

LA Wildfires: Joint County – State Housing Task Force Meeting

Summary Document | April 30, 2025

This document captures discussion outcomes and action items resulting from the LA Wildfires: Joint County – State Housing Task Force meeting. The mission of the LA Wildfires: Joint County – State Housing Task Force is to support the transition from temporary sheltering programs to long-term housing solutions and develop housing solutions to facilitate the return of displaced families who want to remain in their community.

Agenda

Time	Topic	Facilitator
5 minutes	Welcome & Meeting Admin <ul style="list-style-type: none">Attendance (Link in Chat)Introductions (New Participants)	LA County Development Authority (LACDA) Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
10 minutes	Housing Task Force Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">Opening RemarksAnnouncements<ul style="list-style-type: none">Senior Reverse Mortgages WorkshopCity Updates	LA County Development Authority (LACDA) California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
15 minutes	Rebuild & Long-Term Recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none">Status Update	Amy Bodek - Department of Regional Planning
15 minutes	Voluntary Agency Liaison/Long-Term Recovery Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">General OverviewLessons LearnedStatus Update	Jennifer Roy – Cal OES
10 minutes	Q&A / Discussion	All Members
5 minutes	Wrap Up	Task Force Leads

Time	Topic	Facilitator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Items & Next Steps 	

Action Items

#	Task	Status	Date Assigned	Anticipated Due Date	Owner
1	Review Section 8 Housing Voucher Program waitlist to award 50 vouchers.	Pending	04/09/2025	05/30/2025	LACDA
2	Evaluate FEMA Information Data and Analysis (FIDA) data to identify trends or gaps in housing placement and survivor assistance.	Pending	04/15/2025	05/16/2025	LACDA; HCD; DCBA
3	Host a Reverse Mortgage Introductory Session for seniors supported by the development of workshop materials, case management services, and logistics.	Pending	04/15/2025	05/10/2025	DCBA; LACDA; Department of Aging
4	Develop a County-specific Fact Sheet that clearly outlines housing-related executive orders because of the wildfires, to inform stakeholders, guide policy implementation, and support survivors.	Pending	04/30/2025	05/16/2025	LACDA; LA Co OEM
5	Collect and analyze localized data to identify and frame the unique challenges faced by survivors to support targeted funding requests and strengthen federal advocacy efforts.	Pending	04/30/2025	05/19/2025	LACDA; LA Co OEM

Meeting Summary

Announcements

Senior Reverse Mortgages Workshop

- The Reverse Mortgage Working Group is organizing a reverse mortgage workshop for senior citizens on Saturday, 5/10/2025, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the MonteCedro Retirement Community.
 - The event is in partnership with the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), Department of Aging, California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA), Housing & Urban Development (HUD), and other senior-focused organizations.
 - The purpose of the workshop is to gather information on reverse mortgages, educate seniors, and build a support system for seniors in impacted communities to connect them with appropriate resources based on their individual needs.
 - For those interested in joining the Reverse Mortgage Working Group, the contact information is:
 - Email: Carolina.romo@lacda.org
 - Phone: 626-296-6298

City Updates

- The Housing Task Force will be creating a space for cities to present on their individual activities.
- The City of Pasadena had nothing new to report.

Voluntary Agency Liaison / Long-Term Recovery Groups

- The purpose of the presentation is to understand the role of the Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL), learn about long-term recovery groups, identify key partners, and explore Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs).
- The role of the VAL is to facilitate connections, establish relationships, and ensure the delivery of equitable support to survivors.
- VAL reports on unmet needs and communicates with local voluntary organizations, ensuring collaboration and coordination.
- LTRGs work by pooling resources for recovery and rebuilding after a disaster, with a focus on efficient resource mobilization to avoid duplication of efforts.
- LTRGs support housing recovery by coordinating resources, working with case managers, construction partners, and funding sources.

- While each disaster is unique, LTRGs consistently contribute to effective long-term recovery and rebuilding. In previous disasters like the Sonoma rebuild, Camp Fire, and Dixie Fire, LTRGs facilitated connections to funding, construction, and volunteer support.
- The Eaton fire primarily affected suburban, lower-income communities with close-knit neighborhoods. These areas have strong local pride but lacks access to large-scale resources.
- The Palisades fire includes both accessible areas with resources and rugged terrain with legacy homes; and the challenge is navigating the community's resistance to collaboration.
- The Eaton fire recovery efforts are progressing rapidly, with a formal long-term recovery group being established.
- Palisades recovery involves working with local organizations in Topanga and Malibu, offering support but not mandating collaboration.
- VAL Contacts:
 - Jennifer Roy: Jennifer.Roy@caloes.ca.gov; 916-823-6377
 - Daniel Martinez; Daniel.Martinez@caloes.ca.gov; 916-531-1854
 - Chris Camacho; Chris.Camacho@caloes.ca.gov; 916-279-3841
- Individual Assistance Branch Contacts:
 - IARecovery@caloes.ca.gov; 916-845-8149
 - Nicole Watanabe; Nicole.Watanabe@caloes.ca.gov