



ENLA

Emergency Network Los Angeles

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

2021-2022 Annual Report

Introduction

Since 1996, Emergency Network Los Angeles, Inc. (ENLA) has been Los Angeles County's premier coordination agency for local nonprofits and for government agencies at the municipal, county, state and federal level. Founded in response to the devastating Northridge Earthquake, ENLA has been involved in mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery efforts for disasters across the county, promoting the "Four C's" – communication, cooperation, coordination, collaboration – to streamline interagency emergency management efforts.

ENLA is Los Angeles County's official VOAD (Volunteer Organization Active in Disaster) and is under the umbrella of Southern California VOAD, California VOAD, and National VOAD (NVOAD).

In addition to promoting engagement within and between the government and nonprofit sectors, ENLA serves as the lead Incident Commander for over 50 Los Angeles County community and faith-based organizations during a disaster (*for a full list of our members, see enla.org/members*), streamlining communication between public first responder agencies and our partners.

Thanks to grant funding from private and governmental sources, ENLA is now in its second year with paid staff after a several year period of lower activity. In addition to heightened emergency management capabilities and growth in its membership, ENLA has rolled out programming tailored to support the operational capabilities of its partners and the communities they serve.

Review of the Last 12 Months (September 2021 – August 2022)

- 40% growth in size of network in the last 12 months (100%+ in 24 months), including such additions as CORE, the State of California Department of Social Services, Jewish Family Service LA, L.A. Works, and Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC)
- Attainment of \$165,000 in grant funding from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services ("Cal OES"), Southern California Edison, and BAPS Charities, as well as additional contributions (*see "Funding"*)
- Development of programming supporting the mental health of disaster service; strengthening long term recovery planning; and hosting radio communications training and emergency operations planning for communities and nonprofits (*see "Programming"*)
- Support processing and resettlement efforts led by Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of Afghan refugees in Los Angeles Metropolitan Area
- Led relief efforts to assist the residents of Cathay Manor, a 15-story, 270-unit apartment building in Los Angeles' Chinatown occupied by low-income senior citizens. Coordinated with nonprofits to deliver fresh food on a continual basis, while also providing laundry services and wellness checks.
- Manage and support Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRG) for the Woolsey (November 2018), Bobcat and Lake Wildfires (September 2020), and the 27th Street Explosion in South Los Angeles (June 2021)
- Distribution of an additional 2,500,000 units of personal protective equipment (PPE) to nonprofit partners (4,000,000 units total since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Supporting capacity building of partner agencies through the launching of workshops on the subjects such as Climate Change in Los Angeles County, Autism in Emergency Management Contexts, Human Trafficking in Los Angeles County, and more
- Execution of tabletop exercise simulating an earthquake event in Whittier for nonprofit partners in conjunction with FEMA, the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), the

US Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, and others

- Development of strategic planning documents and infrastructure, including platforms for onboarding spontaneous volunteers and donations, as well as a Strategic Document, Emergency Response Plan, Tabletop Exercise After Action Report and more

ENLA Board and Leadership (as of 9/2022)

Michael Flood, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, *Chairman*
Nick Nguyen, Salvation Army, *Vice-Chairman*
Curtis Hsing, *Secretary*
Andrew Grundig, Volunteers of America, *Treasurer*
Alana Hitchcock, 211 LA County
Barbara Mariscal, American Red Cross
Eric Honanie, United American Indian Involvement
Janet Weiland, Church of Scientology
Jennifer Campbell, Los Angeles Region Community Recovery Organization (LARCRO)
Jesse Marquez, Coalition For A Safe Environment
Jessica Lawson, Habitat for Humanity
Larry Grable, Service Center for Independent Life
Matthew Pederson, Team Rubicon
Mehul Patel, BAPS Charities
Norman Yang, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation
Natalie Samuels, West Valley Counseling Center
Rene Martin, Christian Church – Disciples of Christ
Sandri Kramer, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Foundation
Scott Tanner, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Skip Koenig, Neighborhood Legal Services LA

Non-Voting Members

Charles Craig, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Crisanta Gonzalez, City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department
Jeanne O'Donnell, Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management
John Cvjetkovic, Los Angeles County Department of Social Services
Lisa Patrick-Mudd, Los Angeles County Department of Health

Staff

Yosef Jalil, Program Director

VOAD Activities & Events

Following the onboarding of a program director and the widespread adoption of virtual conferencing platforms, ENLA has been able to host significantly more activities for its members, promoting capacity building and communication between our partners.

Update Calls

Held on a tri-weekly basis since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, ENLA Update Calls have served as a venue that fosters dialogue between our community, faith-based, and government partners. Scheduled for one-hour blocks on Fridays, these meetings provide a platform for our members to provide us with organizational updates, providing insight into relevant operations and events relevant to our community.

Update calls also include an update from ENLA's Program Director, providing members with the opportunity to hear about upcoming events and the various projects the VOAD is working on.

Membership Meetings

ENLA Membership Meetings are held bimonthly and are, by all measures, equal parts informative and educational. At each membership meeting two guest speakers are invited to present on topics such as immigrants' access to government services; the current status of Afghan and Ukrainian refugees; the interface of structures, seismology, and policy in Southern California; the status of COVID-19 in LA County; promoting economic recovery following the pandemic and more.

Membership meetings generally range between one and a half to two hours in length and review, in detail, the ongoings of the ENLA Board and the operational activities of the VOAD. Like update calls, time is afforded to our members to announce the various activities of their own organizations.

Workshops

Starting in March 2021, ENLA has been hosting highly informative workshops on a monthly basis that are exclusive to our members. Typically two hours in length, these events are designed to be an interactive way to capacitate our members on subjects relevant to the field of emergency management.

Recent topics have included: Climate Change in Los Angeles County and the Wildland Urban Interface (Malibu Foundation); Building Resilience (Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society); Personal Emergency Preparedness (Volunteers of America); Autism in Emergency Management Settings (Sonoma County Regional Parks); and more.

Exercises

On October 28, 2021, ENLA hosted a virtual tabletop exercise simulating a moderately-sized earthquake in Whittier, CA, a municipality that sits along a major fault line. The exercise, designed in tandem with Caltech's Seismological Laboratory, involved players and support personnel from FEMA, LA County Office of Emergency Management, LA County Department of Social Services, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, 211 LA, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The exercise was a stunning success as it boosted the disaster preparedness and response capabilities of both our nonprofit and government partners, challenging them with injects that required "out of the box" thinking. Most importantly, it revealed major gaps in our partner's response capabilities, particularly regarding in-field communication.

Another exercise will be conducted in November 2022 simulating a disaster event with a more robust network of government and nonprofit partners.

Programming

In June 2022, ENLA was awarded a major grant by Cal OES to boost Los Angeles County's emergency management infrastructure, with emphasis on preparedness and recovery. In light of this opportunity, ENLA launched multi-pronged programming to support the staff of its community and government-based partners who, in turn, directly interface with 100,000 county residents.

Mental Health Resources – Starting in September 2022, ENLA will team up with Los Angeles County-based mental health clinics to fund a total of 120 hours of direct mental health services

for emergency management frontliners working for 10 local nonprofit organizations. Such services are intended to reduce burnout and promote the general welfare of our partners.

ENLA will also work with clinicians to host six workshops designed to teach partners how to better identify and engage with traumatized individuals, support immigrant communities, administer psychological first aid, and more.

Communications Training – ENLA will support partner agencies by providing them with opportunities to gain licensing in ham (amateur) radio, funding licensing, training, and equipment.

Attention will be directed towards entities working in rural/low broadband areas, as the VOAD seeks to significantly improve the communications and response capabilities for communities across the county.

Community Developed Emergency Operation Planning – ENLA will support the planning and preparedness of both socially vulnerable and high-hazard communities, as well as small and medium-sized nonprofits, teaching them how to develop easily digestible Emergency Operation Plans (EOPs).

EOP Training will be designed with communities in mind, empowering attendees to be trainers themselves, allowing them to develop customizable, contextually relevant planning that is local in focus and keeps diversity of language, culture, religion, functional needs, in mind.

Recovery – ENLA will provide funding for Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) and Community Recovery Organizations (CROs) for ongoing (e.g.: Woolsey Fire, 2018; Bobcat & Lake Fires, 2020) and future recovery efforts. Funding will support engagement, in-state travel, capacity building, and payroll augmentation. To best address the needs of the disadvantaged, ENLA intends on placing the emphasis of our funding on frontline service providers, as the sector is suffering from elevated levels of burnout and turnover. Building the capacity of these organizations will better allow them to prepare communities for and respond to emergencies, leading to greater resiliency and better outcomes for communities.

Moreover, ENLA will seek to craft a “Lessons Learned Toolbox” from previous disasters to better guide communities, government agencies, and nonprofits through future events.

Functional Committees

Six functional committees meet regularly and work on various projects supporting emergency management infrastructure of LA County. These committees include:

COMMUNICATIONS committee provides for the coordination of ENLA communications services by ensuring that key information and updated status reports are distributed among ENLA members and government emergency response agencies during disaster or emergency events. Preparing for this role is an on-going function of the committee. *Chaired by Matthew Pederson (Team Rubicon).*

DONATIONS MANAGEMENT committee will involve the handling and distribution of in-kind donations before, during, and after a disaster has occurred. *Co-Chaired by Michael Flood (LA Regional Food Bank) and Nicholas Nguyen (Salvation Army).*

EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE committee will look after the mental health and wellbeing

of Los Angeles County residents, with special emphasis on individuals affected by disaster. *Co-Chaired by Sandri Kramer (Didi Hirsch Mental Health Foundation) and Janet Weiland (Church of Scientology Disaster Response).*

MASS CARE committee is responsible for analyzing and implementing the preparedness, response and recovery efforts of ENLA members to feed, shelter, provide short-term housing and meet other immediate needs for persons adversely affected by disaster. It will include efforts to help organizations serving those with special needs (seniors, DAFN, homeless, limited English proficiency, animals, etc.) to better prepare for emergencies or disasters. *Chaired by Scott Sapers (American Red Cross).*

RECOVERY committee activated in a declared emergency or disaster, consists of organizations involved with case management and other activities related to recovery on an on-going basis after an emergency or disaster. These services are delivered under difficult environmental conditions that typically result in loss of infrastructure, disruption of operations, and special challenges for communication, record keeping, coordination, and efficiency. The committee will stay connected to local, regional, state and, in a declared disaster area, federal assistance and will stay connected to local FEMA activated entities. *Co-Chaired by Jenni Campbell (LARCRO) and Larry Grable (Service Center for Independent Life).*

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT Committee is tasked with taking account of volunteer resources of the VOAD's member organizations. The committee will also be charged with planning for the influx of volunteers that occurs during and after an emergency or disaster, and will help to match volunteers with organizations providing direct services to those affected by the disaster. *Chaired by Scott Tanner (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)*

Disaster Response

Since 2021, LA County was faced with a series of challenging crises, with the COVID-19 being chief among them. These crises, both natural and manmade, have ravaged county residents, causing the deaths of thousands and leading to substantial property destruction around the county.

ENLA has worked around the clock to assist support our partners' efforts to support LA County residents affected by an inordinately difficult year, with particular emphasis on vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.

COVID-19 – In November 2019, a new virus dubbed “severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2” (SARS-CoV-2) or “COVID-19” was found in Wuhan, China, later spreading across the country and across international borders. On March 19, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a “Stay at Home Order,” closing all non-essential businesses and discouraging residents from congregating with others. As the virus continues to ravage county residents and overwhelm medical systems, Emergency Network Los Angeles is doing what it can to support its partners assisting residents in staying safe.

To date, ENLA has facilitated the donation of approximately 4,000,000 units of personal protective equipment (PPE) to its nonprofit partners and their in-state affiliates. The PPE, which was sourced from local, state, and federal sources, as well as the private sector, includes masks, gloves, gowns, goggles, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes.

Moreover, ENLA Program Director Yosef Jalil served as Co-Chair of the Effective Communications Committee of LA County Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Workgroup. The committee was responsible for crafting and putting out strategic messaging that would encourage LA County residents to follow CDC guidelines on social distancing, masking, and hygiene, and promote the uptake of vaccines.



Salvation Army unloading a large shipment of PPE

To date, the pandemic has infected 3.4 million LA County residents, taking the lives of over 33,000 individuals. More than 75% of Los Angeles County residents ages 12 and up have received at least one vaccine, making it one of the most vaccinated metropolitan areas in the country.

Resettlement of Afghan Refugees – Following the downfall of the Afghan government in August 2021 by the Taliban, the United States its allies evacuated over 123,000 individuals from Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport.

In the immediate aftermath of the evacuation operation, FEMA contacted ENLA to support "Operation Allies Welcome," an undertaking to help acclimate the tens of thousands of Afghan refugees who elected to settle in the United States.

Support efforts locally under Los Angeles County's Office of Emergency Management, ENLA recruited over numerous nonprofit partner – including the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, BAPS Charities, Team Rubicon, and others – to support case management, feeding, housing, and medical care, and other services. This culminated in the hosting of Local Assistance Centers across Los Angeles County to help newcomers easily obtain services.

Moreover, ENLA continues to support the operation by serving on the county's Afghan Career/Resource Fair Committee, assisting refugees with job placement and other opportunities.

Cathay Manor Incident – In the Winter of 2021, a 15-story, 270-unit apartment bloc housing low-income seniors in Los Angeles' Chinatown's district became a hazard to its residents when both of its elevators were no longer operational. The situation proved to be perilous to the building's residents, many of whom are non-English speaking and are in their 70s, 80s, and 90s, as they could not use the stairwell, jeopardizing their safety, food security, wellbeing, and general mobility.

In conjunction with the City of Los Angeles' Emergency Management Department and Council District 1, ENLA coordinated relief efforts with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Team Rubicon, St. Barnabas Social Services, the I Did Something Good Today Foundation, and other nonprofit partners to deliver fresh food, conduct wellness checks, and provide laundry services for residents in need. The operations went on for several months until the situation could be rectified by the landlord.



Volunteers from various ENLA-affiliated nonprofits assisting the residents of Cathay Manor in the City of Los Angeles' Chinatown neighborhood

Long-Term Recovery

Much of the work ENLA was involved in when it was first constituted in 1996 revolved around long-term recovery for communities affected by the Northridge Earthquake. As fire seasons have gotten longer, deadlier, and more destructive, recovery has taken on new form, representing a major piece of ENLA's operations.

Bobcat and Lake Wildfires – As the planet continues to heat up and the Western United States suffers from a lack of precipitation, California's wildfires are growing in frequency and intensity. In 2020 the Lake (August 12th – September 28th) and Bobcat (September 6th – December 18th) wildfires burned through 31,089 acres and 114,963 acres, respectively, collectively destroying approximately 150 structures in the Antelope Valley.

ENLA, by request of LA County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), activated its network, enlisting, among others, Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Los Angeles Region Community Recovery Organization (LARCRO), Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, and United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in order to provide intake at the Local Assistance Center (LAC) for those affected and respond to their immediate needs (food, cash cards, blankets, shelter etc).

In October 2020, a Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG) was established in order to support those affected by both the Bobcat and Lake fires, including members from the aforementioned nonprofits and ENLA allies and affiliates Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles, United Policyholders, Habitat for Humanity of Greater LA, and others, together with Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, FEMA, and CAL OES. This group has been meeting on a weekly basis, providing services for communities affected by both fires, including Disaster Case Management (DCM) services by way of Catholic Charities (Bobcat) and Salvation Army Lake.



The Bobcat Fire burning through a residential area in the Antelope Valley

In concert with VOAD guidelines, this group's leadership has passed from the VOAD to community leaders, with support from LARCRO. The LTRG will be functional for an indefinite period of time, as it is to promote the community's recovery until it is no longer deemed necessary.

27th Street Explosion – On June 30, 2021 at approximately 7:00pm, a joint task force headed by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) seized an illegal cache of fireworks from a residence near the corner of 27th and San Pedro in South Los Angeles. The material was detonated onsite, as it was deemed too combustible to transport. Tragically, an unfortunate miscalculation caused a massive explosion, injuring 17 (9 LAPD officers, 1 ATF agent, and 7 civilians) and causing extensive damage to the surrounding neighborhood.



Team Rubicon conducting debris clearance for 27th Street residents

211 LA, Team Rubicon, United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR), The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Volunteers of America, and others.

ENLA, by request of the City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department, activated its VOAD network, deploying its partners to provide services in the areas of intake, feeding, shelter, mental health, legal assistance, case management, debris removal and more, while also overseeing the distribution of food and non-food items for the community. Running through the entire month of July, the response efforts were among the most robust in recent years, directly involving approximately a third of our nonprofit agencies, including the American Red Cross, Salvation Army,

ENLA served on the City of Los Angeles' Long Term Recovery Committee servicing the households affected by the 27th Street Explosion for several months, offering its expertise in properly managing the long-term needs of the area's residents.

Woolsey Wildfire – In November 2018, the Woolsey Fire burned nearly 100,000 acres in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, destroying more than 1,600 structures and causing \$6 billion in property damage.

Four years later, ENLA continues to work with organizations like the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, the Los Angeles Region Community Recovery Organization, and others to help meet funding gaps for vulnerable residents (such as lower-income individuals and seniors) displaced by the fire, contributing its efforts to a Long Term Recovery Group that has raised an estimated \$3,000,000 in funding (pending an After Action Report) for Woolsey survivors.

Recruitment

Part of the VOAD's has been the recruitment of nonprofit and government partners: From September 2021 – August 2022, ENLA's membership grew by 40% (from 43 members to 60).

New members (nonprofit)

Alpha Miracle Foundation
Community Disaster Preparedness Foundation
Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE)
Eagle Vision Outreach
Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
I Did Something Good Today Foundation
Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC)
Institute for Sustainable Development
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
L.A. Works
The Malibu Foundation
St. Barnabas Senior Services
Thai Community Development Center
TurnOut
Watts/Century Latino Organization
Watts Community Development Corporation

New members (government)

State of California Department of Social Services

Cooperative ties (non-formalized)

City of Inglewood
City of Santa Monica
City of Whittier

Funding

In the last 12 months, ENLA has received grant funding from the California Office of Emergency Services (\$150,000), Southern California Edison (\$10,000), and BAPS Charities (\$5,000). The Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Baby2Baby, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles elected to become "Sustaining Members," contributing over \$1,000 in membership dues, with other organizations and private individuals choosing to donate modest sums of money to the help keep the VOAD operational.

**Emergency Network Los Angeles, Inc.
Fiscal Year 2021-2022 ending June 30, 2022**

Revenues

Grants/Contributions	\$ 38,949
Membership Dues	7,433
Total	\$ 46,382

Expenses

Personnel Expenses	\$ 87,725
Insurance	4,565
Professional Services	4,750
Computer & Office Supplies	300
Other Expenses	3,516
Total	\$100,856

Surplus/Deficit **\$ (54,474)**

Net Assets **\$ 35,639**

