



Mendocino County Fire Safe Council



FUNDING PROPOSAL for wildfire safety

Presented to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
March, 2020 by Scott Cratty, MCFSC Executive Director
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Wildfires will remain an ongoing threat to our lives, property, community and environment. Mitigation is also ongoing.

MCFSC is the County's partner in wildfire preparedness.

MCFSC projects leverage our nonprofit status and our growing network of neighborhood groups.





We propose the following as ongoing priority investments in countywide wildfire safety:

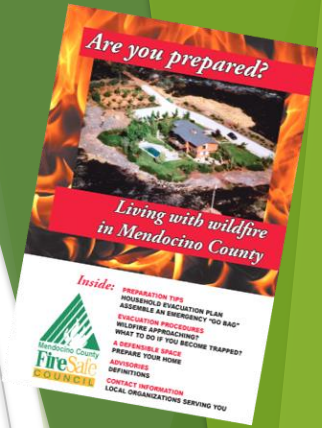
1. Long-term base funding for MCFSC
2. Defensible-space assistance to income-eligible senior/disabled residents (DSAFIE)
3. Community Chipper Program support
4. Purchase of a chipper truck
5. Support for the new Mendocino County fire hazard-abatement ordinance



1. Long-term base funding

Thank you for investing in our work!
Your support makes possible:

- Educational literature updates
- Road-clearing and chipper days that were otherwise unfunded
- Reflective address signs
- Major website education improvements
- Support for local fire safe councils
- Fire Safe Mendocino radio program & PSAs
- Assistance with County ordinances, policy and grant narratives
- Financial stability and match funding for grant-funded projects
- Innovations like senior defensible space
- Chipper acquisition
- —and much more.





1. Long-term base funding

continued

The MCFSC functions far more effectively with base funding. It allows us to focus on delivering services and bringing in additional resources rather than just keeping the lights on, and to leverage core staff across multiple programs.

Ongoing funding would continue and expand these benefits.

The current MCFSC base budget is \$200K/year. \$120K/year would lock in basic operations.



1. Long-term base funding *continued*

— OTHER BENEFITS —

With baseline stability, we can boost even more critical countywide efforts such as:

- Strategic roadside clearing and fuel breaks
- Further clearing/creation of ingress and egress routes
- Updating the Mendocino County and regional CWPPs
- A robust County network of early-detection cameras
- A network of emergency fire-fighting water resources
- Improved community early-warning systems
- Improved community-level evacuation plans
- Plans, routines & funding for maintaining fire breaks
- Supporting wider use of prescribed burns
- Detailed mapping for responders to remote areas
- —and more.

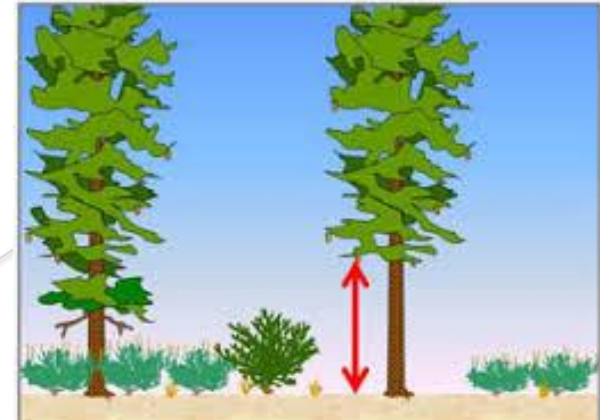


2. Defensible-Space Assistance for Income-Eligible senior and disabled residents (DSAFIE)

In 2020 DSAFIE provided free brush-clearing and basic home-hardening services for 48 households that were otherwise unable to do it themselves or to hire help—while providing job training, workskills and meaningful employment for Hopland Pomo Band tribal workers.

— 48 homes down, 2,500 to go —

500 residences/year would cost \$650,000 annually.



3. Community Chipper Program

Brush-clearing is a major strategy for attaining State-mandated defensible spaces. Free chipping services assist and motivate homeowners to achieve this.

We held over 60 successful chipper days last year, and our new online system will facilitate many more. Funding, however, is currently grant-dependent and therefore inconsistent and labor-intensive.

100 chipper days/year would cost \$150,000 annually.



4. Purchase of a chipper truck

We now own two industrial-strength chippers, but do not yet have a truck for hauling it to worksites, so we have had to hire contractors. A designated chipper-hauling truck would greatly expand our service capability and reduce future operating costs.

Estimated total cost \$60-90K.





5. Support for the new County fire hazard-abatement ordinance

Entire neighborhoods can be at risk from a single parcel with nightmare vegetation. The County's new hazard-abatement ordinance requires staffing for development, automation and enforcement.





THANK YOU for your support!

Mendocino County Fire Safe Council
is glad to be the County's partner in
increasing wildfire preparedness
and safety.



<https://FireSafeMendocino.org>
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