

Thomas Fire Response Network  
Monday, March 5, 2018 • 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
VCCF Nonprofit Center – Board Room

## Agenda

I Welcome / Opening Remarks 0 am – 0:

I Re-cap Last Meeting 0 : am – 0: a.m( 40 in

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I FEMA Update 0: 45 am– 1 am( 20 in

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# **Long Term Recovery Group Overview**

## **Introduction of the Long Term Recovery Group Process**

The three basic elements of the long-term recovery process are: 1) identifying individuals and families with unmet needs in the community 2) providing case management in order to prioritize how those needs will be met 3) delivering goods, services, and funds to meet those needs. The specifics of how the community organizes to accomplish these basic functions will be determined by the unique circumstances of the disaster. However, the process for establishing a group should be outlined in advance. This foundation will expedite the activation of a Long Term Recovery Group, and enable it to accomplish its mission of strengthening disaster coordination through sharing information, simplifying survivor access to services, and jointly resolving recovery needs.

### **What is a Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG)?**

- The purpose of a Long Term Recovery Group is to help affected families develop a plan and receive adequate assistance for their recovery.
- The Long Term Recovery Group can be any type of committee, council, coalition, roundtable, organization, or working group with decision-making authority, in which all participating organizations are equal partners.
- A Long Term Recovery Group is composed of representatives from disaster response agencies, faith-based and community groups.
- The mission is to strengthen area-wide disaster coordination by sharing information, simplifying client access, and jointly resolving cases with unmet needs.

### **When is a Long Term Recovery Group organized?**

When unmet disaster related needs have been identified and multiple organizations will be providing services to survivors, a Long Term Recovery Group should be organized as soon as possible.

### **What are the advantages of a recovery group?**

- Access to the agencies simultaneously
- Benefit of the collective creative problem-solving skills of many experienced case managers.
- Benefit from quick decision-making and commitments from agencies providing services and resources.

### **Structure**

- To build on existing networks in the local community, the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) should be the starting point for the LTRG.
- Any agency serving disaster clients may sit on the LTRG. Agency representatives must have decision-making authority for their organizations.
- At the organizational meeting

## **Process**

- The chair/officers of the LTRG will convene and facilitate regular meetings of the group. Information about community resources will be shared. Organizations may bring cases directly to the LTRG if they are unable to meet client needs through their own resources.
- Through discussion, sharing options and resources, the Long Term Recovery Group will jointly develop a plan to meet the needs of each case brought to the LTRG.
- Commitment of resources by an organization will be voluntary and based on that organization's eligibility criteria and approval. These criteria/guidelines should be clearly presented by each participating organization at the initial meetings.
- All cases presented to the LTRG must be accompanied by a *Release of Confidential Information* signed by the client before case information can be shared. Professional standards of confidentiality will apply to the LTRG as a whole.
- Regular meetings of the Executive Committee comprised of LTRG officers and VOAD officers will be held to discuss needs, share knowledge, and update policies.

## **What are the advantages of a recovery group to the agencies involved?**

- The LTRG approach expands each agency's opportunity to assist those affected who have unmet needs.
- The LTRG approach makes possible the best and most extensive use of each agency's services and resources.
- The group exchange will allow agencies to share information about cases they are serving and avoid duplicating benefits.
- The LTRG opens access for each agency's cases to the full range of resources available.
- The group process provides a system for future interaction.

## **Who can participate?**

- Any organization providing resources (The Three Ms – Money, Muscle, Materials) toward the recovery process may participate.
- National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) member organizations involved in the local recovery process are strongly encouraged to provide leadership and information to the Long Term Recovery Group.
- All participants are equal partners.

Source: <https://help-california.org/latest-information>

# Thomas Fire Nonprofit Taskforce

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## Introduction

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