

MOTION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & JOBS

The devastating windstorms and wildfires that raged through our communities starting January 7th, 2025, are projected to result in economic losses exceeding \$250 billion, becoming one of the costliest natural disasters in recent history. Beyond the overwhelming destruction of homes, this unprecedented local disaster shuttered small businesses, displaced workers, and disrupted the livelihood of many LA residents. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers assistance to those with needs stemming from the fires, including funds to pay for emergency food and water, and help displaced residents pay for housing. However, FEMA is not offering relief to impacted businesses and workers.

The City and the County of Los Angeles are seeking to jointly launch two relief funds to offer critical assistance as a result of the windstorms and wildfires using a regional approach:

- **LA Region Small Business Relief Fund** to provide grants of up to \$25,000 to eligible small businesses and nonprofits to help cover immediate needs such as employee payroll, the purchase of equipment and inventory lost due to the disaster, and working capital to continue operations, among other eligible uses
- **LA Region Worker Relief Fund** to provide \$2,000 in emergency cash assistance to eligible displaced workers who have lost income due to business closures and evacuation orders as a result of the wildfires.

Funding is expected to derive from private philanthropic giving, and will be managed by Southern California Grantmakers, who was jointly selected by the City and County as fiscal administrator based on their experience and capacity to immediately carry out these types of activities. Oversight of the program will be led by the City's Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) and the County's Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). The City's BusinessSource and WorkSource Centers will be leveraged to conduct outreach and facilitate technical assistance. Further program details are available in the attached document.

Action is needed to provide immediate economic relief to support businesses and workers that were most impacted by the windstorms and wildfires.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council:

1. AUTHORIZE the General Manager of the Economic and Workforce Development Department, or designee, to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County of Los Angeles Department of Economic Opportunity for the implementation of the LA Region Small Business Relief Fund and the Worker Relief Fund, defining the roles and responsibilities of each agency;
2. AUTHORIZE the General Manager of the Economic and Workforce Development Department, or designee, to negotiate and execute a contract with Southern California Grantmakers for the implementation of the LA Region Small Business Relief Fund and the Worker Relief Fund;
3. AUTHORIZE Southern California Grantmakers to accept philanthropic donations related to the windstorms and wildfires that started January 7th, 2025 for the benefit of the City and utilize the funds for the implementation of the LA Region Small Business Relief Fund and the Worker Relief Fund; and
4. AUTHORIZE the General Manager of the Economic and Workforce Development Department, or designee, to make amendments to the LA Region Small Business Relief Fund and the Worker Relief Fund, as needed based on incident impact data, for more effective implementation of the program.

PRESENTED BY:

SECONDED BY:


TRACI PARK
Councilwoman, 11th District



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