



# Disaster Relief Assistance Grants

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is a housing assistance grant?

Housing Affordability Fund is awarding housing assistance grants to homeowners and renters affected by the Camp, Woolsey and Hill fires, based on availability. Grants can provide assistance with mortgage relief or temporary housing, such as payment on a mortgage on your primary residence that burned in one of the fires, lease or rent payments on replacement housing, or even payments to a temporary shelter if you were evacuated from your primary residence due to the fires.

### 2. Who is providing the grants?

These grants are being made through the California Association of REALTORS'® Housing Affordability Fund, a 501(c)(3) charity, thanks to a generous donation from [REALTORS® Relief Foundation](#).

### 3. Who is eligible to apply for a Disaster Relief Housing Assistance grant?

Any U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident is eligible to apply that lost or was evacuated from their primary residence due to the recent wildfires.

### 4. How much can I apply for?

This housing relief grant is limited to a maximum of \$2,000 per household. However, if your monthly mortgage or temporary housing were less than this amount, the lower amount will be the maximum for your grant.

### 5. Do I have to pay the grant back?

No! These grants are provided as a charitable gift, funded through a generous donation from the REALTORS® Relief Foundation, and administered by the C.A.R. Housing Affordability Fund, a 501(c)(3) charity.

### 6. Can I use the grant for clothes, vet bills, a car or other expenses I incurred due to the fire?

No, unfortunately these grants are only available for housing assistance.

### 7. What documentation do I need to provide?

Applicants must provide documentation from each of the three categories below:

- a) **PROOF OF RESIDENCY:** This can be a copy of a driver's license or other government-issued identification showing the affected address. Other documentation that meets this requirement may be accepted as well.

- b) PROOF OF LEASE/OWNERSHIP: (A) A copy of your mortgage statement or mortgage payment coupon, if you owned your home (these can often be downloaded from your lender's website, if you don't have a paper copy); or (B) A copy of your lease, rent statement or invoice, if you rented your property (your landlord may be able to provide a copy if you don't have a paper copy).
- c) PROOF OF DAMAGE/LOSS: At least one of the following is required to show proof of damage to your primary residence: photo(s) of damages; insurance estimate; copies of written insurance claims, claim status reports or settlement proceeds; or copies of repair estimates from contractors.

**8. What if I don't have all of my documentation at the time I submit my application?**

You can email documentation separate from your application to [haf@car.org](mailto:haf@car.org). Please include your name and the primary residence address in the subject line. (NOTE: if you are an Android user and have trouble submitting documentation through the online form, please email the required documentation to [haf@car.org](mailto:haf@car.org).)

**9. What is the process for approval?**

Once you have submitted the grant application and all required documentation, it will be reviewed by to ensure the eligibility criteria has been met. This process can take approximately 5 business days. If more information is needed, we will contact you. Once approved, you will be notified by email and a check will be mailed to your current mailing address within approximately 5 business days. If you have not received a response to your application within 10 business days, or if you haven't received your check within 10 business days after being notified of approval, please contact [haf@car.org](mailto:haf@car.org).

**10. What is the approximate turnaround time to receive funds?**

Approximately 15 business days. As noted in the prior question, we expect to review most applications within 5 business days (note: we will contact you as soon as possible if additional information is needed to review your application). Once approved, you will be notified, and your check will be mailed within approximately 5 business days.

**11. What if I have received financial assistance from other charitable groups or from FEMA? Am I still eligible to apply?**

Yes! You will still be eligible for a Disaster Relief assistance grant even if you receive assistance from other charitable groups.

**12. My home did not burn down but is uninhabitable and I am displaced. Can I still apply?**

Yes! You may still be eligible for a grant to help cover your mortgage payment on the primary residence you had to leave, or for your temporary housing rent or lease payment.

**13. I had insurance for my home and contents, and the carrier will pay me eventually. Can I still apply for a grant?**

Yes, you may apply for assistance with your temporary housing needs or for mortgage relief. However, we ask that you consider your total need when making the application, and also

consider “paying it forward” if your insurance eventually compensates your loss and temporary housing costs.

**14. I’m a landlord of a property that burned down. Am I eligible to apply for funding?**

No, unfortunately grants are only available for the applicant’s primary residence.

**15. Can my spouse, adult child that lived with me, or roommate apply too?**

No, only one application is allowed per household.

**16. How long will this program last?**

Applications must be received by June 30, 2019 to be considered. However, all grants are contingent on the availability of funds.