



Community Disaster Relief Fund Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Santa Barbara Foundation Community Disaster Relief Fund?

With both natural and human-caused disasters occurring more frequently and with greater severity, the need for financial resources to support nonprofit and government response and recovery efforts is growing exponentially. The Community Disaster Relief Fund at the Santa Barbara Foundation is built to address this need and is activated in the aftermath of an emergency to support nonprofit organizations in short-term and long-term recovery. The Community Disaster Relief Fund is able to accept contributions from individual donors, corporations and foundations.

2. Why support short-term and long-term recovery? Why not immediate relief?

When a disaster strikes, on average 73% goes to immediate relief and only 4.8% goes to recovery and rebuilding, a process that can take up to 10 years. Long after media attention has shifted, the Santa Barbara Foundation will provide support to address the significant long term critical needs of our local nonprofits and the individuals they serve.

3. Why the Santa Barbara Foundation?

For 90 years the Santa Barbara Foundation has enriched the lives of the people of Santa Barbara County through philanthropy. As the largest community foundation on the Central Coast of California and a major source of funding for local nonprofits, we are committed to building philanthropy, strengthening the nonprofit sector and solving community concerns.

For over ten years we have been a part of the Aware & Prepare Initiative, which is a countywide partnership to strengthen emergency readiness within the nonprofit community. These longstanding relationships enable us to make coordinated decisions resulting in making recovery efforts more effective and efficient to support our most vulnerable populations.

Our partnership with the Aware & Prepare Initiative and Santa Barbara County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (SBC VOAD) enable the Santa Barbara Foundation to hear from individuals and organizations that have a defined role in both emergency response and long term recovery.

The Aware & Prepare Initiative and SBC VOAD partnerships include local emergency managers, nonprofit representatives and philanthropic leaders so we are able to hear from a diversity of perspectives and insight from varying levels of engagement.

The Santa Barbara Foundation is also a member of the Community Long Term Recovery Group (CLTRG) that identifies the individuals and families that will need sustained support because government assistance is insufficient to address all of their needs. The CLTRG is meeting weekly in coordination with nonprofit organizations and government agencies.

4. Who will the Santa Barbara Foundation Community Disaster Relief Fund support?

The Community Disaster Relief Fund supports nonprofit organizations that have a defined role in short-term and long-term recovery efforts by providing critical services including emergency food distribution, shelter and long-term housing, emotional and spiritual care, economic and rental assistance, education, healthcare and more to victims of the disaster. These nonprofits will provide direct support to victims and will need the capacity to grow their services to meet the needs.

5. How can I make a charitable donation?

You can may support the Community Disaster Relief Fund in the following ways:

- Donate [online](#) to the Community Disaster Relief Fund.
- Mail a check **noting Community Disaster Relief Fund in the memo line** to:

Santa Barbara Foundation
c/o Jessica Sanchez
1111 Chapala Street, Suite 200
Santa Barbara, California 93101

- Transfer stock or securities; contact [Jessica Sanchez](#) to begin the process.

6. How can my organization receive a grant from the Community Disaster Relief Fund?

The initial distribution of funds (that will be facilitated in the months of February and March) will be by invitation to specific organizations. These organizations have been identified by the Santa Barbara County Organizations Active in Disaster and include both national level and community-based organizations. Constant communications with partnering agencies will inform our initial distribution to organizations “on the ground” providing direct assistance and who will be there during long-term recovery operations.

The Santa Barbara Foundation plans for another distribution of funds 8 – 12 months from now. This will be an open (responsive) application process available through our standard grant application process. The Community Disaster Relief Fund will continue to raise funds in the months and years ahead in support of longer term recovery efforts.

In the mid-term, the Hutton Parker Foundation is providing a Quick Response Crisis Grant program to help nonprofits maintain operational stability while meeting the demand for consistent and, in some cases, expanded program and service to their clients. The Quick Response Crisis Grant is designed to address both immediate and near term funding gaps, unplanned expenses, facility repairs and other needs. Please contact Pam Lewis, COO at plewis@huttonfoundation.org or 805-957-4740 x 105 with any questions regarding eligibility, funding limits, process and procedures.

7. I've been impacted by the fires and I'm looking for support. Can I apply to the Community Disaster Relief Fund?

The Community Disaster Relief Fund was specifically set up to provide grants to our nonprofit partners who in turn work with individuals and families. The Community Disaster Relief Fund grant decisions will be made in coordination with the United Way's Thomas Fire & Flood Relief Fund to support organizations providing direct services or cash assistance to individuals and families most affected by the disasters. (The initial distribution of funds from the United Way of Santa Barbara County is in support of nonprofit organizations which will transition into individual assistance after government assistance is accessed.)

Although we are not set up to provide direct support to individuals, a list of agencies who are providing direct support in many ways is available [here](#).