



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (5/20/22)

Nearly Every State Expected to Increase in COVID-19 Hospitalizations, Forecast Shows

[ABC News reports](#) as the nation's COVID-19 resurgence reaches its highest point since mid-February, daily hospital admission levels and new COVID-19 related deaths in the U.S. are projected to continue increasing over the next four weeks, according to newly updated forecast models used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The forecast now predicts that nearly every U.S. state and territory is projected to see increases in new hospitalizations over the next two weeks.

Models also show that about 5,300 deaths will occur over the next two weeks. California, New York, Georgia and Florida are projected to see the largest death tolls in the weeks to come.

In the weeks after the U.S. surpassed [1 million confirmed](#) COVID-19 related deaths, models estimate that a total of 1,010,800 fatalities will be recorded by June 11.

The projected increases come as infection rates continue to rise across the country, with a growing number of COVID-19 positive patients, once again, entering hospitals and requiring care, federal data shows.

To view the forecasted models, [click here](#). To view the full article, [click here](#).

COVID in California: State to Open Nearly 150 New “Test to Treat” Sites

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) the California Department of Public Health announced Wednesday that it is preparing to launch 146 new sites that provide coronavirus testing and treatment, as part of a partnership with OptumServe.

The sites will allow individuals to test for the virus, consult with a health care provider and receive a prescription to antiviral pills [all in one visit](#). Insurance coverage is not required for the services.

“We are working to ensure that Californians who have symptoms of COVID-19 have access to rapid testing and immediate treatment, regardless of insurance coverage,” Dr. Tomás Aragón, the state’s public health officer, said in a statement. “Our goal is to help Californians recover if they get COVID-19 and ensure high-risk patients have access to treatments that can keep them out of the hospital.”

The sites are expected to open over the next couple of weeks, with a [Test to Treat locator map available online](#), although not all the sites will be listed.

COVID-19 Remains a Public Health Emergency in US, Administration Says

[CNN reports](#) the Biden administration is continuing the [Covid-19 public health emergency declaration](#) beyond July 15, two administration officials told CNN, as [coronavirus cases are rising again across the US](#).

The administration has repeatedly said it would give states 60 days' notice if it were ending the declaration, which would have been Monday. But the deadline passed without notification.

The declaration is now expected to be renewed for up to another 90 days.

Reported cases of Covid-19 have more than doubled over the past month in the US overall and they're technically trending up in all states, though three states are considered to be "steady."

The public health emergency declaration allows many Americans to obtain free Covid-19 testing, therapeutic treatment and vaccines. Once it ends, people could face out-of-pocket costs depending on whether they are covered by Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance. But vaccinations would generally continue to be free for those covered by Medicare and private insurance, while state Medicaid programs would determine whether to continue covering vaccinations for their enrollees.

And states are not involuntarily disenrolling residents from Medicaid during the declaration, in exchange for receiving more generous federal matching funds. As many as 14 million people could lose Medicaid coverage after the emergency ends, according to separate projections by Kaiser and the Urban Institute.

A separate emergency declaration allows for the emergency use authorization of testing, treatments and vaccines. Its end date will be determined by the secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services.

The administration is continuing the public health emergency as it seeks new funding from Congress for treatments and vaccines. The Senate reached a tentative bipartisan deal in early April to provide an additional \$10 billion in Covid-19 assistance, less than half of what the White House originally had requested. It would allow the Biden administration to purchase more vaccines and therapeutics, as well as maintain testing capacity and research. But it does not include \$5 billion in funding for global Covid-19 aid, nor would it replenish the program that pays for testing, treating and vaccinating the uninsured.

However, the package has not moved forward amid divisions within Senate Democrats over whether to allow a vote on a contentious Trump-era pandemic restriction on the border.

COVID-19 Cases are Surging Again in California, but Safety Measures Remain the Same

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) coronavirus transmissions continue to rise in California, just as the state warms up and families begin to prepare for summer vacations.

The statewide daily case rate is 20.9 per 100,000 residents, according to a Tuesday update from the California Department of Public Health.

The case rate has increased by 23% in the last week, as the state reported 50,000 more cases in the last week.

Transmission rates continue to remain the highest in the Bay Area, particularly San Francisco at 47 cases per 100,000, San Mateo at 40, and Santa Clara at 39, according to Tuesday's state health update.

The state reported 1,527 COVID-positive patients in hospital beds as of Tuesday's update, a 21% increase from the previous week. Los Angeles has the most COVID-positive patients at 327, followed by Santa Clara at 126 patients. Sacramento County trails behind San Diego in hospitalizations. About 100 of those patients are in Sacramento County, 46 in Placer, six in El Dorado and one in Yolo.

To read further data from various counties, [visit the full article](#).

Bay Area COVID Cases Keep Swelling as Pandemic Persists

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) there is no relief for Bay Area counties on the COVID-19 front, as the latest numbers from the state show new cases and hospitalizations driven by subvariants of the coronavirus continuing their steady climb.

The Bay Area reported about 42 new daily cases per 100,000 residents on Tuesday, up from 35 a week ago. Eight of the nine counties in the region are among those that have the highest infection rate in [California](#), with San Francisco reporting 54 daily cases per 100,000 residents. Health officials say the actual number of infections is probably much higher because of people testing at home or not getting tested at all.

The number of people hospitalized in the city with COVID-19 climbed to 76, up from 61 last week. Across the Bay Area, there were 456 people with COVID in hospitals, a number that has steadily been rising since a lull in mid-April. Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, San Mateo and Marin counties have all seen substantial increases during that time.

San Francisco's coronavirus positive test rate is now at 11%. That's more than twice California's overall rate of 5%, which is the threshold infectious disease experts consider acceptable for controlling the spread of the virus and represents a dramatic increase over the low of 2.4% the city sank to after the winter omicron surge.

Dr. Susan Philip, San Francisco's health officer, told The Chronicle last week that it's not clear why the Bay Area is experiencing substantially higher case rates than the rest of the state, though officials think it might have to do with more infectious variants or higher levels of testing.

San Francisco public school students and staff reported 320 coronavirus cases last week, including 303 exposures where those infected were on a school site within 48 hours of showing symptoms or testing positive for the coronavirus. That is the highest figure since late January, at the tail end of the midwinter omicron surge. It also marks a 15% increase in cases at schools from the previous week.

On Friday, health officers from around the Bay Area issued a joint statement strongly urging but not requiring that residents once again mask up indoors amid the swell of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

More than 90,000 people in California have died from COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, with the state reporting an average of 40 new deaths a day for the past six weeks.

Deaths, a lagging indicator of pandemic trends, have leveled off in the Bay Area since the surge, in part because of increased access to treatments such as the antiviral pill Paxlovid, which is now available at most pharmacies. The figures now are a far cry from the death and devastation documented during the first two years of the pandemic.

COVID Boosters for Kids 5-11 in the Bay Area: What You Need to Know After FDA Approval

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) federal regulators have approved booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines for the youngest group of Americans yet, setting the stage for rollouts to Bay Area children ages 5 to 11 as soon as this weekend.

The Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday granted emergency use authorization of Pfizer/BioNTech's booster for the new age group.

But before parents can take their kids to the pediatrician or local pharmacy for the shot, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must formally recommend the booster for the new age group.

The agency's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is expected to discuss the shot and issue its recommendation [at a meeting](#) Thursday.

A regional advisory body, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, and California state health officials will also weigh in — with their advice typically following CDC recommendations.

Although boosters for children 5 to 11 are likely to get the green light, it might take a couple of days for pharmacies and other health care providers to update their guidelines and expand their online sign-ups and walk-ins to this new group. Check online or call ahead to determine availability.

After the expected sign-off from the CDC this week, children 5 to 11 years old will be eligible for boosters of the Pfizer vaccine — the only one approved for use in children in the U.S. — at least five months after completing the primary vaccination series, with a dosage of 10 micrograms, compared to the 30 microgram doses supplied to adults and children 12 and above. After trials showed a strong immune response in children 5 to 11, Pfizer [submitted an application](#) with the FDA for emergency use authorization for a booster dose for the age group.

To read further information on this expected approval and how to find access to the booster, [visit the full article](#).

Oversight Hearing Held on Governor Newsom's COVID Response

[KTLA reports](#) California lawmakers in the Assembly Emergency Management Committee put Gov. Gavin Newsom's COVID-19 endemic plan — also known as the "SMARTER" plan — under the microscope on Wednesday.

"As California has now seen another rise in COVID-19 cases, the 'SMARTER' plan now faces its first major test," said Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez, D-Pomona.

Newsom first introduced the plan in February.

California Department of Public Health Director Tomas Aragon reiterated on Wednesday the plan boosts state surveillance of the virus by monitoring particles in wastewater to try to detect potential surges.

The plan also includes ramping up the state's supply of masks, vaccine distribution and daily testing capability.

"It is flexible by design, so we can respond quickly as the virus changes," Aragon explained.

Some local public health officers told lawmakers, that overall, their cities and counties feel more equipped for the next wave of the virus than at the beginning of the pandemic.

Some also criticized the administration's handling of mask recommendations, which have been strongly encouraged since March, despite varying COVID-19 case rates between then and now.

Others noted the healthcare workforce needs help with recruitment and retention, especially those working in public health.

Newsom has proposed providing an additional \$200 million to local public health agencies, but some local leaders said that's not enough.

The hearing comes as California COVID-19 cases climb, with the state-wide positivity rate now at 5% — the highest recorded since February. Experts said that number is likely even higher because it doesn't account for everyone testing at home.

Newsom's administration is confident it's prepared for whatever comes next. Aragon said a state task force will soon gather to analyze how to reduce indoor transmission of the virus and how to improve indoor air quality overall.

Parishioners Stop Gunman in Deadly California Church Attack

[NPR reports](#) a man opened fire during a lunch reception at a Southern California church, killing one person and wounding five older people before a pastor hit the gunman on the head with a chair and parishioners hog-tied him with electrical cords.

Jerry Chen had just stepped into the kitchen of the church's fellowship hall around 1:30 pm Sunday when he heard the gunshots.

Chen, 72, a longtime member of the Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, which worships at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Laguna Woods, peeked around the corner and saw others screaming, running, and ducking under tables.

"I knew someone was shooting," he said. "I was very, very scared. I ran out the kitchen door to call 911."

Officials said the shooting ended after the gunman killed one man and wounded five older people before worshippers hog-tied his legs with an electrical cord until deputies arrived. Four of the five people wounded suffered critical gunshot injuries; their conditions were not immediately available Monday morning.

David Chou, 68, of Las Vegas has been booked on one count of murder and five counts of attempted murder, the Orange County Sheriff's Department tweeted. Jail records show Chou is being held on \$1 million bail. It's not immediately known whether he has a lawyer who can speak on his behalf.

For further details on this incident, [visit the full article](#).

Shootings in New York, California Prompt Call for Immediate Vote on House Democratic Terrorism Prevention Act

[Homeland Preparedness News reports](#) over the weekend, 11 people were killed and more injured across two separate shootings in Buffalo, New York and Laguna Woods, California. With these incidents as a backdrop, U.S. Representative Brad Schneider (D-IL) says it is past time for a House vote on the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act (H.R. 350).

“The rise of racially motivated violent extremism is a serious threat to Americans across the country,” Schneider said after the shootings.

In Buffalo, where 10 were killed by an avowed white supremacist, Payton Gendron, at a predominantly Black supermarket, law enforcement is officially investigating the matter as a hate crime. According to the shooter's messages and detailed posts online, he had planned to attack the supermarket as far back as February and had intended to attack other locations as well to maximize a targeted assault on the African American community.

“I want to be clear, for my part, from everything we know, this was a targeted attack, a hate crime, and an act of racially motivated violent extremism,” FBI Director Christopher Wray, speaking on the attack, told a collection of law enforcement and community leaders this week.

On Sunday, 60-year-old David Chou opened fire at the Geneva Presbyterian Church in Southern California during a lunch reception, killing one and injuring five others before being stopped by parishioners. Authorities labeled that attack politically motivated hate.

The suspects in both attacks have been arrested.

Schneider pointed to both as examples of domestic terrorism and urged his colleagues to vote on the DTPA, introduced in January 2021, to counter the spread of domestic violent extremist groups and individuals.

“The Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act is what Congress can do this week to try to prevent future Buffalo shootings – to prevent future California shootings, future El Paso shootings, future Charleston shootings, future Pittsburgh shootings, future Wisconsin shootings,” Schneider said. “We need to ensure that federal law enforcement has the resources they need to best preemptively identify and thwart extremist violence wherever the threat appears.”

A previous iteration of this bill was voted through the House in 2020 with support from both sides of the political aisle. The most recent version passed out of committee in April. It would authorize the creation of domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Justice Department (DOJ), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). All would be required to report biannually on the state of domestic terrorism threats and focus their resources on the most significant threats.

While the bill would stop short of mandating new lists of domestic terrorists or creating new criminal offenses and investigative powers, it would mandate greater attention to the issue by law enforcement and better equip them to deal with it.

Shootout at East Palo Alto Park Filled With Children Leaves One Dead, Three Injured

[*The San Francisco Chronicle reports*](#) one person was killed and three others were injured in a shooting involving multiple gunmen at an East Palo Alto park bustling with children and families on Tuesday evening, authorities said. Police are asking witnesses to come forward with any information and footage to aid in their investigation.

The shooting occurred at about 6 pm at Jack Farrell Park and killed an East Palo Alto resident, according to a statement released Wednesday by East Palo Alto Interim Police Chief Jeff Liu. Investigators found 33 rounds of shell casings at the park, which was occupied with dozens of visitors when shots rang out between two pairs of people – four in total, police officials said Wednesday evening.

“These people decided to shoot at each other, 33 rounds between them, with all these kids playing in the park, playing basketball,” Liu said. “This is a place for families to go and have good quality outdoor time together in a safe place. A place where they can play and be carefree — not some place where they need to worry about getting shot by people shooting at each other.”

Police identified the man who was killed as Ralph Fields Jr., whom they described as the cousin of Las Vegas Raiders wide receiver Davante Adams.

One person sustained a graze wound to his head and declined medical attention, and two others sustained non-life threatening wounds, police said. The latter two victims took themselves to a local fire station in town for medical treatment, where they were subsequently taken to a local hospital, Sanchez said. Police have not identified any suspects as of Wednesday evening. Investigators are still working to determine who opened fire at the park, Liu said.

East Palo Alto Mayor Ruben Abrica said there were between 40 and 60 people at the park when the shooting occurred, adding that authorities and city officials are urging witnesses to come forward with information about what unfolded, including any photographs and video. Liu said that police “don’t have anywhere near that many witnesses so we need people to tell us what they saw, what they heard, everything.”

Liu pointed to a cell phone video that has circulated on social media showing what he said was a young child running for their life while a flurry of shots could be heard in very close proximity to where children were playing on a playground.

“That is so not acceptable, and we cannot stand for that,” Liu said, describing the video as “absolutely heartbreaking.” Liu said that the community must “take a stand against this type of violence, especially in our parks.”

Firefighters Knock Down Brush Fire That Burned Close to Buildings Near Concord

[*NBC Bay Area reports*](#) firefighters on Friday knocked down a brush fire that broke out next to Highway 4 in the Concord area, and burned close to some buildings.

The blaze, which started in the area of Willow Pass and Evora Roads, scorched 20 acres before crews were able to stop its forward progress, according to the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. It was 80% contained as of 1 p.m.

No buildings were damaged, the fire district said.

California Blaze that Burned 31 Homes Signals ‘Dangerous New Normal,’ Officials Say

[NBC News reports](#) a wind-whipped wildfire that [tore through a Southern California city](#), burning 31 homes and prompting a local state of emergency, signaled a dangerous start to the state’s fire season, the local fire chief said Thursday.

Orange County Fire Chief Brian Fennessy said the blaze, dubbed the Coastal Fire, occurred well before the hot, dry Santa Winds typically fuel the region’s more destructive wildfires.

“This is a fire that was driven by winds that happen up here every day,” he said. “Humidity was 70 percent or better. This was a normal day. Yet we burned 200 acres very quickly and lost 24 homes. That is not something that we see ever. It is a dangerous new normal.”

About 900 homes were under evacuation orders Thursday afternoon and 550 firefighters were working to contain the blaze in and around Laguna Niguel in Orange County, about 50 miles south of Los Angeles, local fire officials said.

Twenty homes were destroyed, and 11 others were damaged, said Shane Sherwood, an Orange County Fire Authority incident commander. Two firefighters were injured, and 15 percent of the fire had been surrounded by control lines, he said.

Local officials [declared a state of emergency earlier last Thursday](#), freeing up resources and assistance for residents.

The cause of the fire, which broke out Wednesday afternoon in Aliso Woods Canyon — an area Fennessy described as “extremely steep” and dry — remains under investigation.

Fennessy said the fire was part of trend in California and other Western states that appeared to be fueled by climate change and the hotter, drier conditions it has produced.

"We're seeing fires spread in ways that we haven't [before], at least in the 44 years that I've been a firefighter," he said.

Experienced local fire officials were once able to predict fire behavior in the region, Fennessy added. But that is no longer the case. "What we're seeing today is exceeding any of our personal fire behavior predictions," he said.

Homeowners Sue SoCal Edison, Claiming Faulty Equipment Sparked Coastal Fire

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) a group of homeowners is suing Southern California Edison, claiming that its equipment was to blame for a blaze that destroyed more than 20 homes in Laguna Niguel last week.

The fire swept through an upscale neighborhood on May 11, spurred by robust coastal winds and dry brush starved of moisture due to a drought gripping the West.

Edison issued an initial report to the [California Public Utilities Commission](#) that “circuit activity” was recorded in the area around 2:34 pm.

The origin of the fire, called the Coastal fire, remains under investigation. However, the lawsuit, filed in Orange County Superior Court Tuesday, claims the fire was sparked by Edison’s “negligently operated, repaired and maintained electrical equipment” and failure to clear brush around the equipment.

“Defendants’ failure to follow the standard of care in its practices resulted in a dangerous fire that devastated the community of Coronado Pointe and the surrounding areas, destroying property and sending residents fleeing for their lives,” the homeowners said in their 30-page lawsuit.

The homeowners claim in their lawsuit that Edison’s “careless and/or willful shortcomings are part of common public utility company patterns and practices of choosing corporate profits over the safety of the communities that they provide electricity to.”

Edison spokesperson Reggie Kumar said, “Our thoughts are with the community members whose homes have been damaged and those who were evacuated because of the Coastal Fire, and we are coordinating with fire agencies as needed to ensure firefighter safety. It would be inappropriate to discuss any possible litigation.”

Forward Progress of Brush Fire near Griffith Observatory Stopped at 6 Acres; Person Detained

[ABC 7 News reports](#) a brush fire broke out on the hills near Griffith Observatory Tuesday afternoon.

The fire started on the Boy Scout Trail, a popular hiking trail in Griffith Park, and was reported around 2:43 pm, according to the Los Angeles Fire Department. A “person of interest” was detained but no arrest has yet been made in connection with the blaze, according to LAPD.

Firefighters took to the skies with water drops as the fire started in a precarious spot that was not easily accessible to ground units at first.

Ground units soon arrived and helped battle the blaze.

The fire grew to four acres and was classified as “major emergency” by LAFD. Forward progress was stopped at 6 acres after a little more than an hour as crews extinguished most active flames in the area, the fire department reported.

The Griffith Observatory area was evacuated and park rangers were assisting with public safety by keeping hikers from entering the nearby trails.

Griffith Observatory was closed to the public on Tuesday. No homes were ordered to evacuate and no injuries were reported.

Governor Newsom Deploys Additional Firefighting Resources to New Mexico to Combat Multiple Large-Scale Fires

[The Office of Governor Newsom today announced](#) the deployment of additional firefighting resources to help combat several dangerous wildfires. This is following the deployment of California firefighting support sent to New Mexico on April 30.

In response to a request from New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor Newsom directed Cal OES to send the additional resources, which entail three strike teams, comprised of 15 Cal OES fire engines (Type 3 and Type 6) and 55 personnel.

Type 3 and Type 6 engines are the most used engines for wildland urban interface fires and are known for their off-road capabilities.

In total, California has now sent five strike teams to New Mexico from the following agencies: San Diego, El Cajon, San Miguel, Chula Vista, Ontario, Victorville, Chino Valley, Apple Valley, Rancho Cucamonga, Arcadia, Los Angeles County, West Covina, Compton, Orange, Escondido, Costa Mesa, Anaheim, Fullerton, Laguna Beach, Orange County, and a hand crew from Santa Barbara.

Strong winds and dry conditions are contributing to massive wildfires burning throughout New Mexico. The largest of those fires, the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire, has burned more than 301,000 acres and is 34 percent contained. The Cerro-Pelado Fire has burned more than 45,000 acres and is 74 percent contained, while the Bear Trap Fire climbed above 17,100 acres and is 28 percent contained.

Cal OES continues to monitor operations in New Mexico and requests for additional EMAC assistance. EMAC, which includes the participation of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, is a nationally recognized mutual-aid system that provides the foundation for states to request and send resources across their borders when impacted by a disaster.

For more information on the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, follow this [link](#).

When to Evacuate a Wildfire? Cal Fire Chief's Advice to Help Protect You and Emergency Crews

[KCRA 3 reports](#) the worst time to plan for an emergency situation like a fast-moving wildfire is when that fire is headed right for your home.

Fire officials urge everyone to make sure you know your evacuation plan now in order to be ready to leave quickly should the need arise.

Cal Fire has three simple steps you should follow: Ready, Set, and Go.

A full list of things to include can be found on [Cal Fire's website](#).

Cal Fire Suspend Burn Permits in Several Northern California Counties

[ABC 10 News reports](#) as fire danger increases due to continued drought conditions, hotter and drier climate across the region, [Cal Fire](#) announced it is suspending all burn permits for outside residential burning in several counties.

To view the list of counties that Cal Fire is suspending burn permits in, along with the restrictions imposed, and tips on how to prepare your home and property, [visit the full article](#).

Governor Newsom Releases May Budget Revision with Emphasis on Emergency Management

[Cal OES News reports](#) at a time when disasters facing California have become more frequent, complicated, and often involve numerous counties and regions across the state, Governor Gavin Newsom's May Budget Revision continues the state's efforts to prioritize investments to strengthen the state's emergency capacity and capabilities to respond to increasingly complex disasters, security threats, and emergencies.

The May Revision includes a package of initiatives to lead multi-faceted, long-term recovery efforts across California and strengthen equity and connections with vulnerable communities. In addition to modernizing technology and data analytics, these resources would lessen the reliance on redirected staff to respond and ready California during and post emergencies.

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

California Wine Grape Growers Eye Millions in Federal Aid for 2020 Wildfire Losses

[North Bay Business Journal reports](#) the U.S. Department of Agriculture said about \$6 billion will be made available for crop disasters in the past two years, including severe drought and the devastating 2020 North Bay wildfires that led to significant reductions in the California North Coast wine grape harvests.

California viticulture advocates said the new money through the USDA's Emergency Relief Program is poised to do more than previous help to cover a roughly \$400 million shortfall between crop insurance payments and the value of fruit that couldn't be picked amid the Glass and LNU Lightning Complex fires in Napa, Sonoma, Lake and Solano counties.

Wine grape growers statewide lost an estimated \$601 million in crop value in 2020 from fire and smoke damage, but crop insurance payments for those losses were over \$200 million, according to the trade group.

The 2020 North Coast wine grape harvest value dropped by 46% from the previous year to \$824.5 million, and the volume fell by 29% to 340,000 tons, according to the state crush report.

The USDA on Monday said it would be paying the disaster assistance through its Farm Service Agency for commodity and specialty crop growers on yield and value losses. Payments are calculated based on loss data filed via the Federal Crop Insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance programs.

The new funding would pay in disaster help to eligible farmers up to \$900,000 (or up to \$125,000 for those whose adjusted gross income from agriculture is less than 75% of their total). ([See the Emergency Relief Program fact sheet for details.](#))

The grape trade group notes that it's a "substantial increase" from the limit of \$250,000 under the USDA's previous disaster program, Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+).

The Emergency Relief Program is part of \$10 billion in agricultural disaster help included in an economic aid package that President Biden signed Sept. 30, 2021.

DHS Invests \$1.6B for Preparedness Grant Programs for State, Local Aid

[Homeland Preparedness News reports](#) across a series of grant programs, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced last week that it will disperse \$1.6 billion this fiscal year in support of state and local officials seeking to plan for, prevent, halt and respond to terrorism and other issues.

Supplementing \$405.1 million in funding already announced last month for the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program, these funds prioritize support for law enforcement at all levels. While DHS grant programs have required at least a quarter of funds to be given to Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities since 2007, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has for the first time authorized raising the statutory minimum to 30 percent, increasing law enforcement support by about \$51.5 million over 2021 levels.

Evolution of response is something Mayorkas emphasized with this year's funding, something he says will keep the nation on a better footing against equally evolving threats. Exemplifying this concept was the creation of two new national priority areas for these grants: community preparedness and election security. This brings DHS' focus to six areas, including cybersecurity, soft targets/crowded places, intelligence/information sharing, and domestic violent extremism. Grant recipients will have to spread at least 30 percent of their rewards across these six priorities, with certain sub-milestones. Minimum spending will be required for all areas except cybersecurity and election security.

To view a breakdown of what the funding includes, [visit the full article](#).

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **2022-23 Specialized Emergency Housing (KE) Program RFP**; *consumer protection; disaster prevention & relief; health & human services; law, justice, and legal services*
 - Funded by: Governor's Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Monday, May 23, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$9.6 million
 - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **2022-23 Victim Advocacy in Detention Facilities (KA) Program RFP**; *consumer protection; disadvantaged communities; health & human services*
 - Funded by: Governor's Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Wednesday, May 25, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$2,534,828
 - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **2022-23 California Medical Training Center (EM) Program RFP**; *disaster prevention & relief; science, technology, and research & development*
 - Funded by: Governor's Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Friday, June 3, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$942,523
 - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)

2022-23 Domestic Violence Housing First (XD) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created the XD Program to provide victims of domestic violence with safe, permanent housing and ongoing, supportive services tailored to address the individual needs of each victim. Examples of supportive services include

transportation subsidies, financial assistance, career training, employment assistance, legal assistance, counseling, childcare, and temporary rental assistance.

To be eligible to submit a proposal, Applicants must be a governmental or non-governmental entity and meet the additional requirements on page two of the funding guidelines.

The Program is supported through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program (Formula Grant Program)

- Supports eligible crime victim assistance programs.
- 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).

The deadline to apply for this funding is Friday, June 10, 2022. Total estimated funding available is \$22.75 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2022-24 Sexual Assault American Rescue Plan (AR) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created the AR Program to help rape crisis centers and sexual assault programs continue adapting to meet the emergency needs of sexual assault survivors in response to the COVID -19 public health emergency.

Funds are to be used to continue efforts to prepare for, prevent, and respond to COVID-19. Funding may support a range of in-scope activities including counseling, mobile advocacy, telehealth, teletherapy, peer support, temporary housing, rental assistance and nominal relocation expenses, supplies, equipment, and software to assist in carrying out virtual services.

The Applicant must be a governmental or non-governmental organization (NGO) serving sexual assault victims. Priority will be given to NGOs not currently funded through the Rape Crisis (RC), Victim Advocacy in Detention Facilities (KA), Campus Sexual Assault (CT), or the Child Sexual Abuse Treatment (CS) Programs.

The proposal must be submitted per the instructions in C. SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND REQUIREMENTS.

The deadline to apply for this funding is Wednesday, June 29, 2022. Total estimated funding available is \$3,370,077. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2022-23 Transitional Housing (XH) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created the XH Program to provide victims of crime with transitional/short-term housing assistance and a range of supportive services with the goal of moving victims into safe, permanent housing.

The XH Program is designed after the Housing First model; a form of rapid rehousing adapted to move and rehouse victims of crime who are experiencing homelessness into permanent housing quickly and provide ongoing supportive services. Transitional/short-term housing is a temporary solution – usually a room or apartment – meant to be a safe space in which victims can process their trauma and build a supportive network with the goal of moving into safe, permanent housing.

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 treatment, or sobriety.

Applicants must have a Unique Entity Identifier (Unique Entity ID) registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM). Applicants who do not currently have a Unique Entity ID will need to register at SAM.gov to obtain one.

See full Request for Proposal for complete requirements.

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 (Cal OES Form 2-159) with their proposal. Up to two VOCA fund sources can be entered on one form. All sections of the form must be completed and answers to questions 6 and 7 must be specific and unique to the Applicant and Program.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday, July 5, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$17.15 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).