



2025 Fire Risk Reduction Community List FAQs

Overview

- **What is the Fire Risk Reduction Community List (FRRCL)?**

[Public Resources Code 4290.1](#) requires the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop and maintain “a list of local agencies located in a state responsibility area or very high fire hazard severity zone...that meet best practices for local fire planning.” This list will be published on the Board’s website by July 1, 2022, and updated every two years thereafter. The next update will be effective July 1, 2026. The Board’s regulations pertaining to the List can be found in the California Code of Resources, Title 14, Sections 1268.00-1268.04.

- **How will the List be used? What does it mean for a local agency to be on or off the List?**

[Public Resources Code 4124.7](#) requires CAL FIRE to “prioritize local assistance grant funding applications from local agencies based on the “Fire Risk Reduction Community List.” Wildfire Prevention Grant applicants will receive priority if the applicant is on the Fire Risk Reduction Community List. Projects are selected on a competitive basis and consecutive awards are not guaranteed. To learn more about available grants and the grant process, please visit [Wildfire Prevention Grants | CAL FIRE](#).

The Fire Risk Reduction Community List is also included under the California Department of Insurance’s Safer from Wildfires regulations in Title 10, Section 2644.9(d), as a mandatory factor insurers must take into account and reflect in their rating plans.

- **What is considered a “local agency” for the purposes of this List?**

A local agency is defined as “Any city, city and county, or county; tribal agency; agency, department, district or other publicly funded entity serving a city or and county.” Non-profits, homeowner’s associations, Fire Safe Councils, and other non-governmental organizations are not considered local agencies.

- **Does a local agency need to reapply when the List is updated every two years to remain on the List?**

Yes.

- **How do I apply for the List?**

The application form is available on the [Board's website](#) during the open application period, along with detailed instructions on the application process. Applications are due October 1st of every odd-numbered year. To navigate to the website, please visit bof.fire.ca.gov, under the Projects & Programs tab, select Fire Risk Reduction Communities List.

- **When is the FRRCL application period open?**

The application period is open on July 1st, of every odd numbered year and due October 1st of the same odd year. The Board will not accept applications outside of this open application period, nor will the application be available outside of the open period. You can sign up to receive automatic notifications of the application period here: [State Board of Forestry & Fire Protection list manager sign up](#)

Wildfire Prevention Grants & the Fire Risk Reduction Community List

- **Does not being eligible for the List preclude a local agency from applying for or receiving Wildfire Prevention Grant funding?**

No, the Wildfire Prevention Grants eligibility remains as is listed in the Wildfire Prevention Grants Procedural Guide for the corresponding fiscal year. Applicants not eligible for the List will not be precluded from receiving grant funds.

- **Will a local agency receive priority for grant applications designed to meet the eligibility criteria with the goal of being added to the List?**

Yes. Wildfire Prevention Grant applicants will receive priority for utilizing the funding to meet the List eligibility requirements. Applications are evaluated based on the criteria located in the Wildfire Prevention Grants Procedural Guide for the corresponding fiscal year.

- **If placed on the List, in which Wildfire Prevention Grant application cycle will my agency receive priority?**

An agency's priority in receiving Wildfire Prevention Grants will be taken into the consideration for the duration of two year lifespan of the list. Wildfire Prevention Grant application cycle dates and frequency may change depending on the fiscal year. Agency's will receive priority if they have active FRRCL status at the time of their Grant application submission regardless of if their FRRCL status will expire prior to the announcement of awards. For current Grant application timelines please reach out to CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants program.

Subdivision Review Program & the Fire Risk Reduction Community List

- **Does a city or county have to have received one or more reviews from the Subdivision Review Program to meet criterion 1268.01(a)(4)? What if the local agency does not have any subdivisions that are eligible for review by the program?**

No. If a local agency has not yet been reviewed by the Subdivision Review Program, or if it contains no subdivisions eligible for review, it only needs to indicate this in the List application form for this criterion to be met.

- **Does a city or county have to have implemented the recommendations from each subdivision review it has received to meet criterion 1268.01(a)(4)? What if some of these recommendations are infeasible to implement?**

No. The recommendations provided by CAL FIRE are not required to be implemented, however the Board is required to track the status of implementation of recommendations provided, if any. The progress report submitted may explain why certain criteria have not yet been implemented or are infeasible to implement and still meet this criterion. There is no required format for the progress report.

Subdivision Map Act Findings

- **How do I submit subdivision map findings?**

To submit your subdivision map findings, please fill out the [Subdivision Map Finding Form](#) and submit to LandUsePlanning@bof.ca.gov. For additional information you can visit bof.fire.ca.gov, Projects and Programs tab, Subdivision Findings, or click here to be directed to the site: [Subdivision Findings webpage](#).

Miscellaneous

- **Is the Fire Risk Reduction Community List the same thing as, or related to, the Community at Risk List?**

No, these lists are separate and unrelated to each other. The Fire Risk Reduction Community List focuses on proactive community planning and risk reduction whereas the Community at Risk List is based primarily on exposure to the hazard of wildfire.

- **How was the definition of a Low-Income Local Agency in 1268.00(e) determined?**

For cities –This definition is based on a city's median income and relies on data published annually by the Department of Housing and Community Development in 25 CCR § 6932. This source was selected for consistency with the data already used by CAL FIRE's Grants program in determining low-income status.

For counties – A low-income county is one with a median household income equal to or less than 80% of the state median household income. Information from the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) from the US Census Bureau reports on California statewide median are used to determine this value.

At the time of this document the state median household income for California is \$95,521, 80% of that number is \$76,417. A low income county would have a median income equal to or less than \$76,417. This number will be updated continually in the regulations as future ACS data becomes available

Non-cities and counties are considered a low-income local agency if they serve at least one low-income city or county. If an agency is unsure if they qualify as low-income, they may contact Board staff for assistance.

Non-Cities and Non-Counties vs Cities and Counties

- **Our special district works very closely with our partner agency at the city/county level, should we apply as a special district or as the city/county?**

Either local agency may apply, however only the agency named on the FRRCL application as the applicant will be placed on the list and will receive priority in grant funding. The FRRCL application contains separate criteria for cities/counties and non-cities/counties. Cities and counties will need to satisfy 4 mandatory criteria which give credit for compliance with state regulation, in addition to meeting 2 optional criteria. When making the decision of how to apply local agencies may also want to consider that the applying agencies service area and jurisdictional boundaries will also determine the boundaries of their Fire Risk Reduction Community.

- **Can a city and its fire department both apply during the same FRRCL cycle?**

Yes. A city and its fire department can both apply separately during the same FRRCL cycle. Both would need to submit a complete application and supporting documentation.

Property Insurance

- **What is a “Fire Risk Reduction Community” and how does this designation apply to structures and buildings?**

A private home, commercial building, or other type of structure that is located geographically within the serviced area, and under the jurisdiction of a local agency on the current FRRCL list is in a Fire Risk Reduction Community. For

example, if a county is on the current List, all property that falls under the jurisdiction of that county would be in a Fire Risk Reduction Community. If a property owner is unsure if their property lies within the jurisdictional boundaries of a FRRCL agency they should contact their local agency directly to confirm.

- **I own a property in a FRRCL community, what do I need to submit to my insurance provider to verify my local agency is on the List?**

The Board's website contains the following documents which can be used to verify an agencies status: the Fire Risk Reduction Community List, Resolution of the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Approving the current List, Statewide map of FRRCL communities. These can be accessed on the Board's website under the Fire Risk Reduction Community List program page. If further documentation is needed, please contact your local agency.

- **How is FRRCL connected to insurance?**

The California Department of Insurance "Safer from Wildfires" regulations in Title 10, Section 2644.9(d), include Fire Risk Reduction Communities as a community-level mitigation designation, as shown below. The Safer from Wildfire regulations require insurers to use a rating plan that takes into account and reflects the reduced wildfire risk associated with community-level mitigation designations.

Title 10, Section 2644.9(d):

(d) Mandatory factors.

(1) No insurer shall use a rating plan that does not take into account and reflect the following mandatory factors:

(A) Community-level mitigation designations: The rating plan shall reflect, and the rate offered to the applicant or insured shall be based in part on, the reduced wildfire risk associated with each and every community-level mitigation designation listed below in this subdivision (d)(1)(A) that is applicable to the community in which the Building Being Evaluated is located. Community-level mitigation designations include:

1. Fire Risk Reduction Community listed by the Board of Forestry pursuant to Public Resources Code section 4290.1; and

2. Firewise USA Site in Good Standing.

- **My property does not fall within a FRRCL community, are their other factors in the Safer from Wildfire regulations?**

Yes. The Safer from Wildfires regulations include other factors, such as individual property-level wildfire risk mitigation efforts. To learn more about the Safer from Wildfires regulations please visit the California Department of Insurance's website.

- **How much of a discount will I receive if I am in a FRRCL community?**

Please contact your insurance provider for more information.

- **I am concerned about the cost and availability of insurance in my community.**

If you have questions or concerns relating to insurance, please contact the Department of Insurance directly: [Department of Insurance, Safer from Wildfires Webpage](#). Please direct additional questions to LandUsePlanning@bof.ca.gov.