



MILKEN
INSTITUTE

FEBRUARY 2026

Generosity After the LA Fires: Charitable Giving and the Road Ahead to Rebuilding

ALEXANDER MEEKS



About Us

The Milken Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank focused on accelerating measurable progress on the path to a meaningful life. With a focus on financial, physical, mental, and environmental health, we bring together the best ideas and innovative resourcing to develop blueprints for tackling some of our most critical global issues through the lens of what's pressing now and what's coming next.

Acknowledgments

The Milken Institute acknowledges the Los Angeles Wildfires Philanthropy Working Group, launched by foundation leaders convened by the University of Southern California Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy, for commissioning this work, as well as the following funders for sponsoring this work: California Community Foundation, Bank of America, Altadena Builds Back Fund, Pasadena Community Foundation, R&S Kayne Foundation, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, SoCal Fire Fund, and The Walt Disney Company.

©2026 Milken Institute

This work is made available under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International, available at creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/.

Contents

1	Executive Summary
3	Introduction: Giving in the Wake of the Fires
7	Charitable Giving After the Fires: The Numbers
7	The Scale of Charitable Giving for Recovery
10	The Breadth of Charitable Giving: How Did Funding Flow?
13	The Impact of Charitable Giving: Where Did Funding Go?
18	The Impact of Charitable Giving: Long-Term Recovery
20	Charitable Responses from the Field
20	Collaborative Partnerships Lead to Big Bets
23	The Region's Entertainment Sector Played a Large Role in Disaster Relief
25	Conclusion: Lessons from 2025 and Expectations for 2026
27	Appendix
32	Endnotes
41	About the Author

Executive Summary

In January 2025, the Los Angeles region faced not one but two catastrophic urban conflagrations. The Eaton Fire and the Palisades Fire killed 31 people and destroyed more than 16,000 structures.¹ About 100,000 people evacuated, and one year after the fires started, thousands of residents remain displaced.²

The story of the fires is one of human tragedy, community resilience, and suffering, which persists for thousands of Angelenos. It is also a story of generosity. Mere days after the fires sparked, dedicated fundraising efforts and commitments broke records, exceeding \$650 million by the end of January.³ **For 2025 overall, the Milken Institute estimates that charitable commitments to LA Fires relief, recovery, and rebuilding totaled \$860 million to \$970 million.**

Philanthropic and individual giving flowed to a multilayered structure of funds and nonprofits on the ground. Large corporate and philanthropic donors not only gave millions directly to nonprofits and service providers but also directed funds to trusted intermediaries (e.g., the LA Arts Community Recovery Fund, SoCal Fire Fund), which raised hundreds of millions of dollars within weeks. These intermediaries then regranted funds to community-based organizations, leveraging relationships between local philanthropy and deeply rooted community-based organizations that served as trusted conduits for cash assistance, resources, direct services, and information.

The crisis also activated giving from individuals worldwide. According to Giving Tuesday's analysis of the Funding Effectiveness Project, the number of unique US donors in January 2025 was more than double the numbers in January 2024 or January 2023.⁴ GoFundMe alone supported \$265 million in individual giving for LA Fires relief and recovery in 2025.⁵

The massive scale of the fires, and the influx of charitable giving, required collaboration across institutions and sectors to understand evolving needs, share information, and coordinate efforts. The LA Wildfires Philanthropy Working Group met consistently throughout the year, starting days after the fires, and it launched the weekly *By Funders For Funders* newsletter to broadly disseminate up-to-date information to hundreds of civic leaders. Leadership from Snap Inc. and California Community Foundation, for instance, founded the Department of Angels, a new nonprofit that informs, connects, and organizes communities to support survivor-led recovery in the Pacific Palisades and Altadena.

Impressive as they are, charitable giving resources pale in comparison to the cost to rebuild in Los Angeles. In terms of property damages and capital losses alone, estimated charitable giving reflects only 1–2 percent of the cost to rebuild (without accounting for insurance or settlement

proceeds).⁶ Property damages and capital losses after the LA Fires far exceed those of any recent fire disaster. Further, the gap between obligated Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Small Business Administration (SBA) aid to date and the estimated cost to rebuild is an order-of-magnitude greater than the gap for recent comparable fires that resulted in more than \$1 billion in damages—aside from the Camp Fire and Woolsey Fire in 2018.

Limited philanthropic pilots have started to rebuild some housing and fill other gaps. Habitat for Humanity and other organizations are rebuilding homes in the burn areas.⁷ The Community Action Project Los Angeles (CAP.LA) program—funded chiefly by the R&S Kayne Foundation and delivered by Loyola Marymount University, University of California, Los Angeles, and Purdue University—offers much-needed environmental testing that survivors might have otherwise expected from FEMA and the US Army Corps of Engineers.⁸ However, these efforts represent only a drop in the bucket of unmet needs. Private generosity cannot sustain a long-term rebuilding effort; renewed government support and new approaches to relief, recovery, and rebuilding finance are needed.

Amid the uncertainty of long-term disaster recovery funding, the region is navigating a precarious shift from short-term relief to long-term rebuilding. As crowdfunding has ebbed, institutional giving has shifted toward longer-term and leveraged uses of grants and program-related investment that catalyze other private capital to rebuild. The *Think Big and Act Boldly* report by Climate Resolve and Resilient Cities Catalyst identifies four such investment opportunities for philanthropy seeking to capitalize long-term rebuilding and resilience efforts in 2026—for example, the Resiliency Company’s LA Delta Fund, which will provide low-interest loans to homeowners to finance the extra cost of rebuilding to Insurance Institute for Building and Home Safety Wildfire Prepared Plus standards.⁹ Private-sector and government collaboration should advance innovative blended finance ideas such as these to stretch private dollars as far as possible in support of an efficient rebuild.

Meanwhile, flexible disaster relief remains essential. According to Department of Angels quarterly surveys and other analyses, survivors are facing a “liquidity crunch” and continue to require direct and flexible cash assistance.¹⁰ A slowing economy may further strain families and individuals in immediate need. Crowdfunding and direct giving platforms, such as GiveDirectly, GoFundMe, and The Change Reaction—if powered with additional funding—can continue to help individuals and families weather financial challenges. The anniversary of the fires should help rekindle public attention and crowdfunding to this end.

One year after the fires, the scale of the disasters requires not only renewed public-sector support but also bold and creative action from philanthropy, the business community, and local community-based organizations to rebuild a more resilient Altadena, Pacific Palisades, and Malibu. Long-term recovery and rebuilding demand continued deep coordination, the use of catalytic capital to drive affordable rebuilding, and an unwavering focus on survivors still awaiting a home.

Introduction:

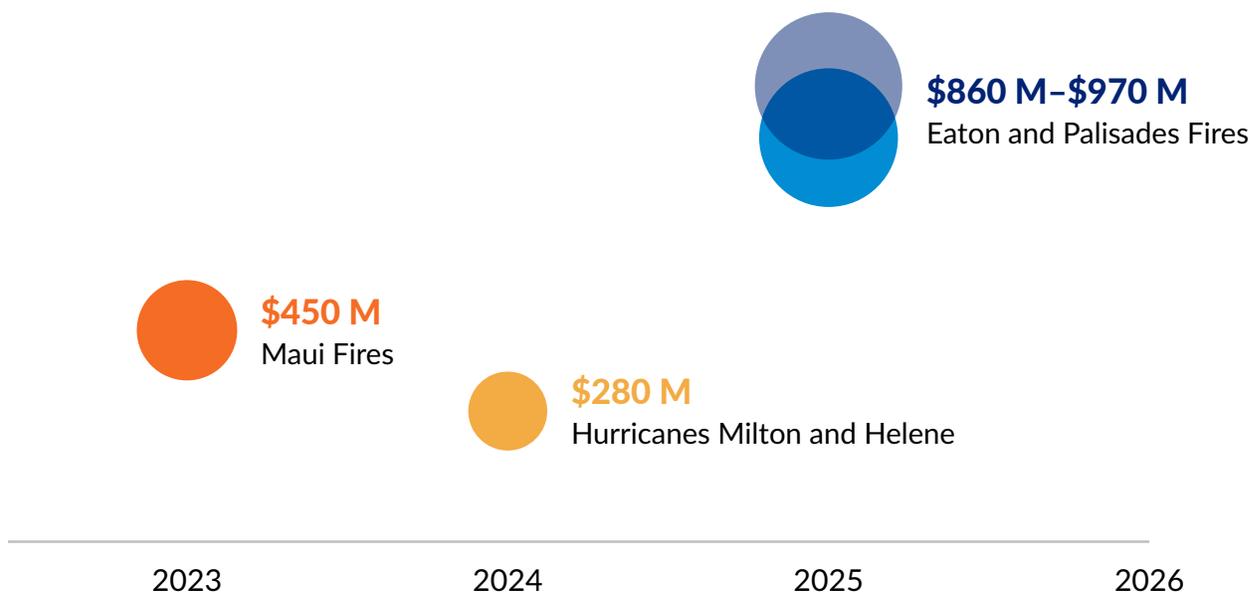
Giving in the Wake of the Fires

In January 2025, the Los Angeles region faced not one but two catastrophic urban conflagrations. On their own, the Eaton Fire or the Palisades Fire would have wreaked devastation on Southern California. Combined, they represent the most destructive and costliest fire event in the history of the United States.¹¹ The fires killed 31 people and destroyed more than 16,000 structures. About 100,000 residents evacuated, and one year after the fires started, thousands of residents remain displaced.¹²

Immense private generosity helped meet the urgent needs of thousands of Angelenos suffering after the fires.¹³ The Milken Institute estimated that charitable giving for LA Fires recovery neared \$1 billion in 2025, representing a massive response from institutional givers, corporations, and individuals from the Los Angeles region and around the world. The outpouring of support captured headlines and broke records (Figure 1).

Concurrent with the flow of dollars, leaders from government, philanthropy, nonprofits, and the business community came together to mobilize existing resources, launch organizations, and build new partnerships that not only accelerated immediate disaster relief but also laid the groundwork for long-term recovery and rebuilding.

Figure 1: Estimated Charitable Giving After Recent US Disasters



Sources: Data for Maui Fires and hurricanes Milton and Helene reported by the Los Angeles Times.¹⁴ Charitable giving after the Eaton and Palisades fires estimated by the Milken Institute.¹⁵

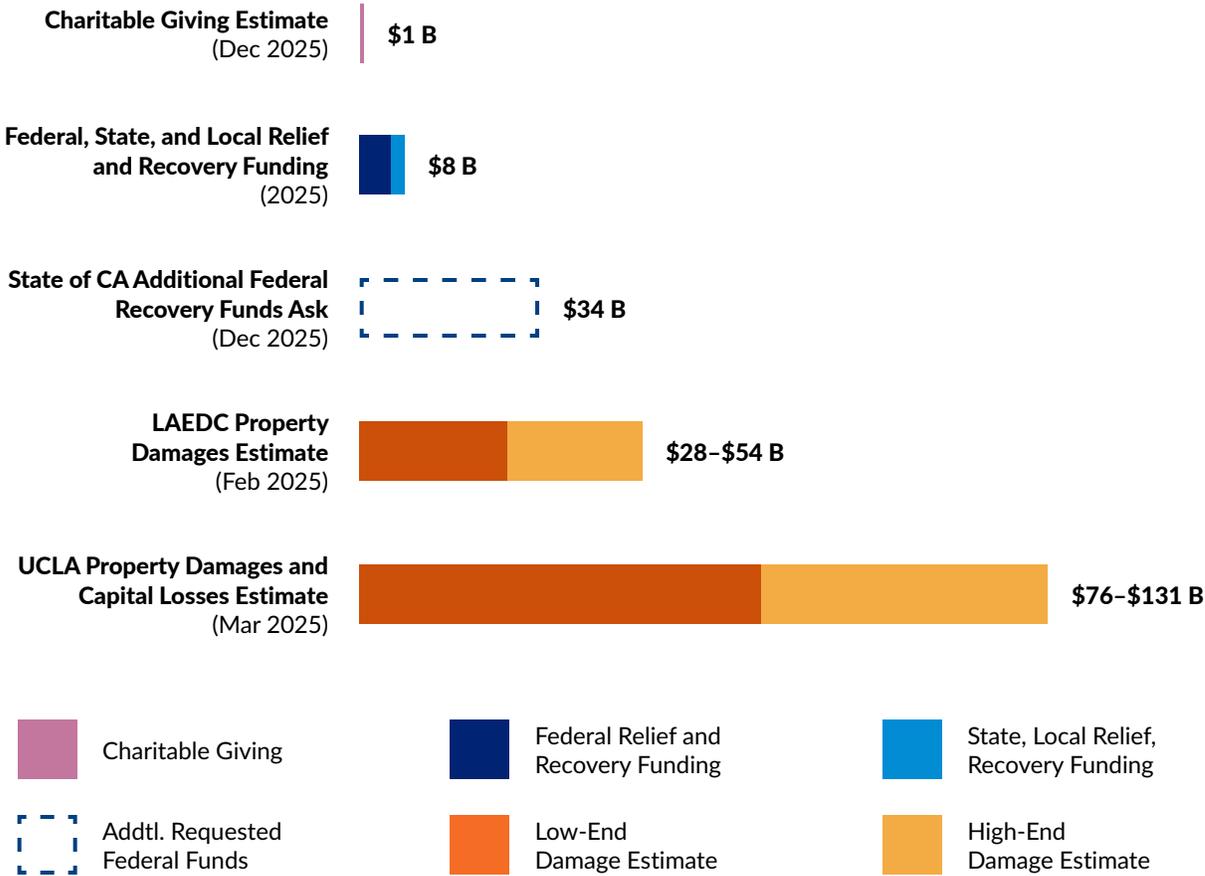
Initially, the public sector delivered rapid and effective relief. FEMA, SBA, and other agencies spent \$5.7 billion to clear debris, provide individual assistance to affected residents, and offer recovery loans to homeowners and small business owners.¹⁶ The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in coordination with the city of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County, cleared 2.5 million tons of debris from nearly 10,000 residential properties in the Easton and Palisades fires recovery areas, accomplishing “the fastest debris removal mission in USACE history.” USACE also reopened the Pacific Coast Highway and restored Temes Canyon Road months ahead of schedule.¹⁷

State and local government provided additional funding and revised regulations and policies to accelerate debris removal and rebuilding. The state of California approved \$2.5 billion in fire recovery aid on January 23, the day before a visit to the burn area by President Donald Trump.¹⁸ Governor Gavin Newsom suspended California Environmental Quality Act and California Coastal Act regulations to accelerate debris removal and rebuilding in the affected areas.¹⁹ City of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass followed with an executive order to accelerate permitting review for rebuilt housing.²⁰ The city and county of Los Angeles stood up relief funds for business owners, residents, and workers that drew on allocations of American Rescue Plan Act funding and on charitable giving.

However, as firefighters put out the blazes and as relief efforts mobilized across the public and private sectors, estimates of the fires’ property and capital costs, as well as their economic and fiscal impacts, exceeded the capacity of any one local sector to respond, be it state or local government, the business community, or philanthropy. By February, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) estimated that property damages alone ranged from \$28 billion to \$54 billion.²¹ In March, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Anderson School of Management estimated that property and capital losses amounted to \$76 billion to \$131 billion (without accounting for insurance) in addition to the costs associated with other economic and fiscal impacts.²² In December, California Governor Newsom requested \$33.9 billion in additional disaster relief and rebuilding funding from the federal government (revised downward from an initial \$40 billion).²³

Despite its incredible magnitude, the amount of committed charitable giving pales in comparison to the scale of the disasters and the cost of rebuilding (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Estimated Charitable Giving Versus the Scale of the Eaton and Palisades Fires

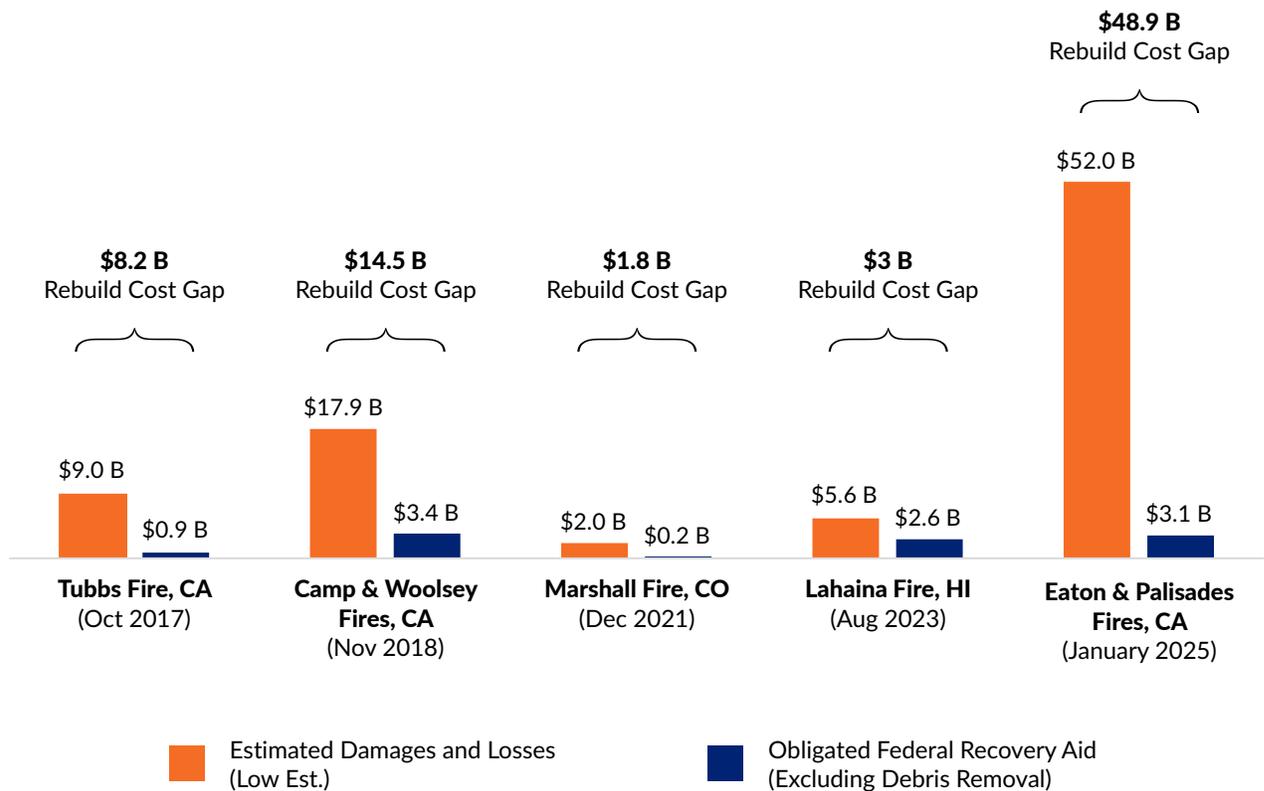


Notes: Estimated property damages and capital losses above do not account for insured losses. Estimates exclude modeled economic and fiscal impacts and other impacts. Federal funding includes debris removal funding from FEMA to USACE.

Sources: Charitable giving is estimated by the Milken Institute (2026). Federal, state, and local recovery data are reported Associated Press (2025), FEMA (2025), and abc7 (2025). The state of California’s request for federal funds is reported by abc7 (2025). Damage estimates are from LAEDC (2025) and UCLA (2025).

Property damages and capital losses after the LA Fires far exceed those of any recent fire disasters. In addition, the gap between obligated FEMA and SBA aid to date and the estimated cost to rebuild—estimated to be at least \$50 billion by averaging low-range estimates from LAEDC and UCLA—is an order-of-magnitude greater than for recent comparable fires, aside from the Camp and Woolsey fires (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Estimated Damages, Losses, and Obligated Federal Aid After Selected Fires (\$2025)



Notes: Information on methodology for the data provided are available in the Appendix.

Sources: Fire damage estimates reported by the National Fire Protection Association (2025), Denver Post (2022), the County of Maui (2023), LAEDC (2025), and UCLA (2025). Obligated federal recovery aid reported by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Disaster Dollar Database (2025) and FEMA (2025).

Looking solely at rebuild costs versus obligated federal aid from FEMA, SBA, and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) omits key variables, such as insurance levels and regional variation in rebuilding costs and property values. Further analysis should account for the variation in per-structure rebuilding costs, based on local real estate market and construction sector conditions, and the extent to which insurance proceeds (still emerging in the case of Los Angeles) and legal settlements close the financing gap. However, when accounting for insurance proceeds and potential settlement money from Southern California Edison (applicable to the Eaton Fire only) and other legal cases, the state, local, and private “share” of rebuilding costs would likely remain in the tens of billions of dollars.

After previous disasters comparable in scale, such as Hurricane Katrina, the federal government allocated and delivered “tens of billions of dollars” in recovery funding within weeks.²⁴ However, starting in 2025, the federal funding available for disaster recovery has been reduced, and the federal government has reduced the scale and role of FEMA and shifted more of the responsibility for disaster relief and recovery to state and local governments.²⁵ Although federal and state

funding and charitable giving have been substantial after the LA Fires, far more money is needed to rebuild over the coming decade. Further, the potential retreat of the federal government raises the question of how the region will close the financial gap and how charitable giving can be a part of new and creative long-term approaches to bottom-up rebuilding.

Charitable Giving After the Fires: The Numbers

The Scale of Charitable Giving for Recovery

Within days after the wildfires began, the Los Angeles region experienced a surge in charitable giving that appears to be unprecedented.

Corporations, corporate foundations, and institutional philanthropy announced multimillion-dollar commitments to support disaster relief and rebuilding. Some institutions established dedicated wildfire recovery funds that raised millions of dollars from a variety of institutional and individual donors, often in a matter of weeks. For example,

- The California Community Foundation's Wildfire Recovery Fund raised more than \$100 million in 2025.²⁶
- FireAid, in partnership with philanthropic institutions, corporate sponsors, live streaming partners, and pro bono concert performers, raised about \$100 million, including millions of dollars in donations from audience members who attended in person or tuned in to the live or recorded broadcasts.²⁷
- The Pasadena Community Foundation, which has served the Greater Pasadena area since 1953, raised about \$72 million by midyear 2025; much of this money capitalized the new Altadena Builds Back Foundation, which was created to support the long-term reconstruction of housing in Altadena.²⁸
- The Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation—which funds supplemental equipment and other resources for Los Angeles City firefighters to support their health, safety, and wellness—received \$20 million in only one week.²⁹
- The California Fire Foundation raised \$20 million by March 2025.³⁰

The crisis also activated giving from individuals near and far. According to data from Giving Tuesday's Funding Effectiveness Project, the number of unique donors in the United States in

January 2025 was more than double the numbers in January 2024 or January 2023, partially due to a jump in small-dollar donations in response to the attention paid to the fires.³¹ Data from Giving Tuesday's Giving Pulse Survey demonstrated that the LA Fires were the most cited crisis in the United States between July 2024 and September 2025.³² Donations poured into the region from well over one million individuals around the world just on GoFundMe, a charitable crowdfunding platform. The platform identified January 10 as the most generous day of 2025 and acknowledged California and Los Angeles as the most generous state and county, respectively, of the year in its 2025 year-end reporting.³³

To characterize the scale and breadth of charitable giving for recovery, the Milken Institute gathered and analyzed data from third-party databases, press releases, and other sources. Our analysis encompassed more than 30 dedicated fire recovery funds, more than 250 donor organizations, more than 300 receiving organizations, and nearly 1,000 individual donation transactions.

The Milken Institute employed two different methodologies to estimate the size of committed charitable giving after the fires:

- **Discrete donations**—The Milken Institute cataloged nearly 1,000 donations from institutional philanthropy, corporations, and corporate foundations, and it counted lump sums from GoFundMe and other crowdfunding platforms as single discrete donations (Table 1). Some of these donations flowed into intermediary funds—such as FireAid or the LA Arts Community Fire Relief Fund, which raised \$15 million from almost 100 individuals, corporations, and artists and art galleries³⁴—that then regranted dollars to other organizations. This methodology avoided double-counting but resulted in a significant undercount of likely charitable giving.
- **Intermediary funds and other discrete donations**—The Milken Institute catalogued fire recovery funds that publicly announced total fundraising; in addition, we identified discrete donations that did *not* flow to those funds but instead flowed directly to nonprofit organizations (Table 2). Because intermediary funds may have issued grants among themselves, this methodology potentially double-counted certain dollars. Nevertheless, this method still likely undercounts the full extent of charitable giving for the reasons discussed below.

Our analysis conservatively estimated that between \$860 million to \$970 million in charitable giving was committed to fire recovery in 2025.

Table 1: Breakdown in Discrete Charitable Giving Commitments

Donor Type	Donors Sampled	Donors Reporting \$ Amounts	Sample Sum (Rounded)
Individual	N/A	N/A	\$324,300,000+
Corporations and Corporate Foundations	143	119	\$336,900,000+
Institutional Philanthropy	93	49	\$184,400,000+
Nonprofit Organizations	15	9	\$9,000,000+
	251	177	\$855,000,000+

Source: Milken Institute charitable giving estimate (2026)

Table 2: Breakdown in Wildfire Recovery Funds and Other Discrete Giving Commitments

Charitable Giving Category	Conservative Est.	Scope of Verifiable Charitable Giving
Wildfire Recovery Funds	\$524,000,000+	33 funds reviewed, including 21 funds with verifiable fundraising announcements
Additional Institutional Giving	\$176,000,000+	500 discrete verifiable donations that did not go to the funds counted above
Charitable Crowdfunding	\$272,000,000+	Well over 1 million individuals
Total Fundraising	\$972,000,000+	



Source: Milken Institute charitable giving estimate (2026)

Both estimates undercount committed charitable giving for recovery. This undercount is due to a combination of dated and inconsistent data.

- Funding totals published by fire recovery funds are generally dated, and some do not include donations received since published updates in the spring, midyear, or fall.
- A significant share of corporate and philanthropic donors publicly announced commitments but did not disclose the dollar amounts. Of corporate and philanthropic donors, 71 percent disclosed dollar amounts. Of donations that bypassed funds and went directly to nonprofits, 43 percent disclosed dollar amounts.
- A portion of institutional donors included direct donations to nonprofits and to fire recovery funds in their commitments; we excluded this giving to avoid double-counting of money raised by the above funds.

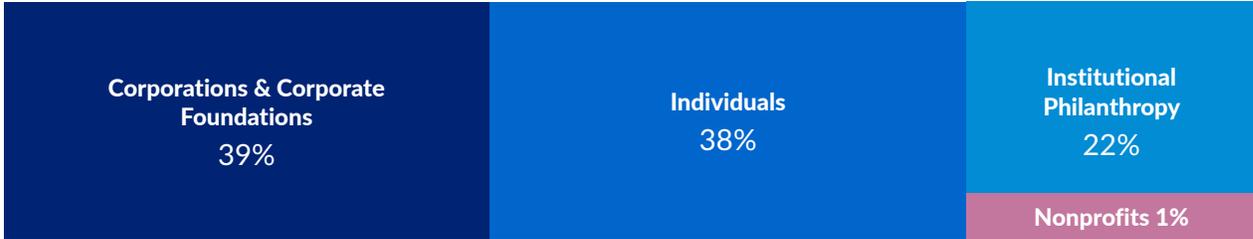
As stated above, this analysis reflects announced commitments rather than grantmaking or funding disbursal. Information on the timing and actual disbursement of funds was not consistently available at time of writing. Some amount of charitable giving considered in this analysis has not been fully disbursed.

The Breadth of Charitable Giving: How Did Funding Flow?

To analyze charitable giving trends at a more granular level, the Milken Institute identified a sample of more than 250 donors that supported recovery funds or gave directly to nonprofits and individuals; we also considered major giving platforms that featured LA Fires recovery fundraisers, such as GoFundMe (Table 3). This sample is a subset of the charitable giving estimated above and generally reflects the full breadth of charitable giving.

Table 3: Breakdown in Discrete Charitable Giving Commitments

Donor Type	Donors Sampled	Donors Reporting \$ Amounts	Sample Sum (Rounded)	Percentage Share	Average Donation Size
Individual	N/A	N/A	\$324,300,000+	38%	N/A
Corporate	143	119	\$336,900,000+	39%	\$2,500,000
Institutional Philanthropy	93	49	\$184,400,000+	22%	\$1,600,000
Nonprofit Organizations	15	9	\$9,000,000+	1%	\$750,000
	251	177	\$855,000,000+		



Notes: “Individual” includes large individual gifts and three crowdfunding platforms. “Corporate” includes corporate philanthropy and corporate foundations. “Institutional philanthropy” average donation size excludes LA Rise’s (up to \$100 million) commitment as an outlier.

Source: Milken Institute charitable giving estimate (2026)

Corporate philanthropy and corporate foundations generally gave larger grants to disaster recovery funds managed by philanthropic institutions, such as the LA Fire Foundation, or to efforts managed by experienced disaster relief organizations, such as the American Red Cross, Direct Relief, and World Central Kitchen. Disaster recovery funds, such as the Pasadena Community Foundation’s Eaton Fire Relief and Recovery Fund,³⁵ draw from philanthropy’s understanding of on-the-ground needs and their relationships with local nonprofits and community-based organizations equipped to meet those needs. Disaster relief organizations, in contrast, might not be deeply rooted in affected communities pre-disaster, but they bring significant capacity with respect to staff, volunteer networks, distributional logistics, coordination with government, and deep experience in effective disaster relief from contexts across the globe. Giving predominantly to funds and established disaster relief organizations enabled corporations and corporate foundations to realize impact without having to develop new competencies or relationships when the need to act was urgent.

Institutional philanthropy—and the philanthropically managed disaster recovery funds associated with them—tended to give smaller grants directly to local nonprofits and community-based organizations. These grants were targeted to reflect institutional philanthropy’s relationships with local organizations and knowledge of emerging priorities. Many of these grants empowered nonprofits to meet specific needs—for instance, expanding survivors’ access to pro bono legal assistance or connecting survivors to mental health care. Many of these grants also helped organizations supplement or enhance disaster relief to especially vulnerable disaster survivors, such as unhoused people, children, aging adults, and adults with disabilities.

Individual giving flowed into recovery efforts at all levels of the charitable response ecosystem: charitable crowdfunding platforms, disaster recovery funds managed by third parties, disaster relief organizations, and specific nonprofits. The multi-channel and more anonymous nature of individual giving made it essentially impossible to accurately size, but it was enormous in scope and unique in its flexibility. Charitable giving to the LA Fires via GoFundMe reached \$265 million in 2025, vastly exceeding any other one donor, platform, or fund in scale. It was \$35 million more than the platform raised in 2024 for all natural disasters worldwide.³⁶

Although crowdfunding delivered to individuals and families did not resolve their problems overnight, many recipients cited it as a crucial immediate cash infusion that helped sustain them during the challenging weeks after displacement. Crowdfunding platforms have been criticized for their potential to enable fraud or unfairly advantage better-connected recipients over the neediest.³⁷ Eventually, in the case of the LA Fires, community members started to curate crowdfunding pages for particularly vulnerable residents to help focus givers’ attention.³⁸

Definitions: Institutional Giving

Within the category of institutional giving, this analysis distinguishes between corporate philanthropy, corporate foundations, and institutional philanthropy.

- **Corporate philanthropy** consists of direct charitable giving by a corporation. Examples in the analysis include Amazon, JM Eagle, and The Wonderful Company.
- **Corporate foundations** are independent nonprofit foundations established and funded by a corporation and often branded by that corporation. Examples sampled in the analysis include AirBnB.org and the Bank of America Charitable Foundation.
- **Institutional philanthropies** are independent, nonprofit institutions that rely on endowment and investment income to issue charitable grants. Examples sampled in the analysis include the Ballmer Group and The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation.

Excluded from the analysis above is the surge of **in-kind giving and mutual aid**. Institutions and individuals delivered tons of clothes, served thousands of volunteer hours, lent rooms to friends and family, provided free professional services, and offered other types of aid in the immediate aftermath of the fires.³⁹ As part of families and friend groups, neighborhoods, religious congregations, and other networks, thousands were moved to help in whatever way they could.

The Impact of Charitable Giving: Where Did Funding Go?

Charitable giving funded a top-down and bottom-up response ecosystem that spanned a full spectrum of organizations, which played to their strengths to help survivors. Many household names in disaster relief sprang into action after the fires, delivering food, supplies, cash assistance, and other needs. A far greater number of locally based organizations, which did not normally specialize in disaster relief, were nonetheless well positioned to aid in relief and recovery.

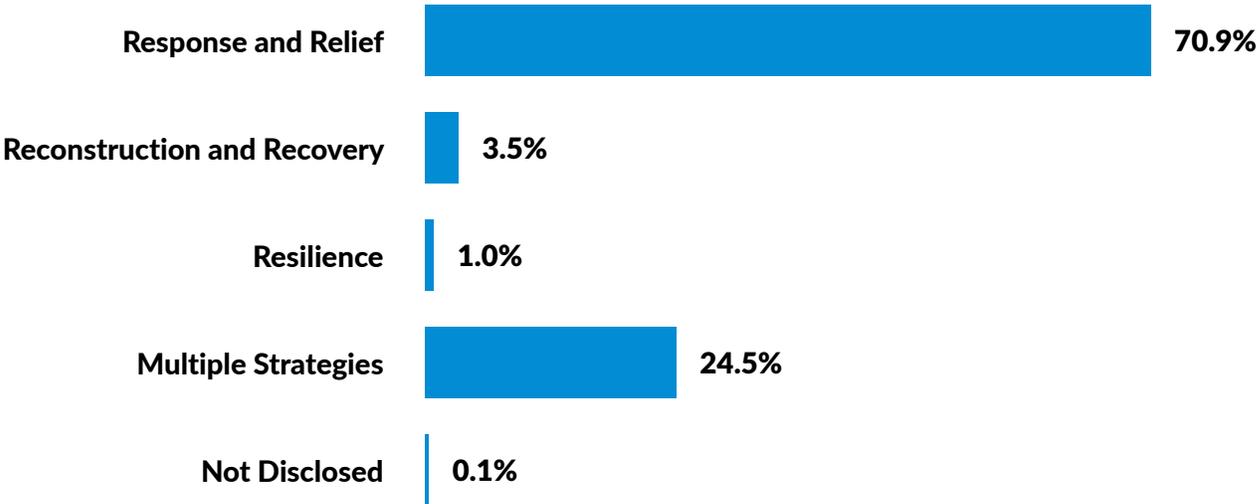
Much philanthropic and individual giving flowed through intermediary funds before it reached individuals and community-based organizations providing services on the ground. These intermediaries were often better positioned than donors to effectively regrant funds to community-based organizations because they could leverage existing knowledge and standing relationships with these organizations. In turn, these organizations served as trusted conduits for cash assistance, resources, direct services, and information directly to survivors. In many cases, organizations were not 501(c)(3) nonprofits and therefore could not accept donations directly. Intermediaries such as Community Partners stepped in to serve as “fiscal sponsors” that enabled these organizations to receive resources and focus on delivering disaster relief.

This multilayered giving structure involved trade-offs. Intermediary funds enabled more targeted grantmaking and expanded giving to smaller organizations that lacked the “name brand” of larger and more established groups. However, the complexity of this structure risked making the flow of money difficult to understand. A displaced family might have ultimately received money and assistance from a neighborhood institution, but they would have little way of knowing that those dollars originated from a large regional fund, and they will never know the donor who contributed to that fund in the first place.

The bulk of commitments were intended for early disaster relief. At least 70 percent of discrete donations focused on early disaster relief for residents and workers. Twenty-five percent of donations went to organizations or funds that noted a focus on both early disaster relief and longer-term recovery and rebuilding (referred to as “multiple strategies” below in Figure 4).

This trend is generally consistent with national trends; the Center for Disaster Philanthropy reported that 66 percent of general philanthropic disaster funding in 2024 centered on relief globally.⁴⁰ However, a combination of incomplete data and the early nature of this analysis likely skews these findings toward relief. More complete data from intermediary funds as well as a longer post-disaster study time frame would likely reveal greater support for longer-term priorities: reconstruction and resilience.

Figure 4: Purpose of Charitable Commitments After the Eaton and Palisades Fires



Notes: The analysis borrows the disaster giving categories used by the Center for Disaster Philanthropy in its periodic “State of Disaster Philanthropy” reporting. The analysis uses counts of commitments to specific organizations and funds rather than total dollars committed because of the number of commitments that did not disclose dollar amounts.

Source: Milken Institute estimate of charitable giving (2026)

Although any classification of funding recipients risks oversimplifying the variety of recovery work, recipients generally fell into one of four categories: established disaster relief organizations, networks and providers, community-based organizations, and new disaster recovery organizations (Table 4).

Established disaster relief organizations: Organizations such as the American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, and United Way have administered disaster relief for decades. These organizations have the capacity to rapidly deploy staff, volunteers, supplies, and other resources; they have mastered disaster relief logistics; and they bring experience coordinating with federal, state, and local government during and after crises.

Team Rubicon is a veteran-led humanitarian organization that is headquartered in Los Angeles and coordinates more than 180,000 global disaster relief volunteers known as “Greyshirts,” many of whom are veterans themselves.⁴¹ In the initial days of the fires, and with the support of institutional and individual giving, Team Rubicon stood up an emergency operations center at its headquarters, provided logistical support to local authorities, shared information with survivors, and prepared to deploy volunteers to assist with road debris removal and other work to lighten the burden on firefighters and other first responders.⁴²

Credible networks and providers: Typically, these organizations do not have a background in disaster relief. In normal times, they serve as trusted conveners, sources of information, or providers of valuable services and expertise. Nevertheless, in the aftermath of the disasters, they were well positioned to convene specific communities or offer relevant expertise and services to survivors on a pro bono basis.

211 LA County, a nonprofit founded in 1981 as The Information and Referral Federation of Los Angeles, serves as a hub that connects community members and community-based organizations to health, human, and social services in the county. In the weeks and months after the fires, 211LA received grants from multiple sources to act as a node in Los Angeles County’s coordinated emergency response network, “providing real-time information and long-term support for those impacted” in the form of its Wildfire Care Coordination Program.⁴³

Community-based organizations: Nonprofits, faith-based institutions, and other community-based organizations that are based in specific neighborhoods or well connected to specific populations are positioned to serve as trusted last-mile delivery systems for aid. They can also offer credible, up-to-date information about survivors’ emerging and evolving needs to funders. Partnering with community-based and faith-based organizations can make government-led or funder-led public recovery efforts more trustworthy, efficient, and precise during public health emergencies and disasters.⁴⁴

The California Community Foundation’s spring Wildfire Recovery Needs Assessment determined that a majority of surveyed nonprofits in Altadena, Pasadena, and the Pacific Palisades mobilized to help affected residents meet basic needs after the fires.⁴⁵ Nonprofits’ inherent strengths—the ability to mobilize quickly, strong leadership and quick decision-making, preexisting relationships with other organizations, and high-trust relationships with the community—made them ideal local stewards for immediate disaster relief.⁴⁶

Boys & Girls Clubs are community-based organizations that serve children and youth by providing free facilities, mentorship, meals, and programming. They maintain deep relationships with children and families during normal times. Clubs serving Los Angeles County, including those in Malibu, Pasadena, and Santa Monica, received millions of dollars in donations in the days following the fires. In turn, they provided prepared meals and groceries, essential household items, emergency childcare, mental wellness, and mentoring programming.⁴⁷ In Malibu, which has “no hospital, limited public transit, and few formal social service offices,” the Boys & Girls Club of Malibu expanded to play roles and provide services normally provided by government.⁴⁸

Faith-based institutions were devastated by the fires. Altadena and the Pacific Palisades both lost houses of worship to the fires, including Abounding Grace Ministries, Altadena Baptist Church, Corpus Christi Church, Hillside Tabernacle, Kehillat Israel, Masjid Al-Taqwa, and the Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center.⁴⁹ Yet these institutions turned around to serve as crisis response nodes for displaced residents, receiving grants and donations that they in turn redistributed to wildfire survivors in their network.

Resilient Palisades was founded in 2019 by a group of neighbors focused on local activism and sustainable environmental management. After the Palisades Fire, the nonprofit became a trusted source of data, information, and guidance to Palisades residents, directing them to government- and nonprofit-provided disaster relief, soil testing, rebuilding support, and other resources. The organization’s *Guiding Principles for Rebuilding* sets standards for a reimagined Pacific Palisades that is resilient to future crises.⁵⁰

New disaster recovery organizations: These organizations filled gaps by leveraging lived experience and providing bottom-up capacity to meet overwhelming need. Many of these organizations were founded by survivors in the days and weeks after they lost their homes and physical possessions.

The Eaton Fire Collaborative is a collective of nonprofit organizations based in Altadena and Pasadena that came together after the fires to coordinate recovery. Fiscally sponsored by Community Partners, the collaborative ultimately became a designated Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG), alongside the Pacific Palisades LTRG and the Malibu LTRG. An LTRG is a “cooperative body that is made up of representatives from faith-based, nonprofit, government, business and other organizations working within a community to assist individuals and families as they recover from disaster.”⁵¹ LTRG unmet needs tables provide case management and triage needs for the most vulnerable survivors of disasters.

The collaborative, as of the time of writing, identified about 160 constituent organizations on its website.⁵² Its Collaboratory, opened in October 2025, is a hub that serves as a “one-stop first step” for survivors navigating a challenging, exhausting, long-term rebuilding process. The hub centralizes resources provided by “more than 200 established local nonprofits (many of whom are physically on-site)” that span permitting assistance, soil testing, mental health care, reconstruction, essential items, and case management.⁵³

The Eaton Fire Survivors Network emerged from the Eaton Fire Collaborative. This survivor-led network connects survivors to one another and to timely guidance on navigating insurance, environmental remediation, mental health, financing, and other challenges and prepares survivors to speak to the media about their experiences. It organized a coalition of survivors that advocates for prompt compensation to survivors from insurers and from Southern California Edison,⁵⁴ the utility that has launched a compensation program for survivors affected by the Eaton Fire and whose equipment is alleged to have sparked the Eaton Fire.⁵⁵

Table 4: Categorization of Sampled Disaster Recovery Giving Recipients

Established Disaster Relief Organizations	Credible Networks and Providers	Community-Based Organizations	New Disaster Recovery Organizations
<p>Rapidly deploy staff, volunteers, logistics capacity, and experience in disaster relief and government coordination.</p>	<p>Convene specific communities, offer trusted information to survivors, or offer expertise and services to survivors.</p>	<p>Well positioned to serve as trusted last-mile resource delivery systems and sources of credible information.</p>	<p>Fill gaps by leveraging lived experience and providing bottom-up capacity to meet overwhelming need.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ American Red Cross ▪ Direct Relief ▪ Habitat for Humanity ▪ Team Rubicon ▪ United Way ▪ World Central Kitchen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 211LA ▪ Inclusive Action for the City ▪ Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Foundation ▪ Legal Aid of Los Angeles ▪ Money Management International ▪ UCLA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Boys & Girls Clubs ▪ Disability Community Resource Center ▪ First AME Church Pasadena ▪ Instituto de Educación Popular del Sur de CA ▪ Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles ▪ YMCAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Altadena Girls ▪ Case Study: Adapt ▪ Department of Angels ▪ Eaton Fire Collaborative ▪ Eaton Survivors Network ▪ The Foothill Catalog Foundation

Notes: The organizations listed above serve as an illustrative sample of the types of organizations that administered relief or supported recovery. The list is neither exhaustive nor fully representative.

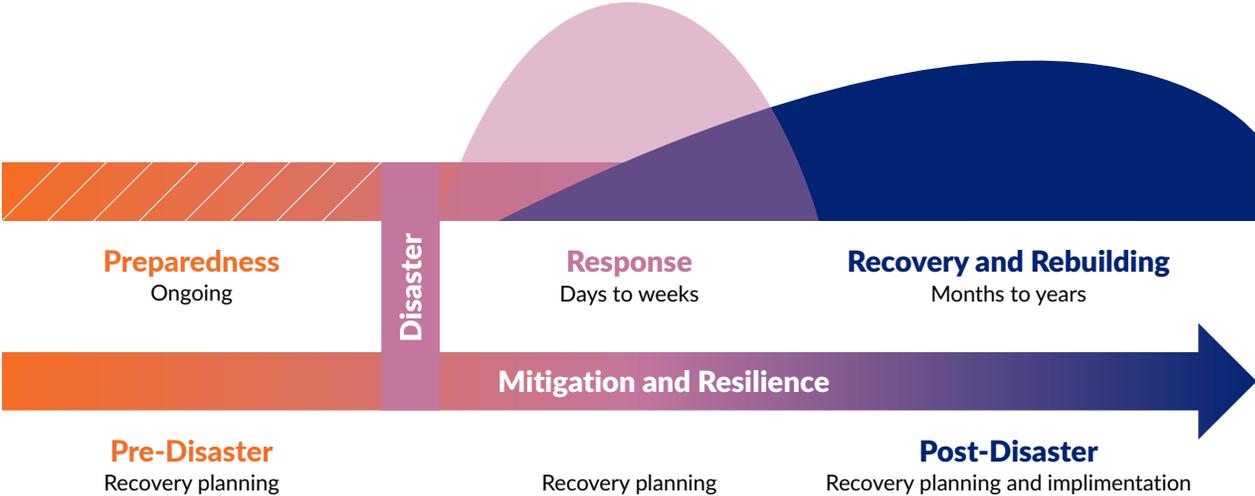
Source: Milken Institute (2026)

The Impact of Charitable Giving: Long-Term Recovery

Federal and state funding obligated in 2025 focused on damage assessment, debris removal, and disaster relief. Likewise, most charitable giving (greater than 70 percent) committed in 2025 focused on disaster relief: temporary shelter, emergency health care, food and items distribution, public health, and flexible cash assistance.

Yet disaster recovery requires years of funding and effort. FEMA’s National Disaster Recovery Framework differentiates between the days and weeks of disaster response (also referred to as “disaster relief”) and the months and years of recovery and rebuilding (Figure 5).⁵⁶ Charitable giving generally does not maintain focus on long-term recovery needs. According to the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, in 2024, while 66 percent of institutional philanthropic disaster giving supported short-term relief, only 12 percent supported reconstruction and only 3 percent supported preparedness.⁵⁷ As disasters become more frequent, and if the federal government continues to reduce its relief and recovery role, it will be increasingly incumbent on charitable donors to consider the full cycle of long-term rebuilding and not just immediate response.

Figure 5: FEMA National Disaster Recovery Framework



Source: FEMA (2024)

In Los Angeles, philanthropic leaders are collaborating to set aside and strategically deploy resources for long-term recovery. The Altadena Builds Back Foundation, a new foundation created by the Pasadena Community Foundation (PCF), is purpose-built to help steward a long-term, community-centered recovery focused on home rebuilding and anti-displacement. It was capitalized by more than \$55 million in proceeds from PCF’s Eaton Fire Relief and Recovery Fund as of April 2025.⁵⁸ Its first grant of \$4.5 million to Habitat for Humanity San Gabriel Valley will enable the restoration of 22 homes,⁵⁹ and a \$5.8 million grant to Beacon Housing will help a local nonprofit rebuild a totally destroyed 14-unit multifamily rental building, with units remaining affordable for residents who are aged 55 years or older.⁶⁰

Institutional philanthropy is also considering ways to use capital in a more scalable manner, in the form of low-interest or zero-interest loans that will lower the costs of rebuilding. Philanthropy can blend its concessionary capital with private capital from community development financial institutions (CDFIs) and other banks to lower the interest rates for rebuilding loans. When those

loans are repaid, the capital can be redeployed for additional rebuilding work or other purposes in the form of a revolving loan fund. Alternatively, philanthropic capital can serve as a credit enhancement—for instance, in the form of a guarantee or loan loss reserve fund—that reduces lenders’ risk and thereby lowers the cost of private capital or increases the availability of private capital for rebuilding projects.

In late December, Bank of America announced a commitment of \$10 million in zero-interest loans to three West Coast CDFIs: Clearinghouse CDFI, Genesis LA, and Pacific Community Ventures RESTORE LA Fund. These loans will help the CDFIs acquire and stabilize fire-affected property lots and then redevelop those lots into new, fire-resistant homes that remain affordable for returning or new homeowners. The loans will also support no-fee, low-interest loans to business owners on the road to recovery.⁶¹ (The Milken Institute did not consider any loans in its estimate of the scale of charitable giving commitments.)

The year 2026 will likely see additional commitments that blend philanthropic dollars with other private capital to maximize the usefulness of private dollars in service of long-term resilient reconstruction.

Charitable Responses from the Field

Behind the numbers, the charitable response to the fires demonstrated what is possible when the private sector mobilizes in the face of disaster. In addition to its data analysis, the Milken Institute conducted interviews with nonprofit, philanthropic, business, and government leaders involved in the disaster relief effort to understand how collaborations were formed and determine lessons and expectations for the field as it approached the one-year anniversary of the disasters.

Collaborative Partnerships Lead to Big Bets

The massive scale of the Eaton Fire and Palisades Fire required a collaborative whole-of-society response.

Early on, the overwhelming impact of the fires drew attention to the fragmented public governance system of the Los Angeles region.⁶² The city of Los Angeles is one of merely 88 cities in Los Angeles County, which also contains unincorporated areas that are not part of any municipality, such as the community of Altadena. Los Angeles’ private-sector ecosystem was likewise overloaded by the immediate needs of displaced fire survivors and other affected community members. The existing resources of local corporations and foundations, the networks

and leadership of nonprofits and community-based organizations, and charitable giving from around the world provided an essential starting block from which the sector could spring into action. However, the massive influx of giving also put immense pressure on the region's response ecosystem to efficiently, effectively, and fairly distribute resources.

Working together was essential.

Corporate leaders, such as Raul Anaya at Bank of America and Evan Spiegel at Snap Inc., stepped forward to guide the broader business community through ways to support recovery. Bank of America committed \$3.5 million in philanthropic grants to local nonprofits for recovery and rebuilding needs. It appointed Raul Anaya, its Los Angeles-based president of business banking, to oversee its comprehensive disaster recovery efforts, as well as to lead local convenings of banks, asset managers, developers, and other companies to advise the city of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, county supervisors, and state leaders.⁶³ Evan Spiegel, co-founder and CEO of Snap Inc., co-founded the Department of Angels with Miguel Santana, CEO of the California Community Foundation. This new nonprofit organization is seeded by a \$10 million commitment that is intended to empower and mobilize fire survivors as community leaders, enhance access to information, and advocate for a more effective disaster relief and recovery process.

The LA Wildfires Working Group, formed days after the wildfires broke out, started to align immediate philanthropic giving for rapid response. The working group, ultimately composed of eight philanthropic CEOs and leaders, launched the *By Funders For Funders* newsletter, which continues to be sent weekly to more than 500 interested civic and philanthropic leaders. The working group ultimately informed the development of a more formal civic roundtable, called the Los Angeles Wildfires Civic Leaders Council, to engage the corporate sector. The roundtable and its relevant subcommittees convene business, foundation, and nonprofit leaders to exchange information and collaborate to solve challenges in recovery, such as insurance, rebuilding affordability, and rebuilding finance.

Other collaborations and aligned fundraising efforts were organized by conveners such as the Annenberg Foundation, the Los Angeles County Center for Strategic Partnerships, and Southern California Grantmakers—which served as a fiscal sponsor for Los Angeles County's wildfire recovery funds and coordinates the LA Wildfire Recovery Funders Collaborative.⁶⁴ The Smidt Foundation and Harbor Freight Tools for Schools launched a unique issue-specific multi-funder collaborative titled "Who Will Build?" to align and improve regional workforce development pathways to good construction jobs in the post-fire recovery.

There are many stories of collaborative partnerships that sponsored big bets.

The Department of Angels, a new nonprofit organization launched through a collaboration between Snap Inc. and the California Community Foundation, informs, connects, and organizes communities to support survivor-led recovery in the Pacific Palisades and Altadena.

The Department of Angels was cofounded by Miguel Santana, CEO of the California Community Foundation (CCF), and Evan Spiegel, co-founder and CEO of Snap Inc., in February 2025, and it was seeded by a \$10 million donation by Snap Inc., Spiegel, and Snap Co-Founder Bobby Murphy. According to a "block captain model" honed by organizations such as After the Fire after previous

disasters,⁶⁵ the Department of Angels mobilized and trained community members to serve as sources of empathy and leadership, hubs of information, and advocates to city or county staff and civic leaders. The organization's advocacy and collaboration with other local organizations focuses on creating housing stability for displaced families, increasing the accessibility and affordability of disaster insurance for homeowners, increasing the accessibility of credible environmental testing for homeowners, and supporting rebuilding approaches that mitigate fire risk.⁶⁶

In addition, the Department of Angels runs a quarterly longitudinal survey, the largest of its kind after the disaster, that samples more than 2,000 fire-impacted residents from Altadena, the Pacific Palisades, Malibu, and Pasadena. The results have repeatedly revealed consistent financial strain, declining mental health, and concern about persistent environmental contamination, among other stressors. Yet the surveys have also elevated policy solutions that could ease the financial, insurance, and environmental challenges that residents face.⁶⁷

Corporations and corporate foundations tended to give money to experienced disaster relief organizations, larger established philanthropies, or major recovery funds. Therefore, although the Department of Angels is separate from Snap Inc. and Snap Foundation, Snap's partnership with CCF and its sponsorship of a new nonprofit nonetheless represent an unusually bold recovery step from the corporate sector.

Community Action Project Los Angeles (CAP.LA) connects homeowners and business owners with free soil testing and air quality monitoring, an example of the philanthropic and nonprofit sector serving in roles historically served by government.

After prior California wildfires, such as the 2018 Camp Fire, FEMA performed testing to verify that soil at burned properties did not contain concentrations of toxic chemicals—such as lead and arsenic—that exceeded state public health standards. However, after the fires, FEMA declined to perform soil testing and instead ordered soil removal from burned properties without subsequent confirmation testing; the agency stated that contaminants harbored deeper than three to six inches under the soil are attributable to preexisting pollution.⁶⁸ These federal policy changes paved the way for accelerated debris removal but left homeowners worried about the safety of returning to their ravaged lots. Indeed, testing by other sources found that 20–27 percent of cleared lots still contained unsafe levels of lead in soil.⁶⁹ Yet the thousands of dollars required to perform soil testing, to say nothing of the costs of detected contaminant remediation, are yet another challenging expense for returning homeowners already facing the considerable costs of ground-up reconstruction.

In response, the R&S Kayne Foundation funded and stood up CAP.LA. Powered by researchers from Loyola Marymount University, UCLA, and Purdue University, the program offers free soil and water testing to detect wildfire-related pollutants in survivors' gardens, pools, and yards and delivers fast results. The CAP.LA platform also maps results at the neighborhood level, while keeping exact addresses private, to educate the public and support additional research and advocacy.⁷⁰ CAP.LA and its partners also host CONSORTIUM, a collaboration of interdisciplinary teams with tools and resources made available to residents to support remediation.

Steadfast LA uses the power of public–private partnerships to rebuild major public infrastructure.

Steadfast LA, launched by local businessman Rick Caruso, is a nonprofit organization supported by a coalition of private-sector leaders to accelerate recovery efforts through public–private partnerships and privately led pilots, with an emphasis on cutting through red tape. Its commitment to rebuild the Palisades Park and Recreation Center is part of a proposed public–private partnership with the city of Los Angeles and LA Strong Sports, with the support of local organizations including the Pali Community Center Committee, the LA Parks Foundation, and Pali 4 Pali. This initiative will fund, redesign, and rebuild the center using private dollars.⁷¹

Multiple other initiatives also emerged from Steadfast LA, including a modular housing rebuilding program, a small business grantmaking initiative, and a community-based urban design effort in Altadena. Steadfast LA leaders also helped launch the Builders Alliance LA, a coalition of homebuilders that leverages their combined experience, scale, buying power and supply chain networks, and technology to help people affected by the fires access resources faster and more affordably. Builders Alliance LA was formed as a part of a broader early-phase recovery effort led by local civic and industry leaders in partnership with Urban Land Institute, UCLA, and the University of Southern California. Steadfast LA also sponsored an AI-powered permitting platform ultimately embraced by the city and county to accelerate the plan check process.

The Region’s Entertainment Sector Played a Large Role in Disaster Relief

Los Angeles has long been a capital of sports and entertainment, and these sectors sprang into action and generated millions of dollars of charitable giving, often through creative means and events.

MusiCares, founded by the Recording Academy, is a nonprofit that provides music industry professionals with a safety net of preventive, emergency, and recovery health and welfare programs. During GRAMMY weekend in February 2025, MusiCares and the Recording Academy raised \$16 million to support fire relief efforts. During the GRAMMY telecast alone, viewers donated nearly \$10 million.⁷² Event programming featured rebuilding efforts, and commercial breaks featured local small businesses. Stevie Wonder performed alongside a choir of students from Pasadena High School and Pasadena Waldorf School—both severely damaged by the wildfires.⁷³

The SoCal Fire Fund, led by the CAA Foundation (affiliated with Creative Artists Agency), Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE), and the Los Angeles Unified School District Education Foundation, and administered by the Entertainment Industry Foundation, raised \$5.9 million by the end of February 2025.⁷⁴ By September, the fund deployed more than \$4 million in direct cash assistance as well as essential resources to students, school employees, and families by leveraging CORE’s experience in disaster relief as an international humanitarian organization.⁷⁵

The Walt Disney Company, headquartered in Burbank in Los Angeles County, was one of the first companies to announce support of the recovery effort with a commitment of \$15 million. Up to \$10 million in charitable giving went to established disaster relief organizations, such as the American Red Cross, and local disaster recovery funds, such as the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.⁷⁶ Disney remained actively engaged in the rebuilding efforts and in November 2025 announced \$5 million to support the reopening of Altadena’s Charles White Park, which was destroyed by the Eaton Fire. The new park, designed by Disney’s professional Imagineers, will include water features, play areas for children, and gathering places for performances and events.⁷⁷

Other big corporate entertainment names with a presence in Los Angeles also committed millions of dollars to disaster relief and recovery, including Comcast NBCUniversal (\$10 million),⁷⁸ Netflix (\$10 million),⁷⁹ Sony Group (\$5 million),⁸⁰ Warner Bros. Discovery (\$15 million),⁸¹ and YouTube (Google/Alphabet) (\$15 million).⁸²

Twelve professional sports teams based in Los Angeles and Orange counties, including the Los Angeles Dodgers, comprise **The Alliance**, which pledged \$8 million to multiple nonprofits and funds, including the American Red Cross, the California Fire Foundation, the Los Angeles Fire Foundation, and the Eaton Canyon Fire Relief & Recovery Fund. The Alliance partnered with Fanatics to donate and distribute more than 75,000 items, including sports apparel, shoes, school supplies, and essentials to families affected by the fires.⁸³

The teams are as follows:

- Dodgers (MLB)
- Angels (MLB)
- Lakers (NBA)
- Clippers (NBA)
- Sparks (WNBA)
- Rams (NFL)
- Chargers (NFL)
- Kings (NHL)
- Anaheim Ducks (NHL)
- LAFC (MLS)
- LA Galaxy (MLS)
- Angel City FC (NWSL)

Dodgers Chairman Mark Walter, Magic Johnson, and Casey Wasserman, Los Angeles 2028 Olympics chairman and president, are also leading **LA Rises**, a private sector–led initiative to augment state and local resources to support recovery efforts. The Mark Walter Family Foundation and the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation made an initial commitment of up to \$100 million to fund the philanthropic effort.⁸⁴

The Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation (LADF), separately, led multiple initiatives to support recovery efforts. The organization developed two new Dodgers Dreamfields at Loma Alta Park in Altadena in partnership with the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, including a \$400,000 investment for two fields.⁸⁵ LADF and longtime partner Shoes That Fit distributed 500 pairs of new athletic shoes in May 2025 to students and staff at Webster Elementary, a school impacted by the Eaton Fire. LADF also hosted a Dodger Day, a community resource fair that connected families from Pasadena and Altadena to health screenings, hygiene supplies, educational support, food, and other essential resources.⁸⁶

Conclusion:

Lessons from 2025 and Expectations for 2026

Charitable gap-filling is laudable and record-breaking in scale, yet it remains insufficient and unsustainable.

Although the close to \$1 billion in charitable giving broke records and delivered vital disaster relief, the availability of charitable resources pales in comparison to unmet need: a multibillion-dollar under-insurance gap facing homeowners, a multibillion-dollar rebuild, and broader economic and fiscal impacts to the region.

Limited philanthropic resources have attempted to fill gaps left by government. For example, CAP. LA—funded by R&S Kayne Foundation with supplemental investment by others—is performing much-desired environmental testing and risk communication that survivors might have otherwise expected from FEMA and USACE. However, private generosity cannot permanently backfill federal functions such as soil testing and intensive case management.

Charitable giving now navigates a precarious shift from the short to the long term. Institutional giving is poised to invest in long-term recovery and rebuilding, yet direct giving platforms must continue to play a role in helping survivors who still need cash assistance today.

Massive early crowdfunding rightfully focused on disaster relief and near-term survivor stabilization. Crowdfunding and direct giving delivered hundreds of millions in cash assistance at a high speed with relatively flexible requirements via global platforms such as GiveDirectly and GoFundMe. The Change Reaction, a local giving platform whose Wildfire Direct Giving Fund was capitalized by an initial \$10 million from the Perlman Family, delivered millions of dollars in cash to fire survivors using a network of social workers and community leaders.⁸⁷

However, over the year, as crowdfunding has ebbed and institutional giving has shifted toward longer-term recovery, giving has increasingly focused on strategic, pilot-oriented, or “leveraged” uses. These approaches will deploy philanthropic resources in ways designed to drive greater amounts of private capital into housing rebuilding pilots.

Yet, according to Department of Angels surveys, survivors consistently report that at least nine months after the fires, direct and flexible cash remains essential. The looming expiration of temporary insurance payouts for rental assistance and 12-month mortgage forbearance means that many survivors who are already facing overwhelming financial challenges will experience an even greater “liquidity crunch.”⁸⁸ Crowdfunding and direct giving platforms such as GiveDirectly, GoFundMe, and The Change Reaction—if equipped with the funding—can play a vital role in helping individuals and families weather financial challenges in the months ahead. The anniversary of the wildfires is a chance to rekindle public attention on these platforms.

A fragmented private sector ultimately aligned into focused collaboration. Some leaders now seek a shared framework to guide future crisis response.

Many leaders interviewed by the Milken Institute observed that the region’s collaboration to support vulnerable individuals, families, workers, and business owners during the COVID-19 pandemic—although not at all comparable to fire disasters—provided crucial training in the kind of nimble and creative collaboration required to respond to a natural disaster. After the fires, interventions such as the private-sector coalition powering the LA Wildfires Civic Leaders Council, Steadfast LA, the Department of Angels, and the academic-philanthropic partnership behind CAP. LA demonstrate the impact of collaboration. However, at a regional scale, the level of collaboration that leaders achieved remains informal. Some leaders interviewed observed that the region needs a more formalized or institutionalized approach to organizing cross-sector crisis response, given the potential for additional disasters and crises to occur in the future.

The region will see philanthropy and the business community continue to innovate with respect to housing and business reconstruction finance.

Habitat for Humanity and other organizations are rebuilding homes in the burn areas,⁸⁹ leveraging grants and zero-interest loans to do so on a pilot basis. As regional philanthropy turns to long-term rebuilding, the region will begin to see more pilot rebuilding efforts that blend philanthropic capital with other private funding to stretch the impact of charitable resources and build more homes. Bank of America announced \$10 million in zero-interest loans to three CDFIs to jumpstart affordable home and business rebuilding.⁹⁰ The Resiliency Company, a nonprofit founded before the wildfires, is fundraising for the Resilient LA Delta Fund, which will provide low-interest loans to homeowners that help them afford the cost of the “delta” between a rebuild that is code-compliant and a rebuild that meets IBHS Wildfire Prepared Plus standards.⁹¹

The *Think Big and Act Boldly* report by Climate Resolve and Resilient Cities Catalyst, sponsored by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, identifies the LA Delta Fund and three other investment opportunities for philanthropy seeking to capitalize long-term rebuilding and resilience efforts in 2026.⁹² The year to come will likely usher in the expansion of tools such as program-related investment in the form of zero-interest and low-interest/concessionary loans, forgivable loans, and credit enhancements from philanthropy that can later be scaled with public money.

Appendix

Charitable Giving Estimates: Methodologies, Sources, and Limitations

Verifiability: The Milken Institute relied on publicly reported information on charitable giving for LA Fires recovery, including public announcements and press releases, news coverage, and limited reporting via third-party data providers such as Candid. In cases where the Milken Institute held off-the-record conversations with charitable giving institutions or other stakeholders that revealed higher totals than those published, the Milken Institute still relied on lower publicly announced data.

Charitable giving for 2025 will be impossible to verify until organizations file their tax Form 990s, which will become available in 2027.

Disbursement: This analysis reflects announced commitments rather than grantmaking or disbursal of funding. Information on the timing and actual disbursement of funds was not consistently available at the time of writing. Some amount of charitable giving considered in this analysis has not been fully disbursed.

Data quality: The inconsistent availability and quality of public data led to significant undercounting of total possible charitable giving committed in 2025. When estimating charitable giving under Methodology #2, which braided large recovery funds with other nonduplicative, discrete donations, the Milken Institute attempted to minimize the possibility of double-counting donations, as described below.

- **Recovery funds: \$524+ million.** The Milken Institute identified 33 recovery funds and fundraising efforts that drew in a variety of donations and distributed those dollars directly to nonprofit organizations, individuals, families, or businesses.
- **Limitations:**
 - The Milken Institute was able to identify public fundraising disclosures of 21 of the 33 identified funds. For those funds for which the Milken Institute could not identify fundraising announcements, we instead summed discrete announced donations to those funds under “Additional Institutional Giving.” For instance, the American Red Cross has not announced total funds raised in 2025 for California Wildfire Relief as of the time of writing, but the Milken Institute was able to verify at least \$26.3 million in donations to American Red Cross LA wildfire relief based on philanthropic announcements and specific donor mentions on the American Red Cross’s fundraising page, excluding existing annual donors. This significant undercount omits non-public institutional donations and individual giving to the American Red Cross, which is likely significant.

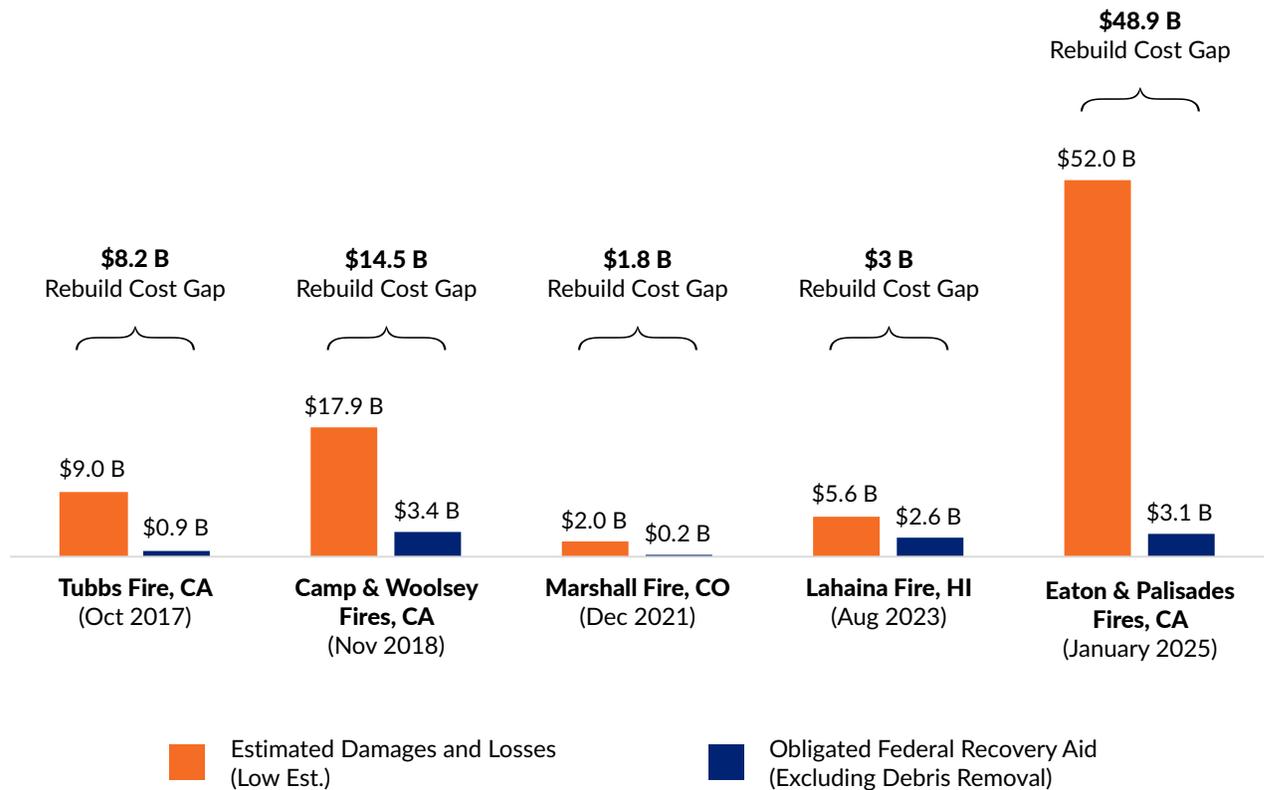
- Of the 21 funds that publicly reported fundraising at any time during 2025, many funds reported immediate fundraising efforts in January or February, and some provided midyear updates. However, most funds continued to raise money throughout 2025. Therefore, reliance on dated announcements leads to a significant undercount of public fundraising. We expect that funds and other institutions will redouble fundraising efforts during the January 2026 anniversary of the wildfires and publish updated total fundraising as part of annual reports or anniversary updates in 2026.
- **Additional institutional giving: \$176+ million.** Of the 993 publicly announced donations sampled, the Milken Institute identified 500 discrete donations from institutions that bypassed the 21 funds identified above and went directly to nonprofits and community-based organizations, individuals and families, and businesses. Of these discrete donations, 215 (nearly 43 percent) included publicly announced dollar amounts.
 - **Limitations:** In cases where an institution announced a large bulk donation to multiple institutions but did not disclose specific allocations, the Milken Institute made different assumptions to avoid double-counting.
 - If the donation went to named recipients that did *not* include the funds counted above, we counted the entire donation; double-counting was not a risk.
 - If the bulk donation went to a combination of recovery funds counted above and other organizations not counted above, the Milken Institute excluded the entire donation from the analysis. For example, the Wells Fargo Foundation committed \$5 million of charitable giving to five funds counted above and one other recipient not counted above; the Milken Institute completely excluded this commitment to avoid double-counting.
 - If an institution announced a large bulk donation but did not specify any recipients, the Milken Institute excluded the donation. For instance, Warner Bros. Discovery committed \$15 million of charitable giving and Sony Group \$5 million to LA Fires relief; neither disclosed recipients. Because there is a strong possibility that these institutions donated at least some of this money to the funds counted above, the Milken Institute excluded these donations to avoid double-counting.

As a result of these limitations, “additional institutional giving” undercounts possible commitments in 2025.

- **Charitable crowdfunding: \$272+ million.** Charitable crowdfunding platforms such as GiveDirectly and GoFundMe exceeded \$272 million and delivered money directly to individuals and families, workers, business owners, and community-based organizations. This category does not account for individual donations that supported recovery funds or went to nonprofit organizations through direct giving channels.

Comparative Federal Response Analysis: Methodology, Sources, and Limitations

Figure 6: Estimated Damages and Losses and Obligated Federal Aid After Selected Fires (\$2025)



Sources: Fire damage estimates reported by the National Fire Protection Association (2025), Denver Post (2022), the County of Maui (2023), LAEDC (2025), and UCLA (2025). Obligated federal recovery aid reported by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Disaster Dollar Database (2025) and FEMA (2025).

Methodology and Sources

In Figure 6, dollar amounts are expressed in 2025 dollars according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index.

Damage estimates focus on property and capital losses and exclude economic and fiscal impacts and other impacts. Estimates are generally conservative, taking the lower end of published totals when there is a range of published figures. Analysis excludes insurance proceeds or legal settlement proceeds, when applicable.

- **The Tubbs Fire** damage estimate uses a CoreLogic estimate of \$7 billion.⁹³ However, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimated \$8.7 billion in losses.⁹⁴
- **The Camp Fire** damage estimate uses an NFPA estimate of \$10 billion.⁹⁵ However, the National Low-Income Housing Coalition and other sources have reported up to \$16.5 billion in damages.⁹⁶
- **The Woolsey Fire** damage estimate uses an NFPA estimate of \$4.2 billion.⁹⁷ However, CoreLogic estimated up to \$6 billion in commercial and residential losses.⁹⁸
- **The Marshall Fire** damage estimate cites reporting from *The Denver Post*.⁹⁹
- **The Lahaina Fire** damage estimate cites the County of Maui.¹⁰⁰
- **The Eaton and Palisades fires** damage estimate takes the average of the lower end of estimates published by LAEDC (\$28 billion–\$54 billion) and UCLA (\$76 billion–\$131 billion) to reach \$52 billion.

Federal obligations are sourced from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Disaster Dollar Database,¹⁰¹ with some exceptions (Table 5).

- Obligations exclude the costs of debris removal.
- Obligations include FEMA Individuals and Households Program (IHP) and Public Assistance Program (PA), SBA-approved loans, and obligated HUD Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds (applicable to all disasters except the LA Fires).
- Analysis inflated FEMA and SBA obligations to 2025 dollars as if they occurred at the same time as the disaster. However, HUD CDBG-DR funding is often appropriated months or years after a disaster. Therefore, analysis of CDBG-DR funds used the date of the first *Federal Register* notice committing CDBG-DR funding to the disaster and inflated the funds to 2025 dollars from that date.
- In 2020, the Carnegie Endowment’s records assumed equal apportionment of \$1.0 billion in CDBG-DR funds to the Camp and Woolsey fires (DR-4407) and the Carr Fire (DR-4382). However, the California Department of Housing and Community Development’s 2018 CDBG-DR Action Plan refines the split, allocating \$525.6 million to the Camp and Woolsey fires.¹⁰² An additional \$64.9 million obligated in 2021 is also allocated equally by the Carnegie Endowment; our analysis did not adjust this second allocation.
- For the Eaton and Palisades fires, FEMA data come from the Carnegie Endowment; Carnegie Endowment figures for FEMA IHP are corroborated by FEMA for the LA Fires. FEMA also confirmed \$2.9 billion in SBA-approved disaster loans for businesses, nonprofits, and homeowners affected by the fires,¹⁰³ which were not yet reflected in Carnegie Endowment database records at the time of writing.

Table 5: Federal Disaster Recovery Obligations (Excluding Debris Removal) (\$2025)

Fire Disaster(s)	FEMA IHP and PA Obligation	SBA-Approved Loans	HUD CDBG-DR Obligations	Total
Tubbs Fire, CA (Oct 2017)	\$506,127,279	\$32,946,700	\$157,771,863	\$696,845,842
Camp and Woolsey fires, CA (Nov 2018)	\$2,084,129,637	\$66,086,980	\$686,384,895	\$2,836,601,512
Marshall Fire, CO (Dec 2021)	\$47,578,460	\$107,646,100	\$13,364,490	\$168,589,050
Lahaina Fire, HI (Aug 2023)	\$777,836,911	\$139,000,000	\$1,639,381,000	\$2,556,217,911
Eaton and Palisades fires, CA (Jan 2025)	\$194,566,130	\$2,900,000,000	N/A	\$3,094,566,130

Sources: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Disaster Dollar Database (2025), FEMA (2025)

Limitations

Looking solely at rebuild costs versus obligated federal aid from FEMA, SBA, and HUD leaves out key variables, such as levels of insurance, the role of legal settlements, and regional variation in rebuilding costs and property values. Further analysis should account for the variation in per-structure rebuilding costs, based on local real estate market and construction-sector conditions, as well as the extent to which insurance proceeds (still emerging in the case of LA) and legal settlements close the rebuild cost gap.

Endnotes

1. "Wildland Fire Statistics," National Fire Protection Association, March 2024, <https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/research/nfpa-research/fire-statistical-reports/wildland-fire-statistics>.
2. Steve Lopez, "L.A.'s Double Disaster Left Thousands of Scars, and the Healing Will Take Years," *Los Angeles Times*, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://www.latimes.com/after-the-fires>.
3. Harriet Ryan, "Donations Topped \$650 Million, and the Question Looms: How to Best Use It for Fire Recovery?" *Los Angeles Times*, February 9, 2025, <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-02-09/with-fire-relief-donations-topping-650-million-charities-strategize-their-role-in-recovery>.
4. "Project Updates," Fundraising Effectiveness Project, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://fepreports.org/>.
5. "2025: Year in Help," GoFundMe, December 31, 2025, <https://www.gofundme.com/c/gofundme-2025-year-in-help>.
6. Josh Haskell, "Gov. Newsom Urges Trump to Act on \$33.9B Disaster Aid Request for California Wildfire Victims," abc7, December 12, 2025, <https://abc7.com/post/gov-gavin-newsom-urges-president-donald-trump-act-339b-disaster-aid-request-victims-california-wildfires/18277590/>; *Impact of the 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires and Comparative Study* (Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation Institute for Applied Economics, February 2025), laedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/LAEDC_2025-LA-Wildfires-Study_final2.pdf; Zhiyun Li and William Yu, "Economic Impact of the Los Angeles Wildfires," UCLA Anderson School of Management, March 3, 2025, <https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/about/centers/ucla-anderson-forecast/economic-impact-los-angeles-wildfires>.
7. Tracey Leong, "Habitat for Humanity Begins Construction on Its First Eaton Fire Home Rebuild," NBC4 Los Angeles, updated October 16, 2025, <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/california-wildfires/eaton-fire-rebuild-altadena-wildfires/3792287/>.
8. Luke Montague, "Op-Ed: The LA Wildfires—Is Soil Testing Being Overlooked in Hazardous Debris Removal?" *California City News*, accessed January 9, 2026, <https://californiacitynews.org/2025/06/op-ed-la-wildfires-soil-testing-being-overlooked-hazardous-debris-removal.html>; Joseph G. Allen, Parham Azimi, et al., "Post-Fire Soil Hazards: Recommendations for Updated Soil Testing Protocols and Clearance Thresholds," *Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology* 35 (August 8, 2025): 883–887, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41370-025-00796-w>.

9. "Think Big and Act Boldly," Climate Resolve & Resilient Cities Catalyst, December 18, 2025, <https://climateresolve.org/think-big-and-act-boldly/>; "The Resilient LA Delta Fund," The Resiliency Company, accessed December 22, 2025, <https://www.resilientlosangeles.com/fund>.
10. "‘This Is Bigger. This Is Systemic.’ What 2,335 Fire Survivors Told Us Nine Months After the Fires," Department of Angels, October 15, 2025, <https://www.deptofangels.org/news/this-is-bigger-this-is-systemic-what-2335-fire-survivors-told-us-nine-months-after-the-fires>; Raul Anaya, "The Coming Financial Cliff for LA Fire Survivors: Avoiding the Liquidity Crunch," *Los Angeles Times*, December 11, 2025, <https://www.latimes.com/wildfire-recovery/shelter-housing/story/2025-12-11/la-wildfire-recovery-liquidity-crunch-housing-cliff>.
11. "Wildland Fire Statistics."
12. "LA's Double Disaster Left Thousands of Scars, and the Healing Will Take Years."
13. This report acknowledges but does not discuss the experiences of Eaton and Palisades fire survivors. Coverage of fire survivors and fire-affected peoples' emerging needs is available from nonprofits such as the Department of Angels, via its quarterly survivor surveys, the Eaton Fire Collaborative in Altadena, and other organizations active after the disasters in Altadena, the Pacific Palisades, and Malibu.
14. "Donations Topped \$650 Million, and the Question Looms."
15. "Maui Fires Money Tracker," Honolulu Civil Beat, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://www.civilbeat.org/data/maui-fires-money-tracker/>; Tanya Gulliver-Garcia, "Lessons from the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season: What Philanthropy Can Do Better," *Candid*, December 16, 2024, <https://candid.org/blogs/2024-atlantic-hurricane-season-relief-philanthropy/>.
16. "Gov. Newsom Urges Trump to Act on \$33.9B Disaster Aid Request for California Wildfire Victims"; "Los Angeles County Wildfire Recovery Continues with Over \$3 Billion in Federal Support," NR 045, Federal Emergency Management Agency, June 6, 2025, <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20250606/los-angeles-county-wildfire-recovery-continues-over-3-billion-federal>.
17. Stephen Baack, "USACE Marks Final Debris Removal Property in Pacific Palisades Fire Recovery," US Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, September 5, 2025, <https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Media/News-Stories/Article/4295600/usace-marks-final-debris-removal-property-in-pacific-palisades-fire-recovery/>.
18. Sophie Austin, "California Will Spend \$2.5 Billion to Help the Los Angeles Area Recover from Wildfires," *Associated Press*, January 23, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/california-fire-relief-newsom-la-special-session-ab1e62d70198b5a7086e77932da93be9>.
19. Andrew J. Starrels, Letitia D. Moore, et al., "Orders Addressing Rebuilding After Southern California Fires," *Holland & Knight*, January 27, 2025, <https://www.hklaw.com/en/insights/publications/2025/01/orders-addressing-rebuilding-after-southern-california-fires>.

20. "Mayor Bass Updates Emergency Executive Order 1 to Clear Bureaucratic Barriers, Continue Speeding Up the Rebuild," City of Los Angeles, March 18, 2025, <https://mayor.lacity.gov/news/mayor-bass-updates-emergency-executive-order-1-clear-bureaucratic-barriers-continue-speeding>.
21. *Impact of the 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires and Comparative Study*, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation Institute for Applied Economics.
22. "Economic Impact of the Los Angeles Wildfires."
23. "Gov. Newsom Urges Trump to Act on \$33.9B Disaster Aid Request for California Wildfire Victims."
24. Justin Worland, "Amid the Ashes," *Time*, November 20, 2025, <https://time.com/7335166/la-wildfire-recovery-climate-warning/>.
25. Thomas Frank, "FEMA Canceled \$11B in Disaster Payments to States," *E&E News by Politico*, October 7, 2025, <https://www.eenews.net/articles/fema-canceled-11b-in-disaster-payments-to-states/>.
26. "Wildfire Recovery Fund," California Community Foundation, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://www.calfund.org/funds/wildfire-recovery-fund/>.
27. *Progress Report* (FireAid, September 2025), https://www.fireaidla.org/assets/press-releases/pdfs/fireaid_progress_report.pdf.
28. *Resilience: Six-Month Impact Report: Eaton Fire Relief & Recovery Fund: Pasadena, Altadena, Sierra Madre*, (Pasadena Community Foundation, July 7, 2025), <https://pasadenacf.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/PCF-201.pdf>.
29. David Wharton, "LA Wildfires Shine Spotlight on Obscure Firefighting Charity," *Los Angeles Times*, January 20, 2025, <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-01-20/wildfires-shine-spotlight-on-obscure-firefighting-charity>.
30. "California Fire Foundation Raises over \$20M for Los Angeles Wildfire Relief, Including \$5M from California Rises Initiatives, Distributes over 7,000 SAVE Cards, and Allocates Multi-Year Grant Cycle Funding," California Fire Foundation, March 12, 2025, <https://www.cafirefoundation.org/news/press-releases/california-fire-foundation-raises-over-20m-for-los-angeles-wildfire-relief-including-5m-from-california-rises-initiatives-distributes-over-7000-save-cards-and-allocates-multi-year-grant-cycle-funding>.
31. "Fundraising Effectiveness Project."
32. "Generosity and Civic Intent in Early 2025," Giving Tuesday, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://www.givingpulse.givingtuesday.org/>.
33. "2025: Year in Help."

34. "LA Arts Community Fire Relief Fund," The J. Paul Getty Trust, accessed January 8, 2026, <https://www.getty.edu/about/development/LAArtsReliefFund2025.html>.
35. "Wildfire Recovery Fund Donors," California Community Foundation, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://www.calfund.org/wp-content/uploads/Wildfire-Recovery-Fund-Contributors-2025-rev13.pdf>.
36. Ken Bensinger and Jeremy Singer-Vine, "How GoFundMe Became a \$250 Million Lifeline After the LA Fires," *The New York Times*, February 9, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/09/business/media/la-fires-gofundme.html>.
37. "How GoFundMe Became a \$250 Million Lifeline After the LA Fires."
38. Jonah Valdez, "Which LA Fire Victims Get Money on GoFundMe—And Who Gets Left Out," *The Intercept*, January 24, 2025, <https://theintercept.com/2025/01/24/gofundme-la-eaton-fire-altadena-disaster-crowdfunding/>.
39. Sean Beckner-Carmitchel and Mel Buer, "In LA's Darkest Moment, the Light of Tireless Angelenos Providing Aid, Food Shines Bright," *CalMatters*, January 14, 2025, <https://calmatters.org/commentary/2025/01/los-angeles-fire-mutual-aid/>.
40. "2024 State of Disaster Philanthropy," Center for Disaster Philanthropy, accessed January 8, 2026, <https://disasterphilanthropy.org/cdp-resource/measuring-the-state-of-disaster-philanthropy-2024/>.
41. "About Us: Our Mission," Team Rubicon, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://teamrubiconusa.org/about-us/>.
42. Julie Case, "Team Rubicon Activates Emergency Operations Center for California Wildfires Response," Team Rubicon, January 9, 2025, <https://teamrubiconusa.org/news-and-stories/team-rubicon-activates-eoc-for-la-wildfires-response/>.
43. "About Us," 211LA, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://211la.org/about-211-la>; "211 LA Wildfire Response: Communities in Recovery," 211LA Wildfire Response, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://211la.org/211-la-wildfire-response>.
44. Rachel M. Adams, Michael L. Prelip, et al., "Facilitating Partnerships with Community- and Faith-Based Organizations for Disaster Preparedness and Response: Results of a National Survey of Public Health Departments," *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness* 12, no. 1 (July 24, 2017): 57–66, <https://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2017.36>; Alina Engelman, Mariana T. Guzzardo, et al., "Assessing the Emergency Response Role of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) Serving People with Disabilities and Older Adults in Puerto Rico Post-Hurricane María and During the COVID-19 Pandemic," *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 19, no. 4 (February 14, 2022): 2156, <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19042156>; Brenda Phillips and Pamela Jenkins, "The Roles of

Faith-Based Organizations After Hurricane Katrina,” in *Helping Families and Communities Recover from Disaster: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina and Its Aftermath*, ed. R. P. Kilmer et al. (Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2010), 215–238, <https://doi.org/10.1037/12054-009>.

45. *LA Wildfire Recovery Needs Assessment, Spring 2025* (California Community Foundation, June 2025), https://www.calfund.org/wp-content/uploads/Wildfire-Recovery-Needs-Assessment-Summary-CCF-6.8.25_v2-rev.pdf.
46. *Recovery Needs Assessment: Relief, Recovery & Rebuilding* (California Community Foundation, June 2025), [LA-Wildfires-Recovery-Needs-Assessment-Spring-2025-Findings-Overview-Website-final.pdf](https://www.calfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/LA-Wildfires-Recovery-Needs-Assessment-Spring-2025-Findings-Overview-Website-final.pdf).
47. “Altadena Eaton Fire Emergency Relief Fund,” Los Angeles Boys & Girls Club, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://www.labgc.org/fire-relief/>; “Equip Us to Power Recovery for Kids and Community,” Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://www.smbgc.org/recovery/>.
48. Noah Smith, “Boys and Girls Club of Malibu Filling Gaps in Fire Recovery,” Direct Relief, June 12, 2025, <https://www.directrelief.org/2025/06/from-after-school-to-aftermath-malibu-boys-and-girls-club-filling-gaps-in-fire-recovery/>.
49. *LA Strong: Wildfire Recovery Fund Grantee List by Category* (California Community Foundation, January 17, 2025), <https://www.calfund.org/wp-content/uploads/GranteeList-Combined-CCF.pdf>.
50. “Reimagining a Resilient Palisades,” Resilient Palisades, updated April 18, 2025, <https://www.resilientpalisades.org/guiding-principles-for-rebuilding>.
51. “Long-Term Recovery Groups,” Center for Disaster Philanthropy, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://disasterphilanthropy.org/cdp-resource/long-term-recovery-groups/>.
52. “Eaton Fire Collaborative,” Eaton Fire Collaborative, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://www.eatonfirecollaborative.org/>.
53. August Brown, “Still Having Home Insurance Problems? Need Mental Health Services? This Altadena Group Wants to Help,” *Los Angeles Times*, December 10, 2025, <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-12-10/the-collaboratory-altadena-fire-victims-one-stop-resource>.
54. “Home Page,” Eaton Fire Survivors Network, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://www.efsurvivors.net/>.
55. Libby Rainey, “No Home, Drained Savings, Lost Business—Some Eaton Fire Survivors Look for Lifelines,” *LAist*, updated December 18, 2025, <https://laist.com/news/housing-homelessness/eaton-fire-survivors-look-for-lifelines>.

56. *National Disaster Recovery Framework* (Federal Emergency Management Agency, December 10, 2024), <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/frameworks/recovery>.
57. "2024 State of Disaster Philanthropy."
58. "PCF Announces the Altadena Builds Back Foundation," Pasadena Community Foundation, April 2, 2025, <https://pasadenacf.org/news/pcf-announces-the-altadena-builds-back-foundation/>.
59. "Habitat for Humanity Begins Altadena Rebuild," Pasadena Community Foundation, October 17, 2025, <https://pasadenacf.org/news/habitat-for-humanity-altadena-rebuild/>.
60. "Building an Affordable Future for Altadena Together," Pasadena Community Foundation, November 19, 2025, <https://pasadenacf.org/news/building-an-affordable-future-for-altadena-together/>.
61. "BofA Commits \$10 Million in Capital for Residents and Small Businesses Impacted by LA Wildfires," Bank of America, December 22, 2025, <https://newsroom.bankofamerica.com/content/newsroom/press-releases/2025/12/bofa-commits--10-million-in-capital-for-residents-and-small-busi.html>.
62. Adam Nagourney, "The LA Fires Expose a Web of Governments, Weak by Design," *The New York Times*, January 19, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/19/us/wildfires-los-angeles-governance.html>.
63. Brian W. Carter, "Bank of America's Raul Anaya Is Helping Rebuild, Recover and Relieve," *LA Sentinel*, March 26, 2025, <https://lasentinel.net/bank-of-americas-raul-anaya-is-helping-rebuild-recover-and-relieve.html>.
64. Lily Bui and Jacqueline Chun, "LA Wildfire Recovery Funders Collaborative," SoCal Grantmakers, accessed December 24, 2025, <https://socialgrantmakers.org/partnerships/la-wildfire-recovery-funders-collaborative>.
65. "How to Organize the Local Recovery with Block Captains/Zone Captains," *After the Fire*, January 2025, https://afterthefireusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/ATF-USA-Block-_-Zone-Captain-Handout.pdf.
66. "Who We Are," Department of Angels, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://www.deptofangels.org/about>.
67. "'This Is Bigger. This Is Systemic.' What 2,335 Fire Survivors Told Us Nine Months After the Fires."
68. "Op-Ed: The LA Wildfires—Is Soil Testing Being Overlooked in Hazardous Debris Removal?"
69. "Post-Fire Soil Hazards: Recommendations for Updated Soil Testing Protocols and Clearance Thresholds."

70. "Community Action Project Los Angeles," CAP.LA, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://www.cap.la/>.
71. "The Palisades Rec Center Is Coming Back!" Steadfast LA, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://www.steadfastla.com/pali-rec-center>.
72. Taylor Weatherby, "GRAMMY Viewers Contributed \$10 Million to LA Fire Relief: Here's How It Will Help," The Recording Academy, May 2, 2025, <https://www.grammy.com/news/recording-academy-musicares-la-fire-relief-aid-distribution>.
73. "67th Annual GRAMMY Awards Mobilize Music Community to Aid Los Angeles Wildfire Relief Efforts and Honor Heroic First Responders," The Recording Academy, February 2, 2025, <https://www.recordingacademy.com/press-releases/67th-grammy-awards-mobilize-music-community-aid-la-wildfire-relief>.
74. Katcy Stephan, "SoCal Fire Fund Raises Over \$5.9 Million for Those Impacted by Southern California Wildfires," *Variety*, February 26, 2025, <https://variety.com/2025/biz/news/socal-fire-fund-5-9-million-1236321680/>.
75. *SoCal Fire Fund Progress Report* (SoCal Fire Fund, September 2025), <https://www.eifoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/SCFF-Progress-Report-September-2025-2.pdf>.
76. "Disney Comes Together to Support Los Angeles Fire Relief Efforts," The Walt Disney Company, February 4, 2025, <https://impact.disney.com/impact-stories/community-giving/disney-comes-together-to-support-los-angeles-fire-relief-efforts/>.
77. "Disney and Its Imagineers Harness Creative Power to Reimagine Community Spaces as Los Angeles Continues to Rebuild from Wildfires," The Walt Disney Company, November 17, 2025, <https://thewaltdisneycompany.com/imagineers-altadena-wildfires-rebuilding/>.
78. "Comcast NBCUniversal Donates \$10 Million to Support Los Angeles Wildfire Relief Efforts," Comcast NBCUniversal, January 13, 2025, <https://corporate.comcast.com/press/releases/comcast-nbcuniversal-donates-10-million-to-support-los-angeles-wildfire-relief-efforts>.
79. Ted Sarandos, "Supporting Our Community in This Difficult Time," Netflix, January 13, 2025, <https://about.netflix.com/en/news/supporting-our-community-in-this-difficult-time>.
80. "Sony Group Announces \$5 Million Donation to Support Southern California Wildfire Emergency Relief and Rebuilding Efforts," Sony Group Corporation, January 14, 2025, <https://www.sony.com/en/SonyInfo/News/Press/202501/25-003E/>.
81. Matt Grobar, "Warner Bros Supporting Efforts to Combat and Rebuild from LA Fires with \$15 Million Donation," *Deadline*, January 13, 2025, <https://deadline.com/2025/01/warner-bros-donates-15-million-la-wildfire-relief-1236256047/>.
82. "YouTube and Google Are Donating \$15 Million Toward Los Angeles Wildfire Relief," Google, January 15, 2025, <https://blog.google/feed/youtube-california-wildfire-relief/>.

83. "Relief Efforts," Los Angeles Dodgers, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://www.mlb.com/dodgers/community/relief>.
84. "Governor Newsom Announces LA Rises, a Private-Sector Initiative led by Mark Walter, Earvin 'Magic' Johnson and Casey Wasserman, to Support Swift and Unified Rebuilding of Los Angeles," California Governor's Office, January 28, 2025, <http://gov.ca.gov/2025/01/28/la-rises/>.
85. Erin Edwards, "A Home Run for Altadena: Dodgers Dreamfields to Bring Hope and Healing to Loma Alta Park," *Medium*, March 7, 2025, <https://dodgers.mlblogs.com/a-home-run-for-altadena-dodgers-dreamfields-to-bring-hope-and-healing-to-loma-alta-park-9f772d85151f>.
86. Erin Edwards, "More Than a Game: Celebrating Girls, Community, and Resilience at City Connect Showcase," *Medium*, June 25, 2025, <https://dodgers.mlblogs.com/more-than-a-game-celebrating-girls-community-and-resilience-at-city-connect-showcase-47b1f7153768>.
87. "The Change Reaction: Wildfire Direct Giving Fund," The Change Reaction, accessed January 8, 2026, <https://www.changereaction.org/wildfiredirectgivingfund>.
88. "The Coming Financial Cliff for LA Fire Survivors."
89. "Habitat for Humanity Begins Construction on Its First Eaton Fire Home Rebuild."
90. "BofA Commits \$10 Million in Capital for Residents and Small Businesses Impacted by LA Wildfires."
91. "The Resilient LA Delta Fund," Resilient Los Angeles, <https://www.resilientlosangeles.com/fund>.
92. *Think Big and Act Boldly* (Climate Resolve and Resilient Cities Catalyst, December 18, 2025), <https://climateresolve.org/think-big-and-act-boldly/>.
93. "Five Years Later: The Tubbs Fire," CoreLogic, October 28, 2022, <https://web.archive.org/web/20241114105659/https://www.corelogic.com/intelligence/blogs/title-five-years-later-the-tubbs-fire/>.
94. "Wildland Fire Statistics."
95. "Wildland Fire Statistics."
96. "Impact of the 2018 California Wildfires," Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition and National Low Income Housing Coalition, August 21, 2019, <https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/California-Wildfire-2018.pdf>.
97. "Wildland Fire Statistics."
98. Matthew Lerner, "Total Losses from Camp, Woolsey Fires Could Reach \$19 Billion: CoreLogic," *Business Insurance*, November 27, 2018, <https://www.businessinsurance.com/total-losses-from-camp-woolsey-fires-in-california-could-reach-19-billion-core/>.

99. Noelle Phillips, "Marshall Fire Losses Now Expected to Exceed \$2 Billion—Making It the 10th Costliest Wildfire in US History," *Denver Post*, October 27, 2022, <https://www.denverpost.com/2022/10/27/marshall-fire-property-losses-value/>.
100. "Pacific Disaster Center and the Federal Emergency Management Agency Releases Fire Damage: Lahaina Fire, Maui County, HI," County of Maui, August 12, 2023, <https://web.archive.org/web/20230812204601/https://www.mauicounty.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=12683>.
101. Sarah Labowitz, "Tracking US Federal Disaster Spending: The Disaster Dollar Database," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, accessed December 31, 2025, <https://carnegieendowment.org/features/disaster-dollar-database>.
102. *Action Plan* (California Department of Housing and Community Development, October 25, 2021), <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/disaster-recovery-programs/cdbg-dr/cdbg-dr-2018/docs/2018-dr-action-plan.pdf>.
103. "Los Angeles County Wildfire Recovery Continues with Over \$3 Billion in Federal Support."

About the Author

Alexander Meeks is a director at Milken Institute Finance. He focuses on helping communities accelerate resilient disaster recovery and adapt to extreme weather events. In this work, he leverages the Institute's Community Infrastructure Center, a platform that connects more than 1,000 organizations to data, resources, and capital to advance critical infrastructure projects across the country.

Before joining the Milken Institute, Meeks served as a principal at HR&A Advisors, a consulting firm that specializes in economic development, real estate, and urban planning and policy advisory services. Prior to his time at HR&A, he managed federally funded housing, small business, and infrastructure recovery projects in New York State following Superstorm Sandy.

Meeks holds a master's degree in city planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a sustainability certificate from the MIT Sloan School of Management, and a bachelor's degree from Yale University.



MILKEN
INSTITUTE



LOS ANGELES | WASHINGTON | NEW YORK | MIAMI | LONDON | ABU DHABI | SINGAPORE