

What is CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort)?

Founded by Sean Penn and Ann Lee, CORE is a global humanitarian non-profit organization that brings immediate relief and long-term recovery solutions to underserved communities. When a crisis strikes, CORE responds immediately to fill gaps, mobilize resources, and establish trust and collaboration from within communities. For more information, go to www.corerelief.org and follow CORE on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter \(X\)](#).

CORE is responding to the LA wildfires to support impacted and underserved households and to complement relief and recovery services available from other providers. One of CORE's response activities is direct cash assistance. Enrollment in CORE's cash assistance program is done on a rolling basis and designed to reach those most in need and not supported by other cash programs.

CORE's eligibility criteria for households under this **first round of assistance** are:

- have had homes or employment directly impacted by the wildfire
- unable to meet basic needs (food, transportation, rent, utilities, etc.)
- have members who are young children, have chronic disease, disability, or are elderly
- need to purchase emergency supplies (e.g. air purifiers) or emergency air supplies related to power outages.

For future rounds of assistance from CORE, participants will be selected based on a scoring system that evaluates vulnerability using data collected from a questionnaire. Each household is assessed in three areas: 1. family composition, 2. socioeconomic needs and living conditions, and 3. household damage and food security. Each factor is scored equally, and all scores add up to 100. Households with higher vulnerability scores (close to 100) are prioritized for assistance. CORE and partners will conduct verification of the information collected. This method ensures fairness and consistency in selecting participants.

What happens after I complete the intake survey with CORE?

Once CORE, or one of our community partners, has conducted a registration survey, we will review the data you provided and eligibility to finalize selection of cash recipients for this round. We will reach out via the phone number you provided (either as a text or call) to let you know the result whether you qualify or not. **Not everyone who registers will be selected for assistance.**

What does our household have to do to register for assistance and be assessed for eligibility?

Just fill out CORE's questionnaire. There are no conditions or documentation required to receive this round of assistance other than registration and eligibility, without any expectation of anything from you in return. No one in your household needs to give anyone (CORE staff, other service

providers, other households, people in other positions of authority, staff at points of sale) favors, promises, cash, items, or anything else.

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What should I do if someone does request that I do anything other than answer CORE's questionnaire to register for cash assistance?

If anyone tries to request favors, promises, cash, items, or anything else in return for registering for assistance, that is a violation of your rights. Sexual exploitation or abuse is a violation of CORE's code of conduct and is a reason for staff to be dismissed and terminated. You can report complaints, including any instances of abuse by calling 1-844-939-4944. A third-party hotline provider, EthicsPoint, hosts this hotline. Someone fluent in English and Spanish will be able to assist you. You can report anonymously. After you complete your report, you will be assigned a unique code called a "report key." Write down your report key and password and keep them in a safe place. After 5-6 business days, use your report key and password to check your report for feedback or questions. You can also submit your report anonymously online using a safe form in [English](#) or by scanning the following QR codes:

Form in English



If I am eligible and selected to receive cash assistance, do I need to report the assistance received on my taxes?

Financial assistance provided by CORE is classified under the IRS's "charitable gift status" and is not considered taxable income for the recipient. However, if the total amount of financial assistance or other cash/asset gifts received in 2025 from any service provider, including but not limited to CORE, exceeds \$19,000 in a single year per household, recipients are required to report the excess amount to the IRS. It is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure they

remain in compliance with IRS reporting requirements and maintain good standing with the IRS. Please consult a tax professional if you have any questions regarding your specific situation. If you are eligible and selected for cash assistance by CORE, we will proceed with disbursement, so please take note of the IRS parameters before completing your registration with us/our trusted partners.