



The mission of the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) is to improve the economic security of vulnerable Californians through programs and partnerships that support the state’s diverse communities.

To help fulfill this mission, CSD partners with a statewide network of Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) agencies that include nonprofit, local government, migrant and seasonal farmworker, Native American Indian Tribal, and limited purpose agencies that are eligible to receive CSBG funding.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

CSBG is a funding stream administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services. In California, CSBG is governed by “the principle of community self-help, thereby promoting new economic opportunities for Californians living in poverty through well planned, broadly based and locally controlled programs of community action.”¹ CSD is the designated state lead agency for the purposes of carrying out California’s CSBG activities and ensuring program compliance, pursuant to the CSBG Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.) and California Government Code Section 12725 et seq.

CSBG funding supports a wide range of community-based activities to address and alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty. In California, 60 agencies are eligible to receive CSBG funding and offer supportive services in all 58 counties.

The flexible nature of CSBG funding allows each local agency to deliver services that best respond to the needs in their service area. CSBG supports housing, employment, education, income support and management, health and nutrition, and emergency services activities for low-income Californians, including children, older adults, people with disabilities, farmworkers, and veterans. However, CSBG services provided in one area of the state may look very different from those provided in another. The funding flexibility also allows CSBG agencies to respond quickly to natural disasters and other emergencies.

Each CSBG agency, also known as an “eligible entity,” is required to complete a Community Needs Assessment every three years. For the Community Needs Assessment, agencies collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data to provide a comprehensive “picture” of the local conditions and barriers vulnerable Californians face in each agency’s service area. CSBG agencies use the results of their Community Needs Assessments to inform their Community Action Plans. These two-year plans show how each agency will use CSBG funds to respond to the specific needs of their

¹ [California Government Code §12725 et seq](#)



community. The Community Action Plans are the agencies' applications for funding and are used to inform the CSBG State Plan and the agencies' annual contracts.

CSBG Agency Success Story Highlights

To address the local conditions facing vulnerable Californians in each CSBG agency's service area, agencies have found success by employing unique, innovative solutions. A few examples detailed further in this summary include:

- In response to the Line Fire in 2024, the Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County's foodbank and mobile pantry distributed 11,531 pounds of food and essential resources to individuals and families in need, and helped residents affected by the fire to receive temporary motel assistance, transportation to safe locations, and access to mobile laundry services.
- The Pajaro River flood in 2023 severely impacted housing insecure residents within the Pajaro River communities, including over 100 residents encamped along the river levee. In response, the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County partnered with local government and faith-based partners to develop the Recurso de Fuerza tiny home project – a 34-unit low-barrier housing center designed to stabilize vulnerable residents.
- Kings Community Action Organization converted a short-term Project Roomkey motel shelter in Hanford into the Sunrise Apartments, creating permanent, affordable supportive housing for 22 unhoused individuals.
- Merced County Community Action Agency launched a new program supported by California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) funding that provides pregnant and postpartum women with case management and increased access to healthcare providers., Merced partnered with the California Community Action Partnership Association (CalCAPA) to establish a peer workgroup to educate other CSBG agencies about CalAIM opportunities, helping 11 other CSBG agencies participate in the program.
- In response to the 2025 Palisades and Eaton fires, CSD coordinated with its partner SupplyBank.org to distribute 25,000 diapers to the City of Los Angeles Community Investment for Families Department (LA City). LA City and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services, both CSBG agencies, remained operational despite internet and power outages and evacuations to address the urgent needs of the community, including providing emergency supplies, helping families obtain vital records required to access FEMA services, increasing check-ins with elderly residents, and extending after-school and educational supports, among other activities.

Tripartite Board

A unique feature of CSBG is the requirement to maintain a tripartite board. As directed by the CSBG Act and California Government Code, CSBG agencies must be governed by a board of directors with membership comprised of one-third elected public officials, at least one-third low-income individuals residing in the CSBG agency’s designated service area, and the remaining members from the private sector (such as representatives from business, industry, labor, religious, human services, education, or other groups with interest in the community). The tripartite board ensures that CSBG funds are used for services and activities to address locally determined needs identified in Community Action Plans.

Coordination

The CSBG Act requires the state to coordinate services at the state and local levels, known under the Act as “linkages.” These consist of establishing and maintaining linkages with other governmental organizations, social services, and antipoverty programs to effectively coordinate and deliver CSBG-funded services to low-income individuals, families, and communities. At the local level, linkages ensure that CSBG agencies are well-connected and are develop services and programs that do not duplicate other services and programs offered in their service area. Linkages with local Workforce Investment Boards, Homeless Continuum of Care coalitions, disaster recovery resource centers, social services departments, centralized service centers, community health and childcare centers, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, and other community-based organizations are just a few of the linkages that promote service coordination and comprehensive service delivery at the local level.

Funding

The CSBG Act directs state lead agencies to allocate CSBG funds according to a set formula. States are required to make at least 90 percent of CSBG funds available to



CSBG agencies. In California, the 90 percent allocation is distributed to CSBG agencies in the following percentages: Community Action Agencies (CAA) receive 76.1 percent, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) Organizations receive 10 percent, and the Native American Indian Tribal (NAI) Entities receive 3.9 percent. The remaining 10 percent of the total CSBG award is split equally for discretionary use and state administration. Based on this formula, CSD will distribute the CSBG award received for Federal Fiscal Years 2025-26 and 2026-27. In Federal Fiscal Year 2025, California was allocated \$68.4 million in CSBG funds.



ANNUAL NUMBERS AT A GLANCE²

Over 1.2 million

Services and Outcomes

1.5 million

Individuals received services in 100% of California counties

60

Number of CSBG agencies

69%

Percentage of families served by CSBG living below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

40%

Percentage of families served in California living in severe poverty below 50 percent of the FPL

\$68.4 million

CSBG funds awarded to California by the United States Department of Health and Human Services in Federal Fiscal Year 2023

\$1.3 billion

Funds leveraged by CSBG dollars. For every \$1 of CSBG, CSBG agencies leveraged \$19.85 from federal, state, local, and private sources.

Vulnerable Populations Served Include:



91,769
Seniors



65,063
People With Disabilities



51,003
People Who Lacked Health Insurance



270,554
Children



6,842
Veterans

² Most recent year available. As reported in the 2023 CSBG Annual Report.



PERFORMANCE REPORT

In 2023³, the services and strategies provided by California’s CSBG network resulted in **1,279,226 services and outcomes**⁴ for participants and communities with low incomes. In addition, CSBG agencies prepared and distributed more than **4.6 million meals and food parcels** to families and individuals in need.

CSBG IN ACTION: SERVICES AND OUTCOMES IN 2023

Employment Services

56,588 employment services were provided to reduce or eliminate barriers to initial or continuous employment, and 11,512 Californians achieved outcomes such as acquiring a job, increasing their income, or achieving “living wage” employment and benefits.

Education and Cognitive Development Initiatives and Support Services

116,056 education and cognitive development services were provided, and 55,446 children, youth, and parents increased their skills and knowledge to improve literacy and school readiness and enriched their home environments.

Income and Asset Building Services

84,018 income and asset-building services were provided, and 7,913 Californians increased their savings, purchased an asset, raised their credit scores, or improved their financial well-being.

Housing Assistance Services

312,285 housing assistance services were provided, and 50,416 low-income individuals received temporary shelter, affordable housing placement, eviction and foreclosure prevention, utility payment assistance, or home weatherization services.

Civic Engagement and Community Involvement

96,650 civic engagement and community involvement opportunities were offered, and 5,234 individuals increased their knowledge and leadership skills to improve conditions in their community and social networks.

Health and Social/Behavioral Development Services and Nutrition Services

88,442 health, social, and behavioral development services, and 4,654,244 meals and food parcels were provided. 394,666 low-income individuals maintained independent living situations, improved their physical, mental, and behavioral health, or received nutrition services through various distribution facilities.

³ As reported in the *2023 CSBG Annual Report*.

⁴ The National Association for State Community Services Programs’ *CSBG Annual Report Lexicon* (1/10/2019) defines “Outcomes” as benefits or changes for clients, households, or a community that are produced during or after participation in program activities. “Strategies” as activities intended to help participants obtain outcomes. “Services” as a type of strategy.

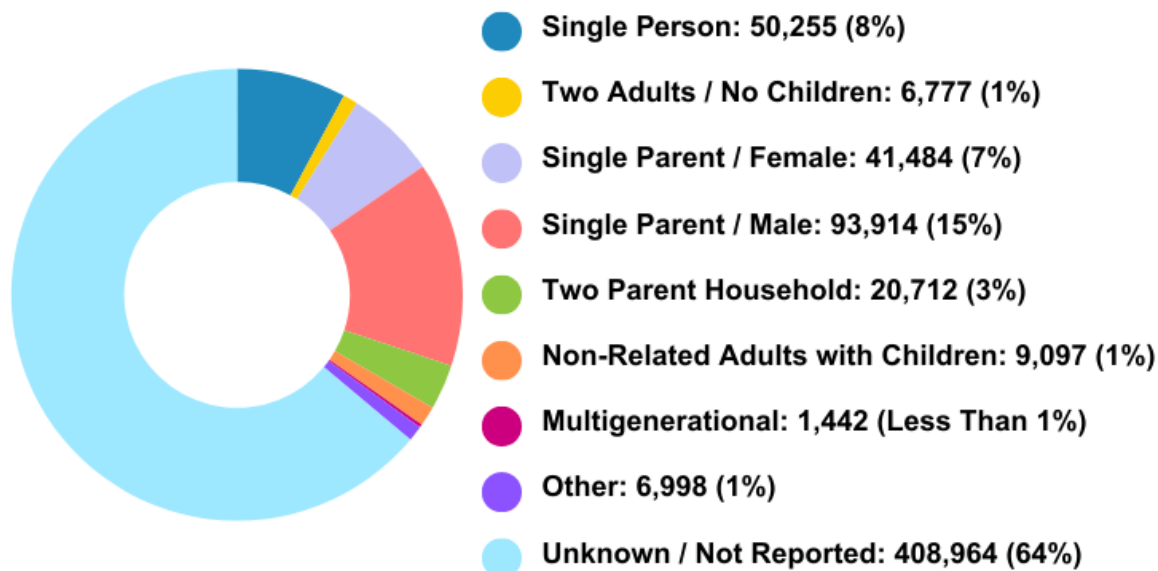


CSBG Expenditures by Service Category



*Services supporting multiple categories include Linkages, Agency Capacity Building, and Other Domains. Data as reported in the 2023 CSBG Annual Report.

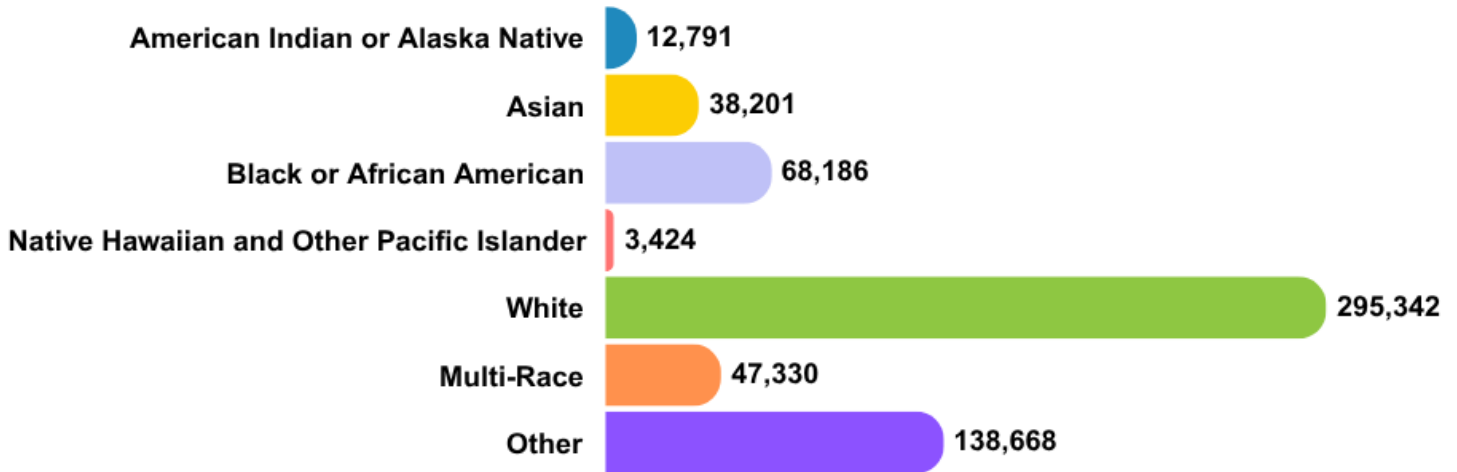
Family Type of Participants Served



Data as reported in the 2023 CSBG Annual Report.



Race of Participants Served*



*Of the 1,459,026 participants served, Race was unknown or not reported for 855,084 participants.
Data as reported in the *2023 CSBG Annual Report*.

LONGITUDINAL TREND: ANNUAL REPORT DATA 2018-2023

Networkwide Results Year-to-Year



Data as reported in *CSBG Annual reports* from 2018 to 2023.



2026-2027 CALIFORNIA CSBG STATE PLAN AND APPLICATION

The CSBG State Plan is California's application for federal funding and serves as a two-year roadmap detailing how CSD will administer the grant funds in California. To secure CSBG funding, CSD is required to participate in a public hearing and submit a State Plan to the HHS Office of Community Services every two years. Topics covered in the State Plan include plan development, statewide goals, public hearing requirements, use of funds, state training and technical assistance, state linkages, monitoring, and CSBG agencies' tripartite boards. Pursuant to the CSBG Act, CSD must also certify compliance with CSBG Programmatic Assurances and Federal Certifications. The draft 2026-2027 CSBG State Plan was made available for public comment 30 days prior to submittal. CSD considered and incorporated, where appropriate, any feedback received from the public before submitting the final State Plan to the Office of Community Services on September 1, 2025. A copy of the draft 2026-2027 CSBG State Plan was also submitted to the California State Assembly and Senate Committees on Human Services for a legislative hearing.

CSBG STATE PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The 2026-2027 CSBG State Plan requires the state lead agency to identify goals and objectives to accomplish during the plan. Below are CSD's goals and objectives for the next two years.

- 1. Expand existing training and support programs for CSBG agencies' support staff.** CSD will leverage existing partnerships with the California Community Action Partnership Association (CalCAPA) and the Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium to expand training and support programs and maintain existing programs for CSBG agency executives and support staff.
- 2. Assess and evaluate emergent needs.** CSD will continue to assess and evaluate emergent needs in the domains of Employment, Education and Cognitive Development, Income, Infrastructure and Asset Building, Housing, Health and Social/Behavioral Development, and Civic Engagement as they impact California's low-income populations.
- 3. Improve administrative processes.** CSD will streamline administrative processes as needed to increase transparency and accountability. CSD will automate and simplify administrative processes to eliminate any identified redundancies.
- 4. Sustain excellence through a highly skilled workforce.** CSD will maintain service level excellence by providing CSD staff with ongoing training, professional development, and cross-training opportunities. CSD will continue to participate in state and national training and conferences to ensure California is on the leading edge of emerging strategies to improve the administration of CSBG. CSD will continue to incorporate knowledge transfer and succession planning to maintain continuity and ensure the integrity of CSBG administration.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE 2026-2027 CSBG STATE PLAN

CSD Strategic Plan 2024-2029

CSD began the process of updating its strategic plan in 2023. Management gathered input and feedback from staff, stakeholders, and CSD's network of community-based service providers, including CSBG agencies. The 2024-2029 strategic plan includes updates to CSD's mission and vision statements, values, and strategic goals for the next five years. The strategic plan aligns the department with its current priorities. The strategic plan, viewed as a living document, is only the first step in an iterative process. Over the coming years CSD will continue to update its strategic plan as the environmental conditions in which the department operates shift, as the department gains new insights from stakeholders and partners, and, most importantly, as CSD maximizes its ability to serve vulnerable, low-income Californians effectively.

Upgrade of Legacy Systems

CSD is modernizing its expenditure reporting and contract administration system to meet its commitment to effective administration of state and federal grants. The legacy system, built in the early 2000s as two separate structures, is being replaced by a new Financial Management Module. Internally, the Financial Management Module will promote administrative coherence by allowing staff to quickly and efficiently adjust grant structures, access required data for contract monitoring, and produce new contracts. CSD has worked closely with external partners to gather their input, which helps ensure that the system will improve the visibility of expenditure submissions, payment status, and year-to-date reporting. The infrastructure the Financial Management Module is based on also allows for continual development and improvement, which CSD plans to utilize. CSD began rolling out the system in 2025 and will complete implementation in the summer of 2025.

Fiscal Review Implementation for CSBG Desk Reviews

The CSBG Act requires CSD to perform an onsite monitoring visit of CSBG agencies every three years. Onsite monitoring includes a fiscal and programmatic review. In CSBG agencies' off years, when they are not receiving an onsite monitoring visit, CSD performs an administrative desk review. In response to feedback from the federal Office of Community Services in 2024, CSD changed desk review procedures to incorporate fiscal monitoring. In 2025, CSD is including an expenditure lifecycle review in the desk review process. The expenditure lifecycle review includes a review of previously submitted financial expenditure activity reports, general ledger entries that support selected line-item amounts, and the supporting documentation for the selected transaction(s) that underlie the line-item expenditure reporting. This modification will allow CSD to more consistently monitor expenses to detect potential issues between onsite monitoring visits.



California ROMA Representative Certificate

The federal CSBG Act requires state lead agencies and their grantees to use a performance measurement system. (42 U.S.C. 9908(b)(12).) Results-Oriented Management Accountability (ROMA) is the performance measurement system used most commonly in the national CSBG network. However, ROMA training can take candidates over six months to complete. Due in part to the time commitment required for the national training, the number of certified ROMA professionals in California was traditionally low, hovering around only 15 to 20 individuals across the state for several years.

CSD partnered with the Association of Nationally Certified ROMA Professionals to design an alternative that could be completed in less time while preserving key elements. Incorporating the most practical concepts of the national training, the California ROMA Representative Certificate focuses on applying ROMA to specific work products. The result is a 3.5-day hybrid program where candidates receive the theoretical information virtually and then work with their peers during an in-person session. In partnership with the Association of Nationally Certified ROMA Professionals and CalCAPA, CSD held the pilot California ROMA Representative training in October 2024. The training produced 44 more ROMA professionals serving in 33 California CSBG agencies.

CSBG AGENCY NETWORK PRIORITIES

CSBG is premised on empowering local agencies to deliver services and support that meet the specific needs of their communities. Through the development of Community Action Plans, CSBG agencies identified a wide range of priorities for the next two years. The most common needs that CSBG agencies plan to address in 2026 and 2027 are access to safe, affordable housing, employment skills training and job placement, addressing food insecurity, access to healthcare and mental health services, access to transportation, and asset building.

Agency initiatives to meet these needs will include, but are not limited to, providing permanent and temporary housing with wraparound supportive services, preparing clients for homeownership, down payment assistance, utility assistance, landlord and tenant dispute mediation services, home weatherization, vocational and skills training for youth and adults, comprehensive career services, youth mentorship, job preparedness training (resume drafting, application tips, interview skills), externships with local employer partners, food distribution and diversion, emergency food bags, summer meals for children, daily congregate meals for seniors, healthcare screenings, pre/post-natal care, counseling services, reproductive health and healthy relationship classes, services addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), bus vouchers, and financial literacy and asset building training. CSBG agencies will also provide services that increase civic engagement and community development in their service areas.



CSBG agencies will offer supportive services to vulnerable populations in California. Some of these populations are low-income children, youth, at-risk youth, domestic violence survivors, seniors, veterans, disabled individuals, and chronically unhoused individuals and families.

CSBG NETWORK HIGHLIGHTS: 2024-2025

Since California's last CSBG State Plan was completed in 2023, CSBG agencies have confronted a variety of emerging challenges. Whether addressing local needs or responding to natural disasters, CSBG agencies have continually adapted to meet the evolving needs of California's low-income households and their communities. The following network highlights provide some examples of the recent work of California's CSBG agencies.

A Fresh Start to the New Year

While San Francisco is known to be a walkable city with good public transportation, finding nutritious food can still be a challenge in certain areas of the city. This issue came to the fore when San Francisco's Western Addition neighborhood lost its only major grocery store. The Western Addition community was now considered a food desert—a place where affordable, healthy food options are limited or nonexistent because residents live more than one mile from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store.

In response to the closure of the Safeway on Fillmore Street, CSBG agency Urban Services YMCA partnered with the YMCA of Greater San Francisco and the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank to mobilize and launch the Western Addition Family Resource Center food pantry in January 2025. With funding from CSD and the San Francisco Department of Early Childhood, the food bank is serving up to 150 families and households per week. Families now have access to fresh fruits and vegetables and nonperishable foods, helping to ensure that their day-to-day needs are met. The Family Resource Center supports local efforts to build strong, sustainable communities for generations to come.





Supporting Families During the Line Fire

In September 2024, the Line Fire scorched 43,978 acres and forced the evacuation of 9,200 homes in San Bernardino County. Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County (CAPSBC) collaborated with the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services, and the American Red Cross to provide critical relief to affected residents. CAPSBC's existing partnership with VOAD and other nonprofit and emergency response organizations allowed the agencies to coordinate efforts quickly.

CAPSBC supported affected families in various ways. The CAPSBC Food Bank distributed 11,531 pounds of food, valued at \$14,317, and delivered other essential resources, such as 500 food boxes and 200 snack bags, to approximately 600 individuals and families. Since schools were forced to close, many children were left without their regular school meals. In response, CAPSBC's Mobile Food Pantry provided nutritious food to 286 households (1,316 individuals), ensuring families were fed. CAPSBC also activated the Severe Weather Energy Assistance and Temporary Services (SWEATS) program component of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which is administered by CSD. Activating SWEATS enabled residents affected by the fire to receive temporary motel assistance and transportation to temporary housing locations, evacuation centers, or other safe locations. Additionally, CAPSBC deployed a mobile laundry unit to the Victorville Fairgrounds to support displaced families.

Making a Difference for Los Angeles County Youth

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (LADPSS) partners with the Antelope Valley Boys and Girls Club to provide after-school services to youth. Founded in 1991, Antelope Valley Boys and Girls Club serves the vast, difficult-to-reach areas of northern Los Angeles County (Palmdale, Lancaster, Antelope Acres, and Little Rock). With 30 locations, it is the largest after-school provider, serving an average of 3,000 youths daily with more than 4,500 youth registered as members. Antelope Valley Boys and Girls Club has six program areas: Character and Leadership; Education and Career; Health and Life Skills; Keystone Career and Internship; Sports, Fitness and Recreation; and Arts and Culture.

In partnership with LADPSS, Antelope Valley Boys and Girls Club serves approximately 80 youth each month with CSBG funding. Youth involved in the club's programs reported or demonstrated achieving outcomes such as Positive Self-Identity, Competencies, Education and Employment, Social and Emotional Cultural Competencies, Community and Civic Involvement, and Health and Well-Being. For example, a 16-year-old girl, stressed by issues at home, began to struggle in school. She got involved with the Antelope Valley Boys and Girls Club, where she has had opportunities to tour college and university campuses, meet other people with similar goals, and form lasting friendships with other members. She also has become a mentor to other members.



Short-Term Housing and Housing Navigation Services for the Pajaro River Communities

The Counties of Santa Cruz and Monterey are among the most expensive rental markets in the California.⁵ With wages remaining low and work seasonal for many, individuals and families are often left with limited resources and few housing choices. The Pajaro River flood in 2023 exacerbated this regional housing crisis, which impacted thousands of local households, leaving hundreds of residents housing insecure, including 150 residents encamped along the river levee.

Focusing on these unhoused Pajaro River communities, the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. (CAB) has pursued an innovative housing solution—tiny homes. CAB, in partnership with the Counties, the City of Watsonville, and faith-based partner Westview Presbyterian Church, is bringing the Recurso de Fuerza tiny home project to fruition. The project will be a 34-unit, low-barrier housing navigation center that includes support to access long-term housing opportunities and comprehensive health and employment services. These wrap-around services are designed to stabilize residents. CAB has designed and will implement good neighbor policies and practices for the surrounding neighborhood. The tiny homes are expected to be sited in the summer of 2025. CSBG funds have supported CAB leadership in the multiple community, partner, and local government collaborative that has moved this project forward since 2024.

Wildfire Preparedness: Home Hardening Program

Lake County has endured 52 wildfires over the past decade. The six largest wildfires (Mendocino Complex, and Pawnee in 2018; Valley, Jerusalem, and Rocky in 2015) burned 645,124 acres; destroyed 2,380 structures; and caused approximately \$2.6 billion in damages. The reality of living with wildfires requires Lake County to be proactive. North Coast Opportunities, Inc., (NCO) partnered with the County of Lake to apply for a California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) grant and was awarded \$22.2 million in 2021 to create defensible space and harden 500 homes within three years. Home hardening involves upgrading and retrofitting certain components of a residence to protect it from fires by making it more resistant to flame, embers, and radiant heat. CWMP is a collaboration between the Joint Powers Authority, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). CWMP's primary goals are to offer financial assistance to vulnerable populations in wildfire-prone areas throughout California, and to facilitate the implementation of wildfire home-hardening activities on high-risk residences throughout the state. Cal OES, CAL FIRE, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are focused on hardening homes in close proximity to each other to create wildfire-resilient communities.

The framework for the Home Hardening Program was built in collaboration with fire science experts, local contractors, and the Lake County Building Department. Home hardening retrofits homes with

⁵ National Low Income Housing Coalition. "Out of Reach: The High Cost of Housing," 2024, <https://nlihc.org/oor>.



fire-resistant materials. For example, wood shake or shingle roofs are replaced with a Class A roof. Vents and gaps around eaves are screened with flame and ember resistant materials. Noncombustible siding such as stucco, steel, or fiber cement is installed. Windows are replaced with multi-pane, tempered glass windows. NCO began hardening homes in April 2024. These efforts have not only dramatically improved the safety of the residences, but also have inspired other neighboring homeowners to act. What began as a vision to create a safer environment for homeowners is now a proven, scalable solution benefiting Lake County and communities across California.

Health Care on Wheels

Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO) received an American Rescue Plan Act grant in 2022. Since CAPSLO's 2023 Community Needs Assessment indicated that residents lacked health care, the agency used the funds to purchase a van to bring health care directly to the people in underserved and disadvantaged communities in San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara Counties. In March 2024, Health Care on Wheels began providing quality, mobile health care services such as basic vitals, wound care, cryotherapy, naloxone and fentanyl test kits, human papillomavirus and mpox vaccinations, and referrals. Health Care on Wheels serves underserved adults and youth at homeless encampments, shelters, low-income housing complexes, and libraries. Since March 2024, Health Care on Wheels has served 131 unique patients, 75 percent of whom were unhoused.



Health Care on Wheels partners with the Noor Clinic, libraries in underserved communities, 5 Cities Homeless Coalition, Access Support Network, County Public Health, County Drug and Alcohol Services, People's Self-Help Housing, Showers and Blessings, and more to provide patients with comprehensive wrap-around health and social services. Patients receive showers, case management, dental and primary care, pet care, and harm reduction services. In partnership with SLO Food Bank Coalition, fresh produce and nonperishable goods are distributed onsite. Health Care on Wheels also assists patients with enrolling for health insurance by using a universal application that automatically determines an individual's eligibility for other public benefits such as CalFresh. This process reduces the need for patients to visit multiple county departments to apply for benefits. Health Care on Wheels also provides transportation assistance to urgent care or the

emergency room for patients in critical condition.

530 Food Rescue Coalition Initiative

California Senate Bill (SB) 1383 (Lara, Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016), designed to reduce food waste and help address food insecurity, became law in September 2016. SB 1383 required the adoption of regulatory requirements to meet the goal that not less than 20 percent of edible food that is currently disposed of is recovered for human consumption by 2025. Community Action Agency of Butte County (CAA Butte) launched the 530 Food Rescue Coalition in response to the bill's food diversion requirements. As operators of the North State Food Bank, CAA Butte saw an incredible opportunity to use technology and a team of volunteers to connect food donations with local nonprofits. The CSBG-funded program kept perfectly good food out of landfills and addressed food insecurity by using a custom-built app to mobilize volunteers to transport food donations from food retailers to non-profit organizations.

In 2020, CAA Butte sought to expand the program. Partnering with the County of Butte, the Center for Healthy Communities at California State University, Chico, and local municipalities, the 530 Food Rescue Coalition ensures that the county stays ahead of the curve in food recovery and compliance with SB 1383 requirements. Since January 2022, over 100 local businesses have donated 550,000 pounds of food to 78 local nonprofits. Redistributing this food has mitigated 1.5 million pounds of carbon dioxide and provided 458,300 meals to individuals and families. With a cutting-edge app and a team of 150 volunteers, CAA Butte has built a thriving community-focused program that is the envy of counties across California.



Permanent Supportive Housing in Kings County

Under the COVID-era Project Roomkey program, a short-term sheltering program initially designed to help unhoused individuals socially distance during the pandemic, the Stardust Motel in Hanford provided temporary shelter for 150 people from 2020 to 2023. In early 2023, construction began to convert the property into permanent housing as part of the Project Housekey program. Renamed the Sunrise Apartments, the property will provide affordable, permanent housing for 22 unhoused individuals. Seventeen studio apartments have been set aside for permanent supportive housing,



and five studio apartments will be paid through Section 8 Housing. Sunrise Apartments officially opened in May 2025.

Kings Community Action Organization (KCAO) collaborated with several partners to bring this project to fruition, including Kings County, Kings Tulare Homeless Alliance, Kings County Housing Authority, and Champions Recovery Services. KCAO has managed the property, provided support including case management, trained County staff, and provided facility maintenance since 2020. KCAO assumed ownership of the property on June 27, 2025. The project has received support from CSBG, the City of Hanford, the California Department of Housing and Community Development, CalViva Health, and Anthem Blue Cross, among other sources.

Leveraging CSBG to Integrate Medical and Social Services

California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM), a five-year program designed to restructure Medi-Cal, provides recipients with integrated, whole-person care. As trusted community messengers, CSBG agencies are uniquely positioned to coordinate medical and social services. Currently, 11 CSBG agencies participate in the program. CalCAPA, the state association of CSBG agencies, established a peer workgroup that is attended by a third of California CSBG agencies. Merced County Community Action Agency (MCCAA) became involved with CalAIM early on and has helped to inform network agencies of CalAIM services and models for extending services to community members.

Merced County lacks access to healthcare providers. The patient-to-primary care physician ratio (2,390:1)⁶ is nearly double California's ratio (1,230:1). Increasing the number of primary physicians in Merced County is difficult because 21 percent of residents receive Medi-Cal. Since Medi-Cal traditionally pays healthcare providers less than private insurance, many physicians are less interested in working in the county.

For low-income women in Merced County, access to obstetrician-gynecologist (OBGYN) care is particularly difficult. Leveraging CSBG to access CalAIM funding, MCCAA launched a new program that provides pregnant and postpartum women with case management, transportation, supplies, mental health counseling, and increased access to healthcare providers. MCCAA has partnered with local hospitals, OBGYN physicians, mental health counselors, and Medi-Cal. Within the first six months, the waitlist increased to 100 women. Community interest in the program continues to grow.

⁶ County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Health Data – Access to Care – Primary Care Physicians, 2024, <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-factors/clinical-care/access-to-care/primary-care-physicians?year=2024&county=06047>. Accessed 10 Mar. 2025.



Responding to LA Wildfires: A Collective Effort to Rebuild and Support Communities

At the start of the 2025, Los Angeles County experienced catastrophic wildfires that devastated the region. The Palisades and the Eaton fires erupted on January 7, 2025, and became two of the most destructive wildfires in California history.

Recognizing the urgency of the moment, CSD coordinated with its partner SupplyBank.org to pivot an ongoing CSBG supply distribution effort to prioritize the distribution of supplies to the area. SupplyBank.org delivered 25,000 diapers and training pants to the City of Los Angeles, Community Investment for Families Department (LA City). LA City and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services (LADPSS), both CSBG agencies, met the moment by remaining operational despite internet and power outages and evacuations. The agencies provided services and materials to address the immediate, urgent needs of the community, including the increased distribution of KN95 masks, water, food, clothing, toiletries, pet supplies, and air purifiers. They helped families obtain vital records required to access FEMA services and resources and increased check-ins with elderly residents, extended after-school and educational supports, and reached out to communities that were not receiving support.

The disaster had a significant impact on essential workers that faced job loss, financial hardship, and a lack of access to recovery services. Aware of this gap, LA City created four Impacted Worker and Family Recovery Centers. The Impacted Worker and Family Recovery Centers leveraged existing resources and partnerships to develop a coordinated support system. Essential workers and their families accessed services such as job training and placement, income support, grants for small businesses, and educational services for youth. Such services will help ensure that these communities receive the resources they need to recover, rebuild, and thrive.

Expanding Career Opportunities for Farmworkers

A critical workforce gap exists in the agricultural industry: the sector lacks skilled Heavy Equipment Operators (HEOs). An aging workforce, limited training opportunities, and the seasonal nature of the industry have contributed to this gap. The Center for Employment Training (CET) conducted a labor market survey, engaged industry employers, and collaborated with its administration to design an HEO training program. With funding from CSBG, High Road Training Partnership, and the Inland Empire Catalyst Grant, the program will provide training tailored to meet industry needs.

Students will learn from instructors who have the necessary industry certifications. To enhance classroom instruction, students will practice using industry-grade HEO simulators. CET is in the process of developing externship opportunities with employers where students will be able to train on actual heavy equipment. CET began enrolling students on its Soledad campus on July 1, 2025. The program will also be offered at CET's campuses in Santa Maria, Watsonville, El Centro, and the Inland Empire. With an HEO certification, students will boost their employability in a high-



earning, in-demand, stable career. By addressing this workforce gap, CET is empowering farmworkers, supporting agricultural employers, and driving long-term economic growth.

Addressing a Gap in Senior Care

In rural areas of Northern California, many services and resources are limited. This is especially true in isolated areas of El Dorado County. The El Dorado County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) located in Placerville, provides direct services to older adults throughout the county. The AAA Information and Assistance program is the main point of contact for seniors who are seeking services such as transportation and respite. Current estimates indicate that 65,463 seniors (60+) reside in El Dorado County. Eighteen percent of seniors (11,575) live alone, and 32 percent (21,171) are 75+ years old.

El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency (EHSD), the local CSBG agency, partners with the AAA Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP). The FCSP coordinates respite services for unpaid informal caregivers who assist family members, friends, or neighbors struggling with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders. Help with day-to-day activities enables seniors to remain in their homes. However, seniors without caregivers do not qualify for FCSP. In these cases, CSBG funding is used to provide short-term assistance from licensed, bonded in-home care providers. Care providers assist with home chores, light meal preparation, medication management, paperwork such as IHSS applications, laundry, bedding, incontinence support, and hygiene assistance such as bathing. Seniors without available caregivers, family members, or friends often need assisted transportation to doctor's appointments and medical procedures. Licensed, bonded in-home care providers accompany the seniors to and from medical appointments, sign clients in and out of appointments, provide post-medication information to clients, and get their homes set up for aftercare recovery success.