

# Wildfire County Coordinator Program



Presented by Jacy Hyde, Jessica Martinez, and Julia Marsili Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee

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## Intro & Acknowledgements

#### **Jacy Hyde**

**Executive Director** 

**Jessica Martinez** 

**Deputy Director** 

Julia Marsili





Senior Manager of Wildfire Programs & Grants



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## **Presentation Agenda**

- 1. California Fire Safe Council Background
- CFSC's Major Programs: Fire Safe Communities and County Coordinators
- Outcomes from County Coordinators 2021-2024
- 4. 2025 County Coordinator Program
- 5. County Coordinator Next Steps
- 6. Questions





### **About CFSC**

CFSC supports communities across the state in wildfire preparedness and resiliency through grant funding, programmatic support, and technical assistance.

We envision a future where all communities in California live safely with wildfire.







Educate. Empower. Mobilize.



## **Impact and Outcomes**

Since 2004, CFSC has granted \$140M to over 1,200 projects







## Impact and Outcomes



Projects completed in 400 communities

Nearly 4,000 Community Wildfire Protection Plans created

Over 36,000 education programs, products, and workshops delivered

Over 1,600 properties received defensible space work since 2021



Defensible Space

Community
Capacity Building

Outreach and

Education

Home Hardening

Fire Safe Communities Program

Community Mitigation

Evacuation Planning

Forest Health



# Wildfire County Coordinator Program

<u>Program Objective:</u> Educate, encourage, and develop county-wide community collaboration and coordination among wildfire mitigation groups

Established critical local capacity in 52 California counties to implement wildfire resilience strategies on the ground.

Have served as vital local resources to secure funding, implement mitigation projects, engage vulnerable populations, and build resilience in high-risk communities.

Became a crucial link between state strategy and local execution—ensuring California communities are better prepared, better connected, and more resilient to wildfire.



# Wildfire County Coordinator Outcomes











>\$85 million of vital funding secured for local mitigation and preparedness projects

800k residents
educated and
empowered to
take action for
wildfire
resilience

10,000 organizations engaged in partnership and planning

>100 new
FireWise
Communities
and Fire Safe
Councils

**3,800 events** hosted for community fire safety



# Wildfire County Coordinator Program

#### **Key Successes**

The \$85 million in additional grant funds leveraged since the start of the program showed that a relatively small investment can significantly improve infrastructure and resource mobilization

Improved the governance and administrative capacity of county-level organizations

Built a strong knowledge base for County Coordinators through direct programmatic support

Laid the foundation for a sustainable approach to deploy state strategy down to the local level

#### **Lessons Learned**

Develop systems to engage tribal communities and others who have historically been left out of critical conversations. Address geographic and jurisdictional challenges to enhance coordination and access, specifically in rural and/or disadvantaged communities.

Continue to refine how agencies, organizations, and community members build trust, coordinate, and engage with each other.

Assist County
Coordinators in
connecting with CAL
FIRE and state level
strategies.

Educate. Empower. Mobilize.



# **2025 County Coordinator Program**

- \$10.9 million to support the next iteration of the County Coordinator Program and begin to develop a solidified direction for the program
- 47 subgrants awarded
- **Strategy:** Align County Coordinators with State-Level Efforts and Direction
- Deliverables to execute this strategy:
  - 1. Develop a plan to integrate County Coordinators with their local CAL FIRE units and share locally appropriate resources
  - 2. Continue to collect shared data through the GIS Networking Portal, preparing the data to be shared with state partners
  - Require County Coordinators to attend one CAL FIRE Qualified Entities Defensible Space Assessment (DSA) Training
  - 4. Host a county-level training on the new CWPP toolkit to encourage its use and adoption
  - 5. Develop a preliminary plan to evaluate steps needed to initiate a county-level CWPP, if one does not already exist



## Long Term Vision & Policy Framework Overview

- Build upon the existing program infrastructure to create a mechanism for the local execution of state strategy, tailored to meet local needs
- Operationalize the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan at the county level
   in sync with county priorities
- Move toward county planning and project prioritization
- Accelerate home hardening, defensible space implementation, and public education
- Standardize data collection to track local and statewide wildfire resilience progress
- Ultimately, improve public safety, community insurability, and wildfire preparedness in California's highest-risk regions



## Fire Safe Vendor List















## **Questions?**

#### **Jacy Hyde**

**Executive Director** 

jhyde@cafiresafecouncil.org

#### **Jessica Martinez**

**Deputy Director** 

jmartinez@cafiresafecouncil.org

#### Julia Marsili

Senior Manager of Wildfire Programs and Grants

jmarsili@cafiresafecouncil.org