



Progress Update

24 months post-Thomas Fire and 12 months post-Woolsey & Hill Fires

Recovery experts know that issues and challenges for survivors are not limited to the weeks and months following a disaster. Recovery from a disaster takes time and Ventura County Long Term Disaster Recovery Group's (VC LTDRG) purpose is to maximize available resources for recovery and simplify assistance for residents impacted by the Thomas, Woolsey and Hill Fires. More than fifty organizations have taken part helping households in Ventura County on their recovery journey – supporting families as they navigate the rebuilding process, secure permanent housing, and heal. The VC LTDRG is committed to be responsive to community recovery needs recognizing that recovery is a multi-year process.

Responding to Needs and Connecting Survivors to Resources

VC LTDRG partner organizations have provided money, materials, and services to aid the recovery of individuals and families – cooperatively working to identify unmet needs and formulate support in response. Assistance has taken various forms including:

- disaster recovery case management focused on developing recovery plans, accessing and appealing federal aid programs such as FEMA and SBA, understanding insurance policies
- emotional recovery/mental health & wellness support
- guidance/advising on the rebuild process from a neutral licensed contractor
- temporary rental assistance
- the provision or purchase of essential appliances or household goods
- support for rebuilding and structural repairs needed to ensure safe, sustainable, stable housing
- clearing of brush or debris from property

Impacted Households Served



1,159 total



105 Current open cases

Navigating the Rebuild Process

After hearing from survivors of the challenges navigating the rebuilding process the role of Rebuild Navigator was created and now this experienced licensed contractor works as a neutral advisor to disaster recovery case managers and their clients providing technical advice on permitting, review of estimates and vendor questions.

Emotional Recovery

Recovery is not only about the restoration of structures - although they are critical. A successful recovery is also about individuals and families being able to rebound from their losses and sustain their physical, social, economic, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being. The stress of recovery, compounded by weather and other disasters regularly covered in the media, has meant attention dedicated to mental health and wellness has been vital for survivors. No cost programs include counseling, trauma informed art therapy, and alternative therapy options for individuals, kids and families.

Financial Assistance

Local funders including the Salvation Army, United Way of Ventura County and Ventura County Community Foundation pooled dollars designated for individual long-term recovery as participants in the VC LTDRG's Allocation Table. VC LTDRG financial assistance is intended as a last stop - to fill gaps after federal, insurance and other recovery sources have provided support. Disaster case managers present requests for clients based on their recovery plan and unmet needs. Funders contribute to collectively respond to the client needs. Priority consideration has been given to vulnerable populations who do not have adequate personal resources to support unmet disaster caused needs because of the disaster. As of October 2019, more than \$950,000 in long-term recovery assistance has been provided to 277 households.

Building a more resilient and prepared Ventura County

Lessons learned from this recovery aim to assist in developing greater preparedness and community resiliency. This includes support for community trainings that build skills and tools that allow community members to better care for themselves and those they love and to build a community peer support network.

To contact us: (English or Spanish)

2-1-1 Ventura is serving as the hub connecting residents to local recovery resources and information – including registration with the VC LTDRG.



Email is the fastest way to reach us. Email 211@icfs.org and provide your name, pre-disaster address and phone number and an outreach specialist can be in touch.



Complete **Disaster Case Management Intake form** at <https://211ventura.org>

The Ventura County Long Term Disaster Recovery Group (VC LTDRG) was created in early 2018 out of the catalytic efforts of FEMA, Ventura County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VC VOAD), and California Office of Emergency Services as a coordinating body for a collaboration of non-profit organizations, government agencies, faith-based and community-led groups as well as local businesses and philanthropy. More information on the continuing efforts and community partners can be found at: www.VCDisasterRecoveryGroup.org