services; law, justice, and legal services*
 - Funded by: Governor’s Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Friday, April 22, 2022 (TODAY)**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$200k
 - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **STEM Teacher Recruitment Grant Program;** *education; employment, labor, & training; science, technology, and research & development*
 - Funded by: Department of General Services
 - Deadline: **Friday, April 29, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$2.85 million

- **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
- **Family Homelessness Challenge Grant, Round 1;** *disadvantaged communities; health & human services; housing, community, and economic development*
 - Funded by: CA Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency
 - Deadline: **Saturday, April 30, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$15 million
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online Application:** [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

Rural Fire Capacity

[The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection](#) has created the Rural Fire Capacity Grant Program to provide 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 Probation Specialized Units (PU) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) created the PU Program with the purpose of supporting specialized units within probation departments in California to provide focused supervision, through a reduced caseload, to probationers of crime involving domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and/or stalking.

The purpose of the PU Program is to support specialized units within probation departments in California to provide focused supervision, through a reduced caseload, to probationers of crime involving domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and/or stalking.

The only eligible Applicants are California County Probation Departments.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Friday, May 6, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$500k. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2022 California Nutrition Incentive Program – CalFresh

[CDFA](#) is seeking project proposals from eligible entities to distribute nutrition incentives to CalFresh shoppers using their benefits to purchase fresh, California grown fruits and vegetables at direct marketing outlets (Certified Farmers' Markets, Community Supported Agriculture programs, and farm stands) and small businesses in California.

CDFA is seeking project proposals from non-profits, certified farmers' markets and other direct-marketing farmers (CSAs and farm stands), and small retail businesses to distribute nutrition incentives to CalFresh (SNAP) shoppers.

CalFresh shoppers should be able to receive the incentive at the time of purchase. Typically shoppers for every CalFresh dollar they spend, shoppers receive an additional dollar (nutrition incentive) that can be spent on California-grown fruits and vegetables.

Projects that reach underserved populations, particularly communities where a large proportion of the population is eligible for CalFresh and communities with high rates of diet-related disease, will be prioritized.

The intent of this RFP is to select project proposals to combine into a unified state application for CDFA submission to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program. Funding is contingent upon CDFA receiving a federal nutrition incentive grant award.

Eligible applicants include businesses and nonprofits.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, March 16, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$31 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](#).