

One Year After:

# Our Collective Impact on Wildfire Recovery

On January 7, 2025, wildfires swept through Los Angeles County, displacing families, disrupting learning, and deeply affecting school communities. In the weeks and months that followed, our community moved quickly to meet immediate needs, support recovery, and help school communities regain their footing.

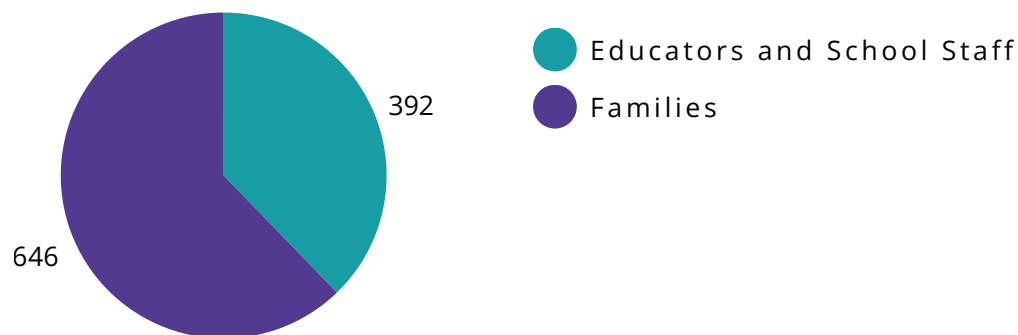
With support from foundations, corporations, community partners, individual donors, and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation (GLAEF) launched the **Los Angeles County Education Wildfire Recovery** Fund and raised nearly \$6M to support short- and long-term recovery for schools and families affected.

# Immediate Relief and Basic Needs

In the days following the fires, our priority was to help families and educators stabilize. Virtual gift cards, valued at up to \$1,000, helped recipients replace essential items and cover temporary living expenses.

- **\$957,000 distributed** to date
- **1,038 families, educators, and school staff** supported across **63 LEAs**

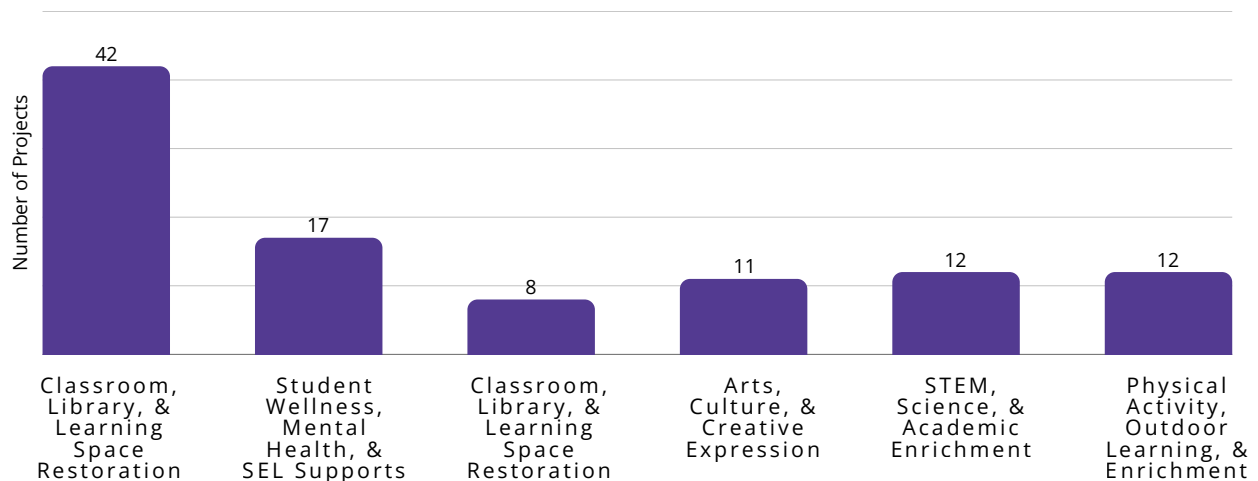
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## Supporting Educators and School Staff

Educators navigated personal loss while continuing to support students experiencing trauma and instability. Through the Educator Grant program, GLAEF awarded **\$177,250** to **102 educators** across fire-impacted schools.

TYPES OF FUNDED PROJECTS



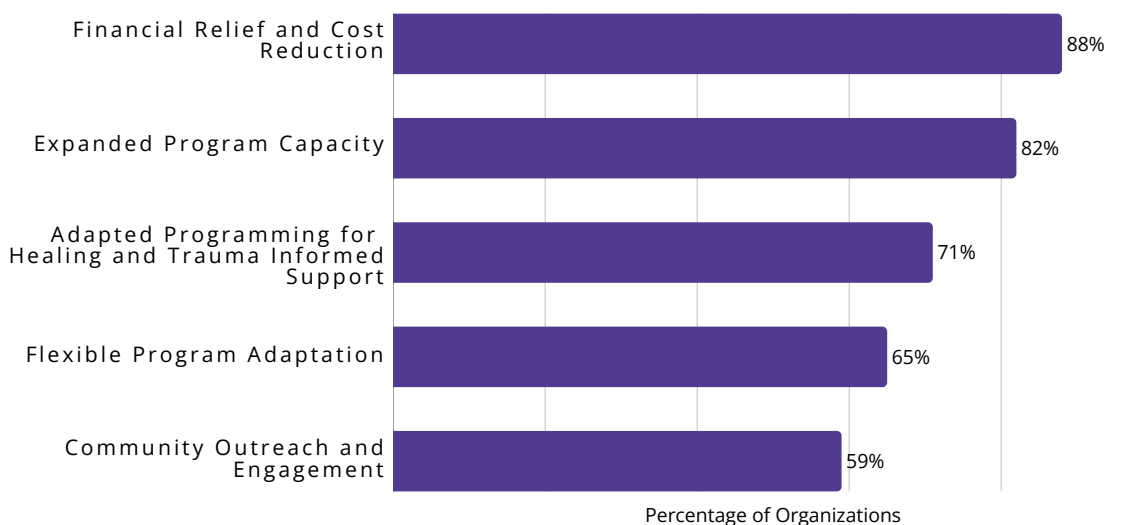
These grants supported classroom restoration, replacement of instructional materials, and recovery-focused projects that prioritized student wellbeing and continuity of learning.

Educator reflections from grant reports highlight how this funding supported both professional and personal recovery. For many, the grants eased financial and emotional strain, restored a sense of normalcy and pride in their work, and helped them continue supporting students while rebuilding spaces, routines, and relationships.

## Enrichment and Out-of-School Time Support

Safe, engaging learning environments outside the school day played an important role in recovery. GLAEF invested **\$168,000** across **17 organizations** providing summer and out-of-school time programs in impacted communities.

### HOW GRANTEES EXPANDED SUPPORT DURING RECOVERY



*\*Organizations often implemented multiple strategies*

These programs offered stability, connection, and joy for young people during a difficult year. GLAEF will continue administering grants to expand access to enrichment and out-of-school time programs as needs persist.

## Investing in Educational Technology

Many schools lost classrooms, devices, and connectivity. GLAEF and its partners invested approximately **\$2 million in laptops, tablets, and other essential technology** for students, educators, and schools.

This investment helped restore instructional capacity and supported continuity of learning during transitions to temporary or relocated sites.

## Mental Health and Wellness Supports

To support the wellbeing of school communities, GLAEF funded supplemental counseling resources and access to Employee Assistance Service for Education (EASE) telehealth services for educators and school staff and their families.

- **\$45,094 awarded**
- More than **3,200 fire-impacted school staff supported**

### EASE COVERAGE FOR STAFF ACROSS IMPACTED SCHOOLS



GLAEF also supported trauma-informed resources and wellness spaces on school campuses to support students and staff as they returned to learning.

## Classroom and School Site Recovery

GLAEF provided **\$128,864 in classroom materials** to five impacted campuses, delivered directly to their temporary school sites to restore learning environments and support students' return to daily school routines.

Building on this support, GLAEF surveyed leaders from four public charter schools that were directly affected by the Eaton Fire to identify ongoing operational needs and inform longer term recovery investments. In response, GLAEF allocated **\$300,000 in facilities support** to address rising facilities costs and needs related to temporary locations and campus improvements.

## Team Building and Staff Wellbeing

As schools closed out a demanding year, GLAEF supported staff wellness, morale and recognition by providing end-of-year lunches and community-building opportunities for school staff affected by the fires.

- **520 staff members** supported through end-of-year lunches across five schools
- **250 members** of the Pasadena and Altadena school communities were provided tickets to a Los Angeles Rams game

Together, these efforts recognized the commitment of school staff and helped strengthen community.

## Community-Based Recovery and Coordination

To remain closely connected to impacted communities, GLAEF and LACOE established a permanent presence at **The Collaboratory**, a community hub dedicated to supporting Eaton Canyon Fire survivors.



The Collaboratory is home to the **Eaton Fire Collaborative** and serves as a central space for survivors to access vetted recovery resources, build connections, and engage directly with partners leading long term recovery efforts. GLAEF and LACOE have established a wellness space at the Collaboratory where LACOE staff provide free counseling support for impacted school employees and their families.

## Strengthening Long-Term Recovery and Regional Alignment

As immediate needs stabilized, GLAEF has expanded its focus to long-term recovery and resilience. In the summer following the fires, GLAEF, in partnership with the **Pasadena Educational Foundation** and the **LAUSD Education Foundation**, was awarded the LA n Sync Wildfire Recovery and Resilience grant to strengthen grant writing capacity across the region.





This work supports school communities in accessing public and private funding needed for sustained rebuilding and future preparedness, while aligning partners around long-term recovery efforts.

## Looking Ahead

One year after the fires, recovery continues. The scale of need remains significant, and long-term recovery will require sustained partnership and investment.

In the year ahead, schools have identified ongoing needs related to **mental health, academic recovery, and staff support**. GLAEF will continue working alongside schools, districts, nonprofit partners, and funders to direct resources where they are most needed.

The resilience shown by students, educators, and families across Los Angeles County reminds us that recovery is a shared, long-term effort. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to this work and look forward to continuing it together.

