



Southern California Wildfire Member Assistance Policy
Adopted February 12, 2025

(Policy on Issuance of Financial Assistance for Union Members Directly Affected by the January 2025 Southern California Wildfires)

Purpose:

To establish a direction for providing financial assistance to EAA members whose primary residences (whether owned or rented) were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable due to the January 2025 Southern California wildfires. This policy is intended to offer monetary emergency relief to EAA members to help cover immediate costs associated with housing, medical, transportation, or other day-to-day needs due to the wildfires.

Eligibility:

To qualify for financial assistance, members must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a current, dues-paying member in good standing of the EAA Union for at least six (6) months prior to the date of the disaster, unless their term of service with the City is less. Any member with less time than 6 months of EAA membership shall be reviewed on a case by case basis to be eligible.
- The affected property was/is the member's primary residence on or before January 7, 2025.
- Provide proof of significant damage or total loss of the home, verified through insurance documentation, current year W2's or recent mail/utility bill with residential address. Applicants must provide photographic evidence documenting the damage to or loss of the structure being claimed.

(EAA can verify the location of destroyed property by accessing <https://recovery.lacounty.gov/>).

Application Process:

Eligible members must submit an application for financial assistance, including:

- A completed assistance request form.
- Documentation of the home damage or loss (insurance report, FEMA report, or similar verifiable document).
- Proof of primary residence (utility bill, mortgage statement, or lease agreement) on or before January 7.
- Photographic evidence documenting the damage to or loss of the structure being claimed



Applications must be submitted within **the 2025 calendar year** unless an extension is granted due to exceptional circumstances, such as long-term hospitalization, lack of stable housing, etc.

Assistance Amount and Disbursement:

- The maximum amount of assistance provided to each qualifying EAA member will be determined based on available union resources and the number of affected members, and is not to exceed \$3,000.
- Initial disbursements may be set at a fixed emergency grant (\$500) for immediate needs, as approved by the EAA Executive Director (EAA Board approval granted on 1/15/25).
- Disbursement will be made directly to the member within 14 days of approval.

Funding Source:

Funds for this assistance program will be allocated from the EAA's Contingency Fund.

Oversight and Review:

- A temporary ad-hoc committee on disaster relief, appointed by the union executive board, will oversee the review and approval of applications based on the eligibility criteria described above.
- The committee will report disbursement totals and fund status at each general meeting until the program concludes.
- The Ad-Hoc Committee will be formally dissolved on December 31, 2025, unless extended by the EAA Board President.

Appeals:

Members who are denied assistance may appeal in writing to the EAA Board of Governors within 30 days of receiving a decision.

Confidentiality:

All member information related to financial assistance applications will be kept confidential and used solely for the purpose of processing and reviewing requests.