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Five grants totaling \$267,500 were approved last month for Bear/North Complex Fire recovery projects, bringing the total awarded from the North Valley Community Foundation's Wildfire Relief and Recovery Fund to more than \$600,000.

The largest grant, \$125,000, is for a fire prevention project in the Berry Creek area. The Lake Madrone Water District is trying to complete a fire break surrounding its 484-acre district. The fire break project is spearheaded by the Butte County Fire Safe Council.

A grant of \$62,500 will help Paradise Alliance Church expand its defensible space program to the North Complex Fire area in conjunction with Butte County Fire Safe Council. The program mobilizes volunteers to help homeowners remove dead and dying trees. With the help of grants like this and the volunteer labor, tree removal is free to property owners.

A grant of \$25,000 to Butte County's Safe and Stable Housing program will provide short-term housing solutions to North Complex Fire survivors. Funds will be utilized to assist survivors with transportation, temporary housing solutions or repairs to property to allow for the survivor to return to their property. Funds will be administered by Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services with the assistance of AmeriCorps case managers working with survivors.

A \$5,000 grant to the Tiny Pine Foundation will provide electric blankets to North Complex Fire survivors.

Three different disaster relief funds at NVCF will grant \$50,000 to Paradise Gleaners/Butte County Gleaners for a program called Creating Comfort During COVID. The Gleaners operate a warehouse on Oro Dam Boulevard in Oroville and also deliver to various locations in Butte County. The grant will purchase hot meals, food baskets, personal hygiene items and gift cards.

Committees for the North Complex Fire, Butte Strong Fund and COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund all approved the aid to the organization.

NVCF has now distributed \$600,444 to organizations providing assistance to North Complex Fire survivors. Grants have helped purchase items like gas, food, shelter, animal supplies, groceries, clothing and more.

NVCF has also deployed \$38 million for Camp Fire relief and recovery projects and \$2.2 million for COVID-19 response from separate fundraising efforts.

For more information on the North Complex Fire Grant Program, including information on how nonprofits and government agencies can apply, visit www.nvcf.org/north-complex-fire-grant-program. Donations can be made to the fund through the website as well.

North Complex Fire survivors who need help can learn more at https://211northcomplexfire.org or by calling 211.