



California Department of Housing & Community Development: Strategies to Jump Start Housing Rehab/Repair

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CDBG-DR Housing Programs



1



Background: CA Disasters

- First CDBG-DR grant for 2017 wildfire disasters allocated in August 2018 - \$162 million
- To date, HCD has been allocated approx. \$1.5 billion in CDBG-DR funds across 5 disaster years – 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021 and 2023



Satellite image of 2018 Camp Fire
Joshua Stevers/NASA Earth Observatory



Aerial view of a neighborhood destroyed in Paradise, CA
Justin Sullivan / Getty Images

- 2017-2021 were Wildfire disasters
 - 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise, CA destroyed 90% of the housing stock and had 85 fatalities.
- Differences between Wildfire and Flood disasters:
 - Structures are a total loss; survivor displacement
 - Utility settlements
 - Impacted rural communities
 - Toxic debris removal

2



Background: ReCoverCA OOR Program

- Reconstruction of damaged single-family homes
- LMI Owner-Occupied households
- \$500,000 grant cap, 2-year occupancy covenant
- Two "Solutions": Program Managed or Homeowner Managed (2017 and 2018 only)
- Primary residences only (rentals added to 2021 program)
- Mitigation Retrofits Program for 2020 and 2021



- Launched first 2017 program in January 2021
- Launched subsequent programs in 2023 & 2024
- 70 units complete



3



Strategy #1: Early Procurement

- One Vendor
 - More control over the entire pipeline
 - Less administrative burden to procure and to manage
- Clear Contract Milestones
 - Sets performance expectations from the beginning
 - Can use to hold vendors accountable for poor performance
- Secure Other Funding to Get Started
 - Start procurement during Action Plan development
 - Build preferred vendors list

4



Strategy #2: Early and Often Outreach

- Build Relationships
 - Impacted Communities and Long-Term Recovery Groups
 - Other States with similar disasters
 - Internal stakeholders (Legal, contracts office)
- Develop Brand/Reputation
 - In person education and intake events
 - Comprehensive website and educated staff
 - Transparency in timelines and product
- Know Your Impacted Population
 - To set realistic expectations for funding need and people served
 - To avoid policy changes midway

5



Other Strategies for Speedy Recovery

- Consistency in Programs Across Grants
 - Maintains staff knowledge and expertise
 - Recycles Policies and Procedures and program forms
 - No new System of Record to build out
- Flexibility After Launch
 - Maintain good data and follow it closely
 - Make changes early to meet the needs and deadlines

6



Questions?

Thank you!

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<https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/recoverca>



7



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8



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