



Dear Chair Gorin and Members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors,

The Sonoma County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) would like to extend an offer of partnership to the Board of Supervisors as you deliberate on the allocation of the CARES Act and PG&E funding. COAD is a collaborative network that builds on the capacity and coordination of local community-based organizations to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters in Sonoma County. Membership in COAD provides opportunities in effective planning, response, and recovery through networking and sharing of best practices; improved coordination and communication; and access to timely and accurate information through our seat in the Emergency Operations Center.

Through this offer of partnership, COAD seeks to inform the Board of Supervisors on the areas of greatest need that can benefit from the CARES Act and PG&E funding. COAD relationships and learned experiences from each organization's respective community and industry provide insight in each funding section the Board is seeking to finance, specifically homelessness, the Latinx community, and rental/financial assistance.

- **Rental and Financial Assistance:** The Sonoma County COAD recommends funds be directed to provide rental assistance through a case management supported framework. Our partnership has a proven practice in case management combined with rental and financial assistance provided by COAD members such as Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County, Catholic Charities, and Corazón Healdsburg. Our members are supporting indigenous populations, veterans, seniors, farmworkers, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities and mental illness as well as other vulnerable communities through the case management process, since the 2017 Tubbs Fire through the most recent Public Safety Power Shutoff events.
- **Data Sharing for Effective Resource Allocation:** The Sonoma County COAD recommends funding to help fully develop 2-1-1 Sonoma (*Resiliency and Recovery Framework SN 3.5*). Accurate, real time information is vital in responding to disasters. Likewise, communication among service providers strengthens the community safety-net, foundational to effective response to disasters. Data-sharing and collaboration across our network through data sharing agreements will ensure the most efficient and effective use of funds during and post-disaster. This effort includes supporting the United Way of the Wine Country's effort to fully develop 2-1-1 Sonoma.
- **The Latinx Community:** The Sonoma County COAD supports direct funding to the Latinx Task Force for subsequent dispersion to Latinx-facing organizations. The evident health impact of COVID-19, coupled with the impact of systemic inequity on Latinx communities in Sonoma County have had a disproportionately severe impact on this community. The Sonoma County COAD additionally has active relationships with organizations serving the Latinx community.



- **Resiliency through Food:** The Sonoma County COAD specifically recommends investing funds in preparing sustainable food system solutions. We are investing in mitigation efforts critical to preparing for future disasters as vulnerable communities continue to feel the ongoing impact post-flood, fires, and pandemic. Our COAD Food Committee is working with the UC Cooperative Extension and local partners such as Petaluma Bounty, towards supporting a sustainable source of funding with food service providers (*Resiliency and Recovery Framework SN 1.3*) and developing a comprehensive inventory and mapping of local food resources available to meet ongoing community food needs (*Resiliency and Recovery Framework SN 1.4*).
- Finally, we offer a suggestion to direct funding to areas identified in the Resilience and Recovery Framework, to build on and update to the present day, as it was informed by the community we all seek to serve, support, and include in the work towards resiliency and recovery.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in determining how the CARES Act and PG&E funds will be invested. COAD looks forward to our collaboration with the Board and County departments.

Signed,

**Sonoma County COAD**  
Executive Committee

Jennifer O'Donnell, **Chair**  
Cynthia King, **Vice Chair**  
Lily Rego, **Treasurer**  
Karin Demarest, **Secretary**  
Gabriela Orantes, **Access and Functional Needs Chair**  
Michael Humphrey, **Access and Functional Needs County Liaison**  
Susan Cooper, **Communications Co-Chair**  
Alma Bowen, **Communications Co-Chair**  
Cynthia Calmenson, **Emotional and Spiritual Committee Chair**  
Mimi Enright, **Food Work Group Committee Chair**  
Suzi Grady, **Food Work Group - Incoming Chair**  
Adam Peacocke, **Long Term Recovery Committee Chair**  
Amy Holter, **Preparedness Committee Co-Chair**  
Nathan Gilfenbaum, **Preparedness Committee Co-Chair**  
Jessica Grace-Gallagher, **Volunteer and Donations Committee Chair**  
Nancy Brown, **County Liaison**  
John Kessel, **County Liaison**  
Richard Goldfarb, **Red Cross Shelter Liaison**  
Rocio Rodriguez, **Director**