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The North Valley Community Foundation has asked Butte County government to bolster case management services for Camp Fire survivors, and has contributed a grant of nearly \$1.3 million to make it happen.

The funding will allow the county to utilize 57 AmeriCorps volunteers and attempt to eliminate a backlog of requests for case management help. The county estimates the grant will provide case management services for at least 1,400 individuals or families impacted by the fire.

NVCF and the Butte Strong Fund have heavily invested in case management and direct assistance totaling \$10,281,598. This is just one more significant investment to support people impacted by the Camp Fire.

“For several months, we have been working with our partners who have stood up case management, knowing that big gaps exist to ensure every person has the help they need to navigate the complexities of recovery,” said Jovanni Tricerri, vice president for regional recovery and partnerships at NVCF. “We are thrilled with this new and meaningful collaboration with the county to significantly increase the access to resources for those in need.

“Without the resolve of Assemblyman James Gallagher, County Chief Administrative Officer Shari McCracken and Department of Employment and Social Services Director Shelby Boston we could not pull this off. Thanks to the dedication of this team, our region’s recovery will become surmountable to hundreds of families.”

A lack of case managers provided by government after the fire has been a nearly 18-month problem. NVCF and the Butte Strong Fund have paid for 21 case manager and support positions for agencies working with fire survivors. The newest grant will increase that total significantly.

NVCF and the county’s Department of Social Services have been working on potential solutions. AmeriCorps will provide the 57 three-quarters time case workers. NVCF will fund \$1,276,459, more than half of the \$2.5 million total. The program is also supported the federal government with a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Services, the state of California and in-kind support from Butte County. Butte County supervisors accepted the grant at a meeting today.

“We are excited to be partnering with Butte County to expand much-needed case management services for those affected by the Camp Fire,” said Kim DuFour, program officer for NVCF. “This program will allow trained AmeriCorps volunteers who are supervised by the Department of Employment and Social Services to begin working with households who have been waiting for a disaster case manager to help them navigate this complex recovery process.”