



February 3, 2025

Dear Colleague,

I hope that this message finds you safe in the wake of the California wildfires. It is challenging to comprehend the scale of the devastation, but as you develop your philanthropic response, **please consider supporting emergency readiness for low-income older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers.** As California's most experienced provider of free, accessible caregiver training, the Center for Caregiver Advancement (CCA) prioritizes this vulnerable population, which disproportionately bears the adverse health burdens of climate-related emergencies and disasters.

CCA's high-quality, multilingual Emergency and Disaster Readiness training program ensures caregivers know how to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and adapt to climate emergencies and natural disasters. **This is genuinely lifesaving work because In-home Supportive Services providers and skilled nursing staff are de facto first responders whose work is essential to emergency response and healthcare systems.**

*"The knowledge and skills I learned from the classes were vital and helped me be prepared for the Eaton wildfire disaster. I had a bag with essentials and medicines ready that I quickly grabbed when I left the house with my consumer. Now, I always have my consumer wear a mask when the air quality is unhealthy." – Luiza A., IHSS caregiver*

FEMA's U.S. Fire Administrator, Chief Lori Moore-Merrell, advised at the first White House briefing: **"Every one of these tragedies, unfortunately, is a lesson on how to prevent the next."** In mourning the passing of community members who are elderly and disabled and were unable to escape the wildfires, California Association of Area Agencies on Aging Executive Director Christina Mills pleads: **"We need multi-pronged approaches that include helping individuals create personal preparedness plans. What if every social and human services organization had personal preparedness as part of their intake process? It's a start and one way to help disabled folks be better prepared."**

CCA understands these calls to action. We've trained 35,000+ caregivers across California, 4,000 of whom learned crucial emergency and disaster readiness skills, but we need private philanthropy to continue this lifesaving work. **If you can help further CCA's mission to build the workforce of highly trained caregivers that many Californians cannot live without, please get in touch with me at (213) 544-7400 or [corinne@advancecaregivers.org](mailto:corinne@advancecaregivers.org).**

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corinne Eldridge".

Corinne Eldridge  
President & CEO

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