

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

Caregivers are essential workers who perform critical, physically demanding jobs while navigating the challenges of economic insecurity as well as social, gender, and racial inequities. As California faces the devastating impacts of climate change like wildfires, extreme weather and power outages, as well as other crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, care workers frequently play a first responder role, without any formalized training. This project, led by the Center for Caregiver Advancement (CCA), will develop a partnership with representatives from all stakeholder groups advancing the mutual goals of employers and workers within California’s in-home supportive services (IHSS) and skilled nursing facilities (SNF).

Training caregivers to be first responders in climate-related disasters will play a critical role in protecting California’s most vulnerable populations, including seniors and people with disabilities, helping them recover and build resiliency. This project will increase opportunity and career pathways for long-term care workers through the creation and implementation of a specialized training curriculum that empowers caregivers to prepare, respond, and recover from climate disasters and emergencies. CCA will develop partnerships that are the first of this kind among the long-term care industry, laying the foundation necessary for system change conversations around recognizing worker specializations and translating those skills into higher wages.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- A new specialized training curriculum that teaches IHSS and SNF workers skills to properly prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate disasters and other emergencies.
- Advisory council between labor, workers, and employer representatives to collaborate and build a successful program in consultation with experts and government agencies.
- Integration of trained workers into emergency response and disaster preparedness systems.
- Equitable training options to deliver accessible programs and wraparound resources for virtual learning.
- Partnerships that build the foundation for strengthening the long-term care workforce and future conversations around wage increases and career advancement opportunities.

KEY PARTNERS

- Center for Caregiver Advancement (CCA)
- SEIU Local 2015
- LA County Public Authority (PASC)
- Rockport
- Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)

