



# Award Announcement

2025 STATE FIRE CAPACITY GRANT PROGRAM

**\$702,474.00**

**Funding Four (4) Projects Across California**

**MARCH 1, 2026**



*Federal financial assistance funding is provided by the United States Forest Services (USFS) as an annual award for FY 24 through the State Fire Capacity Program.*

**Funding #24-DG-11052012-159**



# Funding Summary

\$702,474.00 | 4 Grants Awarded

## Award Announcement

**California Fire Safe Council** (CFSC) is pleased to announce the grant awards for the 2025 State Fire Capacity (SFC) Grant Program. Funding is provided to CFSC from the Cooperative Fire Program of the **U.S. Forest Service** (USFS), Department of Agriculture, Pacific Southwest Region. The Federal Assistance Listing (formerly Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance - CFDA) number and name are 10.698 Cooperative Fire Program.

The State Fire Capacity Program serves as a mechanism to help California communities respond to the growing concern over catastrophic wildfire and exemplify efforts to create fire-adapted communities through:

- Hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance projects on non-federal lands.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans and other wildfire mitigation plans or assessments.
- Wildfire prevention and mitigation education and outreach.

Past awarded projects have bolstered awareness and engaged the public in developing more wildfire resilient neighborhoods and communities, as well as provided planning and capacity funds to identify and prioritize shovel-ready projects.

## Awardees

**CORE Community Organized Relief Effort**  
Awarded: \$225,000.00

**Kern Fire Safe Council**  
Awarded: \$87,948.00

**County of Humboldt**  
Awarded: \$167,900.00

**Santa Clara County FireSafe Council**  
Awarded: \$221,626.00

# The Awards

## 2025 State Fire Capacity



### **CORE Community Organized Relief Effort**

**Award Amount:** \$225,000.00

**Project Title:** Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness Educational and Outreach Program

**Project Type:** Education and Fuel Treatment

The Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness Educational and Outreach Program will expand wildfire resilience efforts across the Angeles National Forest (ANF) region. Building on CORE's \$2.3 million RMC-funded wildfire education program that launched September 2025, this project would extend coverage into high-risk communities west of the ANF including Santa Clarita, San Fernando, Palmdale, and adjacent neighborhoods and add community brush-clearance events.

Priority areas will be guided by fire behavior modeling and risk assessments from the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) CWPP, focusing on locations with steep slopes, dense fuel loads, limited evacuation routes, and repeated wildfire impacts.

The program centers on three strategies: preparedness education, Firewise/Fire Safe Council coordination, and fuel reduction. CORE will host at least 23 public education events, reach 10,000 residents, and support the development or revitalization of at least one Fire Safe Council.

Preparedness education will include adult and youth workshops on home safety, fire ecology, and evacuation readiness, along with educational booths at community events. A multilingual public education campaign will provide flyers, social media content, and YouTube trainings supporting defensible space, home hardening, and emergency planning. A digital Wildfire Prevention Toolkit will offer templates for go-bags, evacuation plans, and mitigation resources.

To strengthen community leadership, CORE will help establish or revitalize Firewise Communities and Fire Safe Councils by recruiting leaders, conducting community meetings, and providing governance and outreach training. Matching funds will allow CORE to scale regional capacity-building beyond the three Fire Safe Councils supported through the RMC program.

Finally, CORE will coordinate five brush-clearance events, removing roughly one acre of hazardous fuels per event and reinforcing community engagement in wildfire mitigation.

# The Awards

## 2025 State Fire Capacity



### County of Humboldt

**Award Amount:** \$167,900.00

**Project Title:** CWPP Connect: Tools for Turning Plans into Action

**Project Type:** Education and Planning

CWPP Connect: Tools for Turning Plans into Action is designed to accelerate implementation of the newly updated Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) by equipping local partners with practical tools, training, and engagement opportunities. Building on the momentum of the CAL FIRE-funded CWPP Update and the California Fire Safe Council's County Coordinator program, the project translates complex technical analyses such as the Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment and fire behavior modeling into accessible, locally relevant resources that communities can readily use to advance wildfire resilience.

CWPP Connect focuses on empowering Fire Safe Councils, community organizations, fire departments, and other partners to take ownership of the CWPP's five-year action plan. The project emphasizes user-friendly guidance, funding readiness, and hyperlocal examples tailored to Humboldt County's diverse landscapes and community needs.

Key activities include developing a Humboldt-specific CWPP Implementation Toolkit hosted on the CWPP Hubsite, featuring templates, guides, and practical planning tools. The project will also produce plain-language educational materials and video tutorials to help partners interpret CWPP WebGIS data and improve spatial literacy. Regular peer learning exchanges and GIS office hours will foster knowledge-sharing, mentorship, and collective problem-solving among practitioners.

To strengthen community engagement, CWPP Connect will support additional workshops and partner-led outreach during the CWPP planning process, with a focus on underrepresented regions. The project will also publish a new edition of Living with Wildfire in Northwestern California, expanding access to preparedness information.

Led by the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council's County Coordination Team and supported by consultants and regional partners, CWPP Connect will enhance countywide capacity, ensure alignment with state and federal best practices, and provide sustainable tools that benefit over 136,000 residents now and into the future.

# The Awards

## 2025 State Fire Capacity



### Kern Fire Safe Council

**Award Amount:** \$87,948.00

**Project Title:** Firesafe Futures: A Comprehensive Community Wildfire Protection Strategy for Kern River Valley, Greater Tehachapi, and Mt. Pinos Communities

**Project Type:** Planning

The Kern Fire Safe Council (KFSC) will expand the ongoing update of the Kern County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) by developing detailed CWPP annexes for three high-risk Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) regions: the Kern River Valley, Greater Tehachapi, and the Mt. Pinos Communities. These annexes will provide community-specific analyses, localized maps, and targeted recommendations that will guide residents, agencies, and land managers in implementing effective wildfire mitigation projects.

Kern County spans more than 8,100 square miles and encompasses diverse terrain from high desert to five major mountain ranges. The county contains many communities identified by CAL FIRE as high or very-high wildfire hazard. The annexes will focus on these vulnerable areas and will establish a unified, cross-jurisdictional framework across federal, state, and private lands.

KFSC will lead the project in coordination with the Kern County Fire Department, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and local community stakeholders. These partners will contribute essential data, fire behavior expertise, and local knowledge to shape strategies that reflect on-the-ground needs.

This award will build on the current CAL FIRE-funded 2024 CWPP Update, which is generating GIS-based hazard analyses, community outreach, mitigation prioritization, and digital tools such as a story map, hub site, and project tracker. The new annexes will translate these countywide assessments into geographically tailored recommendations for mechanical fuel treatments, prescribed fire, manual fuel reduction, and defensible space programs.

Ultimately, the project will strengthen wildfire resilience, equip communities with actionable mitigation strategies, and improve planning for Kern County's most at-risk WUI regions.

# The Awards

## 2025 State Fire Capacity



### Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

**Award Amount:** \$221,626.00

**Project Title:** Joint Fire Safe Council Escape Route and Community Engagement Project

**Project Type:** Education and Fuel Treatment

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC), in partnership with Fire Safe San Mateo County (FSSMC), will implement the Joint Fire Safe Council Escape Route and Community Engagement Project to strengthen wildfire resilience along the shared northern border of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. The Project will combine fuels reduction, escape-route enhancement, resident outreach, and community preparedness initiatives.

A major component of the Project will be the Los Trancos Road Escape Route Project, where the Councils will reduce hazardous roadside vegetation to improve evacuation safety and reduce the likelihood of roadside ignitions. Crews will treat 6.1 miles along Los Trancos Road from Alpine Road to the Vista Verde/Ramona Road transition by trimming brush, grasses, ladder fuels, and dead or diseased trees within 15–30 feet of the roadway. Overstory trees will be retained for shade and fire-slowng benefits, while hazardous trees threatening roads or power lines will be assessed for removal. Hand crews, tree contractors, and mechanical mastication equipment will be used where appropriate.

The Project will also include neighborhood chipping events for communities such as Los Trancos, Vista Verde, Blue Oaks, and parts of Palo Alto. These services will help residents reduce fuels around their homes and encourage defensible space compliance.

To increase community preparedness, SCCFSC and FSSMC will host public meetings, conduct outreach, support Firewise USA® communities, and provide Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) assessments. The councils will coordinate jurisdictions having authority, issue RFPs, manage contractors, and jointly oversee project implementation.

Building on successful past collaborations, the project will strengthen regional wildfire protection efforts across Portola Valley, Palo Alto, Los Altos Hills, and surrounding communities.



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