

PRESENTED TO THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

APRIL 2021

REQUEST TO INVEST IN RECOVERY & RESILIENCY



PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY

MEGAN BARBER ALLENDE, PRESIDENT/CEO
ROSE BELL, DISASTER RECOVERY MANAGER

THE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

OVERVIEW

The Community Foundation of Mendocino County has a demonstrated track record as a community leader, coordinator and fundraiser for fire recovery, and trusted fiscal partner in the management and distribution of funds. The Community Foundation:

- Understands the needs of fire survivors;
- Has developed systems for relief, recovery, and rebuilding;
- Focuses on community resiliency and preparedness;
- Has more than 25-years experience managing funds and making grants countywide.

We are requesting:

- **\$1.5M of the PG&E settlement be invested in the Disaster Fund for Mendocino County for future disaster response/recovery;**
- **\$3.5M of the PG&E settlement be invested in the Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund to make disaster preparedness grants in perpetuity, with an emphasis on regions struck by the 2017 Redwood Complex Fire.**

By building a reserve for the purpose of resiliency and disaster preparedness, Mendocino County residents will benefit from this one-time windfall into the future, making a long-term difference for the safety and well-being of our communities.





INVESTING IN THE DISASTER FUND FOR MENDOCINO COUNTY

Request: \$1.5M

OUR RESPONSE

The Community Foundation:

- Chaired Mendocino-ROC (Rebuilding Our Community), the long-term fire recovery team;
- Leveraged \$4.6M for fire survivors' immediate relief, recovery, and rebuilding needs;
- Solicited funding to staff project management and case management, critical to recovery;
- Provided relief, recovery, and rebuilding assistance for the:
 - 2017 Redwood Complex Fire
 - 2018 Mendocino Complex Fire
 - 2019 Boonville Fire
 - 2020 Oak Fire
 - 2020 August Complex Fire
- Launched the Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund.

OUR REQUEST

The Community Foundation is requesting \$1.5M in funding from the PG&E settlement to seed the Disaster Fund before the next disaster strikes.

- Raising \$2.6M required extensive staff time, including processing over 3,500 donations, and leveraging an additional \$2M to support infrastructure and rebuilding;
- Media attention on the Northbay fires fueled our fundraising efforts, there is no guarantee that we would receive coverage for future disasters;
- Disaster recovery requires staffing infrastructure immediately, having funding ready in the Disaster Fund would allow us to launch recovery efforts from day one.



INVESTING IN PREPAREDNESS FOR MENDOCINO COUNTY

Request: \$3.5M

OUR RESPONSE

The Community Foundation:

- Launched the Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund in 2018;
- Raised and awarded over \$385,000 in grants countywide to 49 non-profits to support projects such as equipment for fire departments, CERT trailer, wildfire preparedness workshops, evacuation planning and mapping projects, vegetation management, and expanding neighborhood fire safe councils;
- Increased readiness and engaged with trusted non-profit partners in all seven regions of the county through funding and collaboration with fire districts, community service organizations, and non-profits.

OUR REQUEST

The Community Foundation is requesting \$3.5M in funding from the PG&E settlement to support the Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund in perpetuity.

- Disaster Preparedness is a constant cycle to reduce the impact of the next disaster; having a fund would allow us to make grants in perpetuity;
- In alignment with the PG&E settlement, funding would be allocated for priority areas including Redwood Valley and Potter Valley, and regions of future disasters;
- This is an opportunity to invest in the preparedness of our community through a trusted local partner.



AN ENDOWMENT

Endowing a portion of the PG&E settlement funds would make a lasting difference in the county and would be consistent with the intent of the settlement as well as the Redwood Complex Long-Term Recovery Plan.

- We estimate an endowment of \$3.5 million would generate a payout of approximately \$125,000 per year in community resiliency and preparedness grants drawing only from investment returns, investing \$1.2M back into the community over 10 years, and \$2.5M over 20 years while maintaining the County's \$3.5M initial investment forever.
- Investment management for the Community Foundation is provided by Fund Evaluation Group (FEG), a company with specific expertise in community foundation endowments.
- Should the County choose to move forward with this proposal, detailed fund agreements would be developed and presented to the Board of Supervisors and to the Community Foundation Board of Directors for approval.



TRANSPARENCY AND TRUST

We have a long track record of transparent fiscal management and community leadership.

- **We have granted approximately \$20.5 million dollars** since 1993 while simultaneously growing our assets to roughly \$43 million dollars.
- **We are accredited** by the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations and maintain strong fiscal policies and procedures with careful management of our investments.
- **We are a local** organization supported and led by thoughtful and engaged people who care about Mendocino County and have a vision for how it can thrive.

IN CONCLUSION

INVESTING IN OUR COUNTY'S FUTURE THROUGH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ENSURES PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCY IN PERPETUITY.



The Community Foundation respectfully submits our request for the Board of Supervisors to allocate \$5.0 million to the Community Foundation for the purpose of investing in the Disaster Fund for Mendocino County and creating an endowed sub-fund within the Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund so that Redwood Valley, Potter Valley and other vulnerable communities can have access to funds for community resiliency and disaster preparedness in perpetuity.

"EVERY \$1 SPENT ON PREPARING IS WORTH MORE THAN \$2 IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY... AND SAVES RESPONDERS MORE THAN ONE WEEK OF OPERATIONAL TIME ON AVERAGE."

-BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP