

California Department of Housing and Community Development

ReCoverCA Monthly Newsletter – July 2024

Canvassing throughout the State

With summer and wildfire season upon us, our team responded with renewed passion to share valuable wildfire mitigation resources with residents throughout Sonoma, Plumas, Los Angeles, Butte, Solano and Shasta Counties. Between mid-May and mid-June, the outreach team launched a boots-on-ground canvassing campaign, visiting nearly 600 homes and focusing on homeowners most likely to benefit from the program. They distributed informative door hangers and engaged with homeowners whenever possible.



The outreach team provided homeowners with information regarding ReCoverCA Housing Programs in their respective counties, including the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation and Reconstruction and Owner-Occupied Wildfire Mitigation Retrofits Programs for the 2020 program year. In Plumas County, we distributed information about the Single-Family Reconstruction and Single-Family Mitigation Retrofits Programs. Going door to door in these communities has reaffirmed that there is a need for defensible space and home hardening activities to protect these communities from future wildfires and other disasters.



The team also attended two recent events in Sonoma and Plumas Counties. We were grateful to be invited to participate in the Sonoma County Fire & Earthquake Safety Expo, which drew more than 1,000 attendees from surrounding areas. The ReCoverCA Housing Programs received a lot of interest from attendees. In addition, our team had the opportunity to network with several partner agencies, including the Sonoma County COAD, Red Cross, UC Davis, and Nuestra Comunidad. These organizations offered to partner with ReCoverCA and share materials. The UC Davis Environmental Science Research Team, currently conducting a study on

wildfires throughout the state, noted that participants often inquire about recovery resources.

Canvassing efforts will persist throughout the summer, ensuring that additional 2020 counties are reached. The team will continue to share crucial information with homeowners, helping them stay informed and supported.

What is the Difference Between ReCoverCA's Wildfire Mitigation Programs and its Reconstruction Programs?

We have recently received several requests for clarification about which program is right for homeowners and their needs: mitigation or reconstruction? Here we provide some additional details to better distinguish the two program types.



Mitigation programs: The 2020 Owner-Occupied Wildfire Mitigation Retrofits Program and the 2021 Single-Family Wildfire Mitigation Program are designed for low- and moderate-income homeowners in eligible 2020 and 2021 counties who have home hardening or defensible space needs on their property. Home hardening activities include fitting a home with materials like fire-resistant roof shingles, gutter guards, and trim, as well

as fire-resistant skirting around the home. Defensible space includes creating a buffer zone around a home (one that is free of any vegetation or other combustible materials) and includes instead non-combustible materials like pea gravel and hardscape.

Mitigation program applicants do not have to be located in the burn scar or directly affected by qualifying wildfire disasters but must be located in an eligible county to apply for mitigation funds.



Reconstruction programs: The 2020 Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program and the 2021 Single-Family Reconstruction Program are intended for homeowners who were directly impacted by qualifying 2020 and 2021 wildfires and have remaining reconstruction needs on their primary residence. (Landlords are eligible for the 2021 Single-Family Reconstruction program. Please refer to our Single-Family

Reconstruction Policies and Procedures document on the [ReCoverCA website](#) for more information). Homes rebuilt through ReCoverCA Housing Programs are built to Wildfire Prepared Home Standards, which include mitigation measures.

Full information, including eligibility, policies and procedures, fact sheets, and application instructions can be found on the [ReCoverCA website](#) for all of these

programs. Eligible counties are Butte, Fresno, Los Angeles, Napa, Plumas, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, and Sonoma.

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