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PRESS RELEASE
California Commission on Aging

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**California Commission on Aging Presents Recommendations for
Improved Disaster and Response Recovery**

SACRAMENTO, October 27, 2025 --- The California Commission on Aging (CCoA) will present the findings of its report, *Rebuilding Lives: Disaster Response and Recovery for Older Adults and People with Disabilities in California*, at the upcoming California Association of Area Agencies on Aging Annual Conference. CCoA Chair, **David Lindeman, PhD**, will share the report's findings and recommendations following the welcome address at **2:00 pm on November 5, 2025**, at the Hyatt Regency Grand Ballroom in Garden Grove, California.

The disproportionate impact of disasters on older adults and individuals with disabilities is well documented. Beyond their significantly higher fatality rate, survivors often face major challenges rebuilding their lives when disaster strikes. Offering a comprehensive review of emergency response through long-term recovery, the paper presents **ten recommendations** to strengthen recovery efforts and enhance resilience among older Californians affected by natural disasters.

CCoA's recommendations address three areas: **state administrative actions, local administrative actions, and statutory or budgetary changes** under the purview of the Legislature. These recommendations are relevant to local emergency planners, state policymakers, aging and disability service providers and advocates, and residents.

Developed from testimony gathered at the *Recovering Together* informational hearing CCoA convened on May 22, 2025, at the Braille Institute in Los Angeles, and supported by additional research, the report analyzes the challenges facing older adults and people with disabilities affected by the **January 2025 Los Angeles wildfires**. The hearing brought together experts in aging and disability, emergency response organizations, county agencies, nonprofit service providers, and individuals with lived experience to discuss key issues in response and recovery.

CCoA remains committed to amplifying the voices heard at the May 22 hearing and advancing these vital recommendations. The report provides critical guidance to reduce the heightened risks faced by older adults and individuals with disabilities during and after emergencies in California.



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Highlighting recurring challenges experienced during wildfires — particularly the **Eaton and Palisades fires** — the report identifies barriers to recovery and offers a framework for improving outcomes in future disasters. It addresses a central question: *How can California prepare for an aging population likely to face more frequent and increasingly intense natural disasters?* The report will be available on the [Commission's website](#) on November 5, 2025.

As the state's principal advocacy body for older adults, CCoA advises state leaders, legislators, and governmental agencies on policies and programs that promote fairness, autonomy, choice, and dignity for all older Californians.

For more information about CCoA and its initiatives, please visit <http://ccoa.ca.gov>.



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