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# BUTTE STRONG

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## FUND



AARON RODGERS  
NORCAL  
FIRE RECOVERY  
FUND at NVCF



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After five years of grants and more than \$67 million committed to Camp Fire recovery through North Valley Community Foundation, the Butte Strong Fund awarded its final grant this month – \$3 million to support family centers through First 5 Butte County.

The First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission has funded and supported hundreds of local programs and systems to provide services to families with children up to the age of 5 or with a child on the way.

The grant will support existing and planned family centers throughout Butte County for the next six years.

“Our Butte Strong Fund Citizens Committee wanted to make one last large, impactful grant as we exhaust the funding in the Butte Strong Fund grant program. They agreed that support for families and children in the coming years is paramount,” said Alexa Benson-Valavanis, NVCF president and CEO. “First 5 is the perfect organization to pull this off, with its combination of experience and a heart for the work. We all look forward to watching this vision come to fruition in the next few years.”

The Butte Strong Fund is a partnership of NVCF, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. and the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Fire Recovery Fund.

Family support centers are community-based resource hubs where families can access formal and informal support to promote their health and well-being. Family centers can be located in apartment complexes, schools, health centers, libraries, community centers, storefronts, churches and so forth.

Family center services are always free, voluntary and inclusive of all families. Family centers can serve as a food and diaper bank, a clothing closet, a service and referral hub, and a place where families can receive support and assistance navigating the complex social service system.

“Supporting families is a key step in building a more resilient community,” said First 5 Butte County Director Anna Bauer. “Quality support and nurturing during early childhood is the most important thing we can do for young children to help them thrive. First 5 Butte County is proud to partner with the Butte Strong Fund to provide quality programs for families with young children.”

In addition to the First 5 grant, the Butte Strong Fund made the following awards through its Small Grant Program:

- \$50,000 to Hope Crisis Response Network to help recruit volunteers to rebuild homes for Camp Fire survivors in Butte County. In the year ending Aug. 31, 2024, Hope Crisis Response Network aims to complete 18 homes for low-income, single-parent, disabled and veteran households who were uninsured or under-insured during the fire.
- \$25,000 to Butte County Office of Education to place trauma-informed teaching artists in schools. The initiative will serve 180 students across the Golden Feather, Pioneer and Paradise Children’s Community Charter small-school districts. Additionally, the program will collaborate closely with classroom teachers to support their professional development in integrating arts into their teaching practices.
- \$25,505 to Tula Therapeutic Collective’s Resiliency Project, which aims to address the ongoing mental health challenges faced by Camp Fire survivors. With a significant decrease in available mental health services in the Paradise and Magalia areas, residents are forced to travel to Chico for assistance, often facing financial barriers. In collaboration with Paradise Stronger, this project seeks to enhance community resilience through resource and skill-building groups, group counseling and individual counseling.
- \$50,000 to the Camp Fire Collaborative, which in turn regranted the money to community organizations hosting Camp Fire fifth anniversary commemoration events.
- \$45,000 to Magalia Community Park and Community Center to help pay rent and other obligations for the vital community hub. It offers essential services like a safe outdoor exercise venue, a community meeting place, mental health programs, youth activities and emergency response support.
- \$10,000 to Paradise Community Chorus for Holiday in Paradise events. They have organized an exciting holiday season celebration to foster community pride.
- \$15,000 to Azad’s Basket Brigade, which provided Thanksgiving meals for families facing financial hardship, especially those with school-age children. The grant will directly assist families affected by the Camp Fire.

The grants total \$3,220,505 and bring the total of grants and projects funded to \$67,016,841 since the Camp Fire on Nov. 8, 2018.