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Resources Available to the Immigrant Community 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires

Most of the resources listed below are available to everyone REGARDLESS of immigration status. The resources that do have immigrant eligibility restrictions have been noted. You have the right to be served in your preferred language when accessing government disaster aid.

Use of disaster assistance IS NOT included in a public charge test. If you have any questions regarding public charge, contact us at www.bailanetwork.org.

This guide will be updated regularly. Check back for updates. Contact bailanetwork@nlsia.org if you have any additional resources to share.

This is general information ONLY. If you need legal advice, contact NLSLA at 800-433-6251 or another trusted organization. NLSLA and the BAILA Network are not responsible for the work of the organizations listed in this guide.

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1. General Disaster Information

- o [Incendios en Los Ángeles en 2025 | CA.gov](#)
- o [LA County Recovers](#)

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2. LA County Office of Immigrant Affairs

- o [Immigrant Affairs - Office of Immigrant Affairs](#)
- o [Resource sheet](#)

3. Shelter

Emergency Shelter is available to everyone regardless of immigration status.

- o **Red Cross** – emergency shelter, food, and financial assistance
 - o “Los refugios de la Cruz Roja están abiertos a todas las personas necesitadas, independientemente de su raza, religión, identidad de género, orientación sexual o **estado de ciudadanía**. Las mascotas son bienvenidas. Toda la asistencia en caso de desastre es gratuita.”
 - o “Red Cross shelters are open to everyone in need, regardless of race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation or citizenship status.”
 - o 1-800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767)
 - o [Multilingual Disaster Distress Helpline - 1-800-985-5990](#).
 - o [Disaster Shelters | Find Shelters | American Red Cross](#)
- o **Emergency Shelter Locations**
 - o Westwood Recreation Center – 1350 Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025
 - o Pasadena Civic Auditorium – 300 East Green Street, Pasadena, CA 91101

For updates, visit: [Emergency – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES](#)

- o **Call 211 to access hotel vouchers**
 - o [211 LA Teams Up with Hilton and Partners to Provide Hotel Vouchers – LA County Recovers](#)
 - Application: [CS Care](#)
- o Temporary Housing from [Church World Service](#)
 - o “Housing stays are limited to a maximum of 30 days and must conclude no later than March 31, 2025. While we aim to accommodate requests, the successful booking of temporary housing cannot be guaranteed. Guests are required to adhere

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to all regulations established by the temporary housing provider and will be held liable for any damages that occur.”

- Interest form: [EPRR Temporary Housing Intake Form](#)

4. Disaster Recovery Centers + Other Resource Centers

Disaster Recovery Centers

Here, you can get help from the Red Cross, FEMA, state and local governments (who can help you replace your lost birth certificate, EBT cards, CA IDs, home deeds, etc.), non-profit organizations, and legal aid. For list of all agencies/services present, visit: [Disaster Recovery Centers – LA County Recovers](#)

Open to the public Monday - Saturday - 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Westside Location

UCLA Research Park West
10850 West Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Eastside Location

Altadena Disaster Recovery Center
540 W. Woodbury Road
Altadena, CA 91001

NEW - LA City/County Resource Centers

“One-stop location where people affected by the fires can access relief funds, get help with job placement and training, look for temporary employment and apply for small-business loans. They can also access emergency shelter and rental assistance and get help filing taxes at the centers, among other services.”

The centers will be open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at these locations:

West Los Angeles: 5446 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City, 90230
Northeast San Fernando Valley: 13356 Eldridge Ave., Sylmar, 91342
West Adams/Leimert Park: 4305 Degnan Blvd., Los Angeles, 90008
Boyle Heights: 2130 1st St., Los Angeles, 90033

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5. FEMA Assistance

For those who lost homes (owners and renters) or were displaced (permanently or temporarily); **deadline to submit FEMA claims = March 31!**

- o Immigration status does not matter for these kinds of help:
 - Finding people who are lost
 - Emergency shelter, food, and water
 - Transportation
 - Emergency supplies (medicine, clothing, etc.)
 - Crisis counseling and disaster case management
- o There are immigration status requirements for the following forms of long-term assistance from FEMA:
 - Temporary rental housing
 - Help with lodging expenses
 - Repair and replacement of destroyed housing
 - Replacement of lost items
 - Medical and funeral costs
 - Small Business Administration loans
- o People who qualify for these long-term forms of assistance are:
 - o Lawful permanent residents (people who have green cards)
 - o Refugees, people granted asylum, or people granted “withholding of removal/deportation”
 - o People paroled into the U.S. for at least 1 year
 - o Cuban or Haitian entrants
 - o Certain survivors of domestic violence
 - o Trafficking survivors
 - o COFA citizens (Republic of Palau, Micronesia, and Marshall Islands)
- o Mixed status families may be eligible if there is a qualifying person (including minors) in the household. Learn more about how mixed status families can apply for FEMA aid:
 - Guide to immigrant eligibility for FEMA assistance
 - o [English](#)
 - o [Spanish](#)

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Important – There is a line in the FEMA aid application that says that they are allowed to share information with ICE. To our knowledge, FEMA has not shared information with ICE in the past. If you want to talk to an advocate about this, contact NLSLA at 800-433-6251, or another trusted organization.

People should **never provide false information**. This can cause trouble and may affect someone's chance of getting U.S. citizenship or a green card.

--> Supplements to FEMA Assistance

- Small Business Administration (SBA) - The SBA can provide disaster assistance for homeowners, renters, nonprofits, and businesses of all sizes. **People who are undocumented cannot access assistance through SBA.**
 - o Home Disaster Loans: Loans to homeowners or renters to repair or replace damaged real estate and personal property, including cars.
 - o Business Physical Disaster Loans: Loans to businesses, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations to repair or replace damaged property, including real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment.
 - o Economic Injury Disaster Loans: Working capital loans to help small businesses and nonprofits meet their financial obligations
 - o **Click here to apply at [sba.gov](https://www.sba.gov)**. For questions, call 800-659-2955.
 - o <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance/california-wildfires>
- California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
 - o From website:
<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/disaster-services-branch/disaster-grant-assistance>:

“California's SSGP, administered by the CDSS' DSB, may provide grant funds to assist people who have suffered damage in a disaster area declared by the President when the federal assistance to Individuals and Household Program (IHP) is implemented. The SSGP is 100 percent State funded. The grant

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may assist with any eligible items not already addressed by the IHP. **However, individuals must have applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and maximized the IHP award in order to be eligible for SSGP.** State grants cover disaster-relief needs in the same categories as the IHP.

If you have reached the maximum IHP assistance, FEMA will automatically transmit your application information to SSGP. There is no separate application process for SSGP. If you have questions about the SSGP, you may contact SSGP at 1-800-759-6807, or for the speech- or hearing-impaired, the TTY number is 1-800-952-8349.”

- Info Sheet ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)) ([Chinese](#))
 - Other languages available on [CDSS website](#).

6. Tenants' Rights

My unit was impacted by the fires:

o Do I need to pay rent?

- o **If the unit is completely destroyed, no.** Your lease will end. You no longer have the right to live there and do not have to continue paying rent. The landlord must refund unused portions of rent and return security deposits.
- o **If the unit is "redtagged", no.** You do not have to pay rent while the unit is "redtagged" and you are unable to use the unit. Once a City Inspector declares the unit to be safe for habitation, you have the right to continue occupying the unit and will need to start paying rent to your landlord.
- o **If the unit is damaged but is still livable and is not destroyed, yes.** If you want to move out, you need to give landlord a 30-day notice of your proposed move out. You will need to pay rent for those 30 days.

Does your apartment have lots of smoke and ash damage and the landlord will not clean/address?

CALL NLSLA at 800-433-6251

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Click [here](#) for a recording of a training conducted by NLSLA re: the rights of tenants who have been impacted by the fires.

NLSLA will host weekly Tenants Rights Trainings for people who have been impacted by the fires.

- **Every Wednesday in February starting at 10:00 AM**
- Register here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
- For people who have questions re:
 - Damage or destruction to your rented home
 - Disruption of power, water, or gas
 - Questions about paying rent
 - Questions about eviction and relocation assistance
 - Return of prorated rent and security deposits

More tenants' rights organizations:

- o StayHousedLA - <https://www.stayhousedla.org/wildfires>
- o Legal Aid Foundation of LA County - [Get Legal Help - LAFLA: Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles](#)

7. Insurance Issues

- o Guidance for navigating homeowner's or renter's insurance issues: [2025 California Wildfires - Insurance Claim and Recovery Help - United Policyholders](#) (not available in Spanish)
 - **NEW** - United Policyholders Training Series
 - Survivor to Survivor Forum
Tuesday, March 18th at 7:00 PM
Register here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
 - Navigating Wildfire-Damaged Home Insurance Claims (Standing Homes/Partial Losses)
Wednesday, March 19th at 5:00 PM
Register here: [Navigating Wildfire-Damaged Home Insurance Claims \(Standing Homes/Partial Losses\) - United Policyholders](#)
- o California Insurance Commissioner: [Como obtener ayuda](#)
- o Visit a United Policy Holder table at a DRC: [2025 California Wildfires - Insurance Claim and Recovery Help - United Policyholders](#)

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8. Health Access (Medi-Cal)

- o See this guide from Western Center: [Microsoft Word - Disaster health tip 2025 updated Jan. 2025 FINAL v 1.1.docx](#)
- o If you lost work and/or health insurance, you can apply for Medi-Cal!
 - o Simplified application process
 - o Online: www.benefitscal.com
 - o Phone: (866) 613-3777
 - o Help from BAILA enroller!
- o DPSS can quickly turn back on terminated Medi-Cal cases
 - o Call (866) 613-3777
 - o Or, get help from BAILA (www.bailanetwork.org)
- o Medi-Cal participants displaced by fire to another county can easily transfer case to new county (temporarily or long-term)
- o Access to transportation to your medical appointments – contact your health plan – or contact NLSLA's Health Consumer Center at 800-896-3202 for help.
- o If you are a **Medi-Cal recipient who lost prosthetic dental implants, medications, eyeglasses, etc. in the fire, you can get those replaced and covered by Medi-Cal.**
- o Fast medication refills!
 - o Can also get some medication refills by the LA County Department of Public Health at Disaster Recovery Centers

If you have any issues navigating your Medi-Cal or Covered CA plan, contact the Health Consumer Center at 800-896-3202, or contact BAILA at [BAILA Network](#).

9. Food Assistance + County Cash Aid

Food Assistance

- **CalFresh** - There are immigration status requirements for CalFresh. The following are eligible:

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- Naturalized citizens, lawful permanent residents (green card holders), U and T Visa applicants/holders, VAWA self-petitioners, people granted asylum, and refugees (and some others)
- **People who are undocumented and DACA + TPS recipients cannot get CalFresh** (can get WIC and access food banks, though)
- Mixed status families can get CalFresh for members of the family who have qualifying immigration status (like citizen children).
- **Use of CalFresh IS NOT included in the public charge test.**
- Apply here: www.benefitscal.com
 - Or call DPSS at (866) 613-3777
 - Or contact BAILA (www.bailanetwork.org/get-help)
- **Replacement CalFresh Benefits** (for people who already receive CalFresh)
 - If you lost food as a result of destruction or power outage due to the wildfires starting 1/7/25, you can request 1 month's worth of CalFresh to replace it. Ask for help filling out a CF 303 form [Eng](#).
Must apply by 2/5/2025!
- **CalFresh for Hot Food**
 - People can use their EBT card to buy hot or prepared food from grocery stores (not restaurants) until **2/8/2025**.
- **Disaster CalFresh**
 - Provides immediate food assistance for people impacted financially by disasters (living or working in area)
 - Have to qualify financially
 - For people who are not already receiving CalFresh – gives one month of maximum CalFresh benefits based on household size
 - **No immigration/SSN requirements**
 - **MUST APPLY between Feb. 10 and 14; then Feb. 18th and 19th – Application period has now passed**
 - Call DPSS at (866) 488-8482 to apply or apply in person at DPSS office (locator: https://dpss.lacounty.gov/en/food/calfresh/cf_ebt_news.html)
 - Info from DPSS: <https://dpss.lacounty.gov/en/food.html>
 - USDA Announcement that D-SNAP was approved: <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/>

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[01/29/usda-announces-approval-d-snap-california-disaster-areas](#)

- **WIC**
 - Available to everyone **regardless of immigration status!**
 - For families with children under age of 5; pregnant and breastfeeding people
 - [PHFE WIC - California | A Program of Heluna Health](#)
- **LA Regional Food Bank** (no immigration requirements)
 - [Locate a Partner Agency](#)
 - [Encuentra Comida | Banco de Comida Regional de Los Angeles](#)
- **World Central Kitchen Food Service** (no immigration requirements)
 - [World Central Kitchen \(@wckitchen\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)
 - [World Central Kitchen | Meal Distribution Sites: California Fires](#)

DPSS Cash Aid

Can apply for all programs below using www.benefitscal.com or by calling LA County DPSS at (866) 613-3777.

- CalWORKs - cash aid program for families with minor children
 - Must have lawful immigration status to get CalWORKs, though mixed status families can get benefits for their eligible children. For more detail, see: www.bailanetwork.org/self-help
 - Use of CalWORKs for an eligible child will not impact their parents in a public charge determination.
 - May be eligible for additional \$200 “Immediate Needs” payment if you qualify.
 - People who already receive CalWORKs can get a one-time special payment of up to \$600 to pay for costs to repair home or replace destroyed things.
 - May also request emergency homeless assistance (money for motel stays)
- CAPI - cash aid program for people 65+ or who have a disability

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- Learn more here about immigration status requirements here:
([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)) ([Chinese](#))
- General Relief - cash aid for adults between 18 and 64
 - Must have lawful immigration status to get General Relief
 - Can get \$221 per month; must have very low income and low value of assets
 - Emergency aid available to prevent eviction or provide meals/housing vouchers; transportation for jobs or medical appointments

10. Workers' Rights

- **Air Quality and Worker Safety**
 - Guide for Workers by UC San Francisco Law School:
[Wildfire-Resource-in-Spanish.pdf](#)
- **EDD Benefits** – See NLSLA guide ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
 - Unemployment Insurance - need to have a valid and current work authorization in order to get unemployment benefits from EDD
 - State Disability Insurance and Paid Family Leave – do not need work authorization
 - **Special instructions** for applying for State Disability Insurance and Paid Family Leave for people who are undocumented: [Employment Rights of Undocumented Workers](#)
 - EDD Website: [California Supports Southern California Communities Impacted by the State of Emergency and Provides Relief for Workers and Businesses](#)
- **LA County Department of Economic Opportunity** - Wildfire Relief Funds for Small Businesses and Workers!
 - “The Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) to support businesses, nonprofits, and workers impacted by the Windstorm and Wildfires of January 2025.” **Applications are now due Wednesday, March 12!**

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- Two grant options:
 - **Small Business Relief Fund:** Provides direct cash assistance grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$25,000 for businesses and nonprofits that experienced structural damage, equipment/inventory loss, or revenue loss.
 - **Worker Relief Fund:** Provides \$2,000 in direct cash assistance grants to workers who lost employment or income due to the wildfires.
 - Eligible Applicants
 - Applicants must meet all of the following requirements in order to qualify:
 - Identity: Be at least 18 years of age.
 - Residency: Be a resident of Los Angeles County.
 - Employment Status: Be employed or self-employed (such as domestic workers) in Los Angeles County at the time of the Windstorm and Wildfire emergencies that took place starting January 7th, 2025.
 - Financial Impact: Experienced income loss (temporary or permanent) due to place of work location in the emergency zones (Fire Zone, Evacuation Order Level 3 Zone, or Evacuation Warning Level 2 Zone during Disaster period.) or due to loss of their home.
 - Right to work status is not required to apply.
- Applications here: [Small Business and Worker relief Funds - Department of Economic Opportunity](#)

11. Relief Funds + Community Supports

Note: If you or your family already receives benefits (like CalFresh, CalWORKs, and SSI) and you receive recovery support through GoFundMe or other cash donation programs (like those listed below), you may be required to report those donations to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) or to the Social Security Administration (if you receive SSI). Contact your benefits agency for guidance. Keep good records of what and when you

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reported/communicated to these agencies to avoid any overpayment of benefits.

- o **NEW** - LA County Dept. of Consumer and Business Affairs - Household Relief Grant Program for Wildfire Victims
 - o Grants ranging from \$6,000 to \$18,000
 - o For essential needs - housing costs, living expenses, funeral costs, repairs not covered by other forms of assistance
 - o Online application open from **Feb. 26 to March 12!**
 - o Can also apply in person at Disaster Recovery Centers
 - o <https://lacountyrelieffund.com/>
- o Relief fund for domestic workers: [Support Domestic Workers Impacted by the LA Wildfires | National Domestic Workers Alliance](#)
- o Support for day laborers: [Welcome - National Day Laborer Organizing Network \(NDLON\)](#)
- o Inclusive Action for the City: help for outdoor workers (street vendors, landscapers, and recyclers) - [Open Air Worker Emergency Fund — Inclusive Action for the City](#)
- o Alliance for a Better Community – Fuerza Fund
For essential workers serving homes and businesses impacted by the fires (including caregivers, housekeepers, landscapers, and hourly and part-time service workers) - [Fuerza Fund – Alliance for a Better Community](#)
- o Catholic Charities – Disaster Case Management Program
[Home | Disaster Case Management Program \(DCMP\)](#)
- o CORE – Community Organized Response Effort – **Cash aid**
[Southern California Wildfires - CORE](#)
 - o Can speak with CORE at the Disaster Recovery Centers
 - Westwood Disaster Recovery Center
10850 W Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064
Monday–Friday | 9 AM–7 PM

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- Pasadena Disaster Recovery Center
3035 E Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107
Monday–Friday | 9 AM–7 PM
- CHIRLA Relief Fund - (888) 624-4752 (CHIRLA Immigrant Assistance Line)
“The iRelief Fund will offer cash-assistance to low-income families impacted by the wildfires who do not qualify for FEMA assistance. Water donations are also welcomed. The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), the largest immigrant rights organization in California, announced Monday it is seeking donations to its iRelief Fund, a cash-assistance program which aims to assist low-income families impacted by the recent wildfires and who do not qualify for FEMA or other federal disaster relief. Every donation received will be distributed to impacted families in the form of cash-assistance to cover necessities such as rent, food, gas, transportation, and the like.”
- Tzu Chi
“We are providing Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) to households destroyed or severely damaged by fires.
 - Eligibility:
 - Renters or homeowners living at residences that were destroyed or severely damaged by the above listed wildfire(s).
 - The destroyed or severely damaged residence MUST be your PRIMARY RESIDENCE. If NOT, please DO NOT apply to reserve resources for those in dire need.
 - Application: [Los Angeles Wildfire Relief Application – Tzu Chi USA](#)
- Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California ([Pilipino Workers Center Home - Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California](#))
 - Community Care Program
 - [PWC Disaster Questionnaire - Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California](#)
- LA County Federation of Labor – housing, utility, and food assistance
[Labor Community Services](#)
[California Wildfire Resources - The LA Fed](#)

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They can assist with first and last-month rental assistance and help find permanent, long-term housing. Please note: We cannot assist with deposits.

For those needing temporary housing, please visit the American Red Cross website to find a shelter near your area. Staff on-site can assist you if you need permanent, long-term housing.

To qualify for rental, mortgage, or utility assistance, please submit copies of the following:

- o 3-Day Notice or Foreclosure Documentation
- o Copy of a Utility Bill
- o Disconnection Notice
- o Proof of Income demonstrating the union member's ability to make payments moving forward.

12. Additional Resources

- o CA Department of Social Services Guide: [Guide to Disaster Assistance Services for Immigrant Californians - 2023](#)
- o National Immigration Law Center (NILC) Disaster Assistance for Immigrants Guide: [disaster-assistance-2024-03-13-1.pdf](#)
- o California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC) - Info re: Rapid Response for Immigrant Communities: [Defend Immigrant Communities - California Immigrant Policy Center](#)
- o **Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County** – Education Rights Team: <https://nlsla.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Education-Rights-Disaster-ENG.pdf>
- o **Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles**: [Los Angeles Fire Emergency - LAFLA: Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles](#)
- o **Public Counsel** (general legal aid + can help with matters related to small businesses): [Public Counsel's Fire Relief and Recovery Services for LA](#)

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County - Public Counsel

- **Bet Tzedek** (general legal aid + can help with matters related to small businesses): [SoCal Fires 2025 Resources - Bet Tzedek Legal Services](#)
 - Instagram explainer video from Bet Tzedek attorney re: access to services for people who are undocumented:
https://www.instagram.com/reel/DFGkpW0T91r/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link