

## Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management



### ACSSA Leads the Way

The Alameda County Social Services Agency (SSA) is the lead for the Mass Care & Shelter branch of the Countywide Emergency Operations Center (EOC). All County employees are designated Disaster Services Workers (DSWs). Their roles during a disaster include:

- Partnering with county agencies/departments, cities, and community organizations
- Coordinating services for emergency shelter, emergency food, and emergency childcare
- Providing temporary evacuation centers and short-term emergency sheltering
- Creating Commodity Points of Distribution (CPODs) for essential supplies
- Communicating with the public to ensure that everyone knows where to access support

### State Budget Request Promotes Local Preparedness Planning

Over the past five years, Alameda County has experienced an unprecedented number of emergencies and disasters, including but not limited to record-breaking wildfires and the pandemic. This has resulted in significant strain on county human services budgets which potentially reduces the County's capacity to respond to new emergencies.

Alameda County is in support of dedicated funding for:

- Full time staff, dedicated to coordinating emergency planning, response, and recovery efforts
- Supporting mass care and shelter services, recovery efforts, and training of county staff and volunteers on emergency response
- Establishing a State-County planning group to improve disaster and emergency response for underprivileged populations

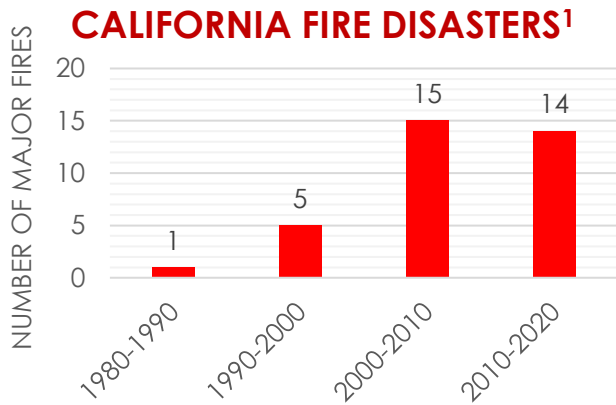
[www.alamedacountysocialservices.org/about-us/Government-and-Community-Relations/offices/disaster-preparedness-and-emergency-management](http://www.alamedacountysocialservices.org/about-us/Government-and-Community-Relations/offices/disaster-preparedness-and-emergency-management)

# Policy Brief



Alameda County  
Social Services Agency

## Alameda County SSA Responses to Emergencies and Disasters



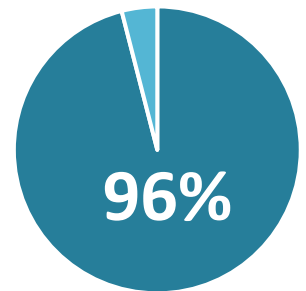
### Equity in Disaster Response

During proclaimed emergencies, Alameda County assists all residents, regardless of immigration status, and prioritizes the needs of those who do not have the means of assisting themselves, either physically or financially. This includes older adults, individuals with disabilities, the unhoused, foster youth, and lower-income households.

- In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Great Plates Delivered program distributed \$4.9 million in food to 900 seniors and older adults.
- The Alameda County Response to Community Health Program provided a one-time stipend to COVID-19 positive individuals and families, regardless of immigration status.
- During the 2023 January storms, Alameda County Social Services Agency mobilized two evacuation centers and purchased 500 tarps, 500 tents, 500 cots, and sleeping bags, provided to unsheltered residents by Health Care Services Agency.

- The **Care and Shelter** branch of the Emergency Operations Center provided emergency food, shelter, and childcare for those impacted by the pandemic.
- **Project Roomkey** offered quarantine and isolation locations to the unhoused, and safe shelters for the medically vulnerable. 1300 participants were able to transition into permanent housing.
- Uplifted two **Commodity Points of Distribution (CPODs)** sites, in partnership with the Alameda County Community Food Bank, distributing enough food to feeding over 300,000 households and approximately 1.1 million individuals.
- SSA in coordination with Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) and the County Administrators Office (CAO), established the Adopt-a-Pod initiative that created Community Vaccination Sites **with over 800 non-clinical staff from more than 20 county agencies that distributed 60,000+ COVID-19 vaccinations.**

SSA created an **Online Shelter Fundamentals Training** which introduces staff to the operations of emergency shelters and provides an overview of their role in disaster response.



■ As of April 2023, Staff Completion Rate

### Economic Impacts of Disasters

COVID-19: **\$114.1B** to address economic consequences <sup>2</sup>  
Flood: **\$5-8B** in damages from the January 2023 flood <sup>3</sup>

Fire: **\$148.5B** damages from wildfires in 2018 <sup>4</sup>  
Earthquake: **\$9.6B** per year <sup>5</sup>

1. [psehealthyenergy.org/our-work/interactive-tools/California-wildfire/](https://psehealthyenergy.org/our-work/interactive-tools/California-wildfire/)

2. [lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4292](https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4292)

3. [floodlist.com/america/usa/economic-losses-california-floods-january-2023](https://floodlist.com/america/usa/economic-losses-california-floods-january-2023)

4. [nature.com/articles/s41893-020-00646-7](https://nature.com/articles/s41893-020-00646-7)

5. [fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_p-366-hazus-estimated-annualized-earthquake-losses-united-states.pdf](https://fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_p-366-hazus-estimated-annualized-earthquake-losses-united-states.pdf)