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The North Valley Community Foundation is launching a new program to provide grants and other resources to indigenous communities affected by wildfires, COVID-19 and other hardships.

NVCF will allocate \$100,000 to open the Disaster Relief for Indigenous Communities Grant Program. It's the first initiative under an effort by NVCF to focus on social justice initiatives, particularly Black, indigenous and people of color populations.

NVCF has elevated Monica Wigman to the role of program officer, community healing. In her newly created position, she will oversee collaborations with underserved communities and underamplified voices in the North Valley.

"This is a position we have been talking about and dreaming up for several months, especially after the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter protests last year," said Alexa Benson-Valavanis, NVCF president and CEO. "During our disaster relief work here, particularly related to wildfires and COVID-19, we see how our large indigenous population in the North Valley has been disproportionately impacted.

"Now is the perfect time to step forward to do that work, and Monica is the perfect person to lead that effort."

The grant program will initially focus on housing, health and wellness, and community development. These three areas were identified as top priorities facing indigenous communities undertaking disaster recovery efforts. The effect of sudden changes in population redistribution has had a serious impact on reliable and timely access to resources.

To learn more about the grant program, the areas of emphasis and how tribes and nonprofit organizations working with indigenous populations can apply, please go to www.nvcf.org/disaster-relief-for-indigenous-communities.