



FACT SHEET

AB 262 (Caloza) California Individual Assistance Act

BACKGROUND

California experiences a range of disasters annually, including wildfires, floods, earthquakes, and extreme weather events. While the state has mechanisms to assist local agencies during these emergencies, many individuals and families are left without sufficient resources for recovery, particularly in cases where federal disaster aid is not available. This disparity has highlighted the need for a state-level program to address the urgent needs of disaster victims, such as housing assistance, income replacement, and medical expenses.

ISSUE

Many disasters do not meet federal thresholds for aid, leaving survivors without critical resources to address immediate needs like shelter, food, and medical care. This lack of support amplifies inequities in underserved communities and delays recovery efforts. A State-level solution is needed to bridge this gap, ensuring swift and equitable recovery assistance for all Californians impacted by emergencies, no matter where they live.

SOLUTION

The California Individual Assistance Act establishes a grant program administered by the Office of Emergency Services to provide direct financial assistance to individuals, local agencies, and community-based organizations. The Act:

- Quickly provides assistance to households in an impacted area for housing assistance and other essential needs.
- Covers expenses such as income loss, personal property repairs, and medical costs.
- Facilitates quicker recovery by allowing advance payments for local agencies and community organizations who are on the ground, already in the community.

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