



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Collaboratively Advancing Growth and Prosperity for All

January 7, 2026

Dear Community Partner,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), I want to sincerely apologize for the delay in the disbursement of your FireAid grant funds.

We want to be clear and direct in our communication. Due to a banking processing error, your grant funds were not released as scheduled. This was our responsibility, and we regret that this error delayed funds you were rightfully expecting. The issue has now been fully resolved in coordination with our banking partner (please see the attached letter from the President of Bank of America).

Your FireAid grant payment is scheduled to be issued on Friday, January 9, 2026. No additional action is required on your part to receive these funds.

We recognize that for some recipients, this delay created more than inconvenience. Many of you planned around these funds, and some of you may have questioned whether the grant was real or feared being further victimized during an already fragile recovery period. We want to state unequivocally: your grant is real, it was approved in good faith, and we regret that this delay caused doubt, stress, or disruption at a time when certainty matters most. Today's resolution was especially important to us, as this date marks the anniversary of the wildfires and underscores the urgency and significance of delivering on our commitments.

Since January 7, 2025, LAEDC has remained fully committed to supporting small businesses and nonprofit organizations impacted by the wildfires. Over the past year, our team has worked continuously to operate business recovery centers, provide direct technical and financial assistance, and coordinate public and private resources to help affected organizations stabilize, rebuild, and remain rooted in their communities. Supporting your recovery is central to our mission, and we do not take this responsibility lightly.

We are disappointed that this situation occurred. Although the situation was beyond our control, we take responsibility for the breakdown that caused it. We appreciate your patience and the grace many of you extended during this process. LAEDC remains committed to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in how we deliver support to the businesses and organizations we serve.

If you have questions or need additional assistance, our team remains available to you.

Thank you for the vital role you play in our region's recovery and resilience.

Sincerely,

Stephen Cheung
President and CEO
Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation

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