



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**Aging & Disabilities
Department**

Smoke, Sparks and Service: L.A. County's Aging Network in Wildfire Response

USAgging Conference
San Diego, CA

07/18/26

Karissa Reynoso, Administrative Services Manager

Anthony Leoni, Human Services Administrator

Andre Anthony, Human Services Administrator



Agenda



1 Introductions



2 Overview & Purpose



3 Wildfire Progression & Response Timeline



4 Strategic Partnerships & Lessons Learned

5 Data & people

6 Q&A

Team Members



Karissa Reynoso

Administrative Services Manager

Data Management,
Reporting, Analysis,
& Geomapping



Anthony Leoni

Human Services Administrator

Supportive Services Program, Family
Caregiver Support Program,
Traditional Legal Assistance Program,
Policy & Special Projects



Andre Anthony

Human Services Administrator
Aging and Disabilities Resource
Connection (ADRC)
and Linkages Program

Smoke, Sparks, and Service: LA County's Aging Network in Wildfire Response



- **Rapid AAA mobilization**
- **Coordinated response**
- **Service continuity efforts**
- **Policy and legislative engagement**
- **Key lessons and resilience strategies**

Vision, Mission, Commitment



Our Vision is to

Empower older adults and individuals with disabilities to age in place, lead productive and gratifying lives, and thrive in an inclusive society.



Our Mission is to

Improve lives and support self-determination for older adults, adults with disabilities, and marginalized communities.



Our Commitment is to

Ensure the safety and well-being of older and dependent adults.

Create vibrant community centers that strengthen social bonds.



Area Agency on Aging (AAA) PSA 19



Established and funded by the Older Americans Act (1973) to coordinate and deliver aging services, aiding older Americans and caregivers.

The goal of the OAA is to improve the lives of older Americans. The OAA was first passed in 1965 and has been periodically reauthorized over the decades.



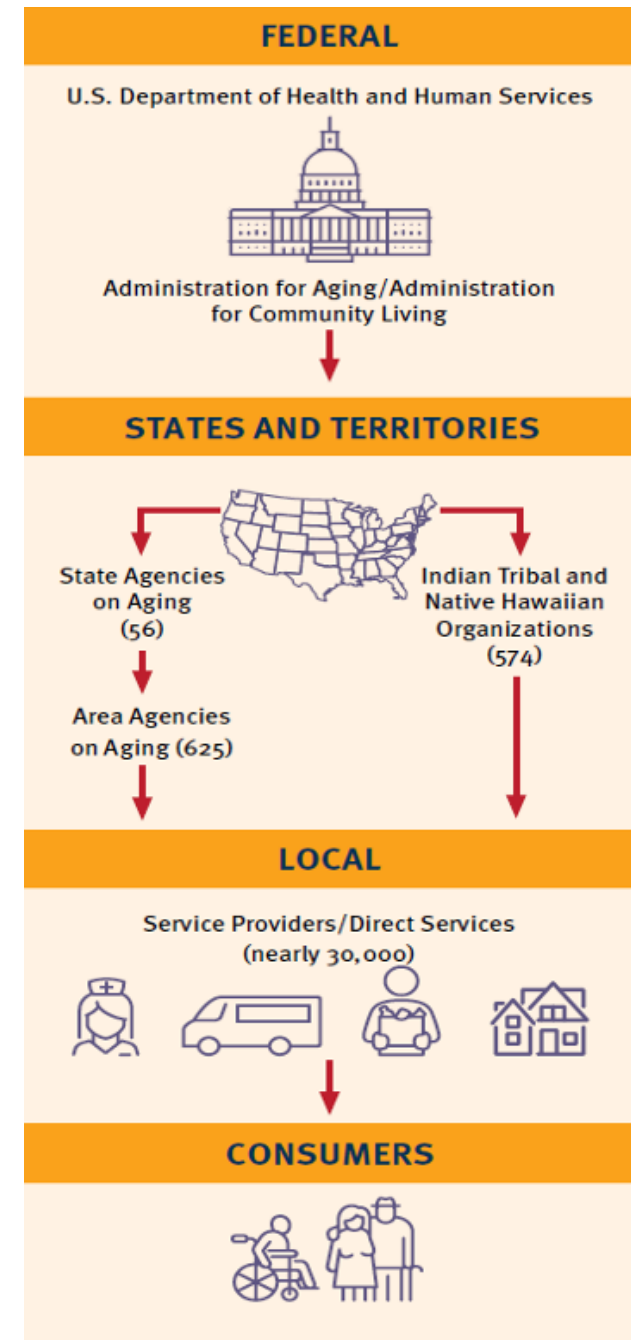
- Congregate Meals
- Home-Delivered Meals
- Family Caregiver Support Program
- Linkages Program
- Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- Senior Community Service Employment Program
- Legal Assistance
- Supportive Services
- Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Who We Are. What We Do.

Federally funded: Established and funded by the Older Americans Act (1973) to coordinate and deliver aging services, aiding older Americans and caregivers.

States divided into regions: California has 33 Planning and Service Areas (PSAs). Each PSA is served by its own AAA.

County currently served by two AAAs: Los Angeles County is the only County in the U.S. with two AAAs - Los Angeles County (PSA 19) excluding the City of Los Angeles (PSA 25)



AAA Service Delivery

Below are the most common types of services that our Department provides.
The numbers reflect approximate number of services delivered in FY 25-26.

1,590,000



Congregate Meals

Promotes nutrition and social engagement

1,250,000



Home Delivered Meals

Supports homebound individuals and social engagement

31,000



SSP Clients Served

Services that help older adults remain safe, independent, and engaged in their communities

1,800



FCSP and Linkages Clients Served

Assists family caregivers with resources. Linkages provides intensive case management for high-risk older adults and adults with disabilities.

400



Legal Services Clients Serves

Assistance with legal issues affecting housing, benefits, consumer protection, and advance planning

5,464



Transportation

Clients served in the New Freedom Transportation (NFT) Program

Wildfire Progression & Response Timeline



2025 Wildfire Impact



- ⦿ **Six fires erupt across LA County** during extreme wind and power-outage conditions
- ⦿ **Eaton and Palisades Fires** become the most destructive events in County history
- ⦿ **Massive destruction:** ~37,000 acres burned, 16,000+ structures lost and 31 fatalities
- ⦿ **Hurricane-force Santa Ana winds** near 100 mph drive rapid fire spread

Timeline

January 7, 2025 – 10:20 a.m.

The Palisades Fire ignited in Pacific Palisades at 10:20 a.m., reaching 10 acres by 11:06 a.m. and 200 acres by 11:31 a.m.

Multiple Fires

The Hurst, Lidia, and Sunset fires strained resources across Los Angeles County.

January 7, 2025 – 6:13 p.m.

The Eaton Fire started in Altadena at growing to 10 acres in just 9 minutes.

January 31, 2025

Palisades and Eaton Fires were contained.

The Problem



The Pacific Palisades and Eaton Fires created significant challenges for older adults and adults with disabilities by disrupting access to nutrition, transportation, care coordination, and other essential services. Department staff and community partners adapted operations to maintain continuity of care, connect residents to emergency resources, and support recovery efforts. These services were critical in helping vulnerable residents remain safe, informed, and connected throughout the disaster.



Problem #1

Case Management



Problem #2

Nutrition Services



Problem #3

Access to Information



Three Key Services Impacted

Case Management

- ⦿ Increased need for resource coordination and wellness checks
- ⦿ Client displacement and service disruptions
- ⦿ Higher risk of unmet needs and loss of independence

Nutrition Services

- ⦿ Meal delivery routes disrupted by evacuations and road closures
- ⦿ Challenges accessing food and basic necessities
- ⦿ Increased risk of food insecurity

Access to Information & Support

- ⦿ Senior Center closure and relocation services
- ⦿ Reduced access to social support and trusted information
- ⦿ Increase social isolation among older adults

The Solution



Solution #1

Maintained access to critical benefits, services, and recovery resources.



Solution #2

Prevented interruptions in meal access for vulnerable older adults.



Solution #3

Provided a centralized source of trusted information and recovery support during the disaster response and recovery period.

Solutions Implemented During Wildfire Response

Case Management & Resource Navigation

- Conducted community-based recovery workshops and pop-up events in fire-impacted communities.
- Provided case management services to assist residents with unmet needs, disaster recovery applications, and access to emergency resources and supportive services
- Tabled at FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers and community events to connect older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers to available assistance programs

Outcome: Maintained access to critical benefits, services, and recovery resources

Solutions Implemented During Wildfire Response

Nutrition Services

- Coordinated with nutrition providers to maintain meal access during evacuations and road closures
- Implemented alternative meal distribution methods, emergency food assistance, and temporary meal sites to minimize service disruptions
- Continued providing nutritious meals to vulnerable older adults throughout the emergency

Outcome: Reduced food insecurity and ensured continued access to nutritious meals.

Solutions Implemented During Wildfire Response

Access to Information & Support

- Established an alternate location to continue congregate meal services and Senior Programming following the loss of the Altadena Senior Center
- Utilized senior centers, congregate meal sites, and pop-up events as trusted locations to disseminate emergency information and recovery resources
- Provided residents with access to trusted information, referrals, and support services during response and recovery efforts

Outcome: Restored community connections, reduced social isolation, and improved access to information and assistance

Additional Opportunity Outcomes



LACDA CDBG Funding

Supplied funding to purchase equipment for the satellite Alta Loma Park temporary congregate meal site and senior programming. Also supplied at risk areas with emergency preparedness kits.



USAgging Donation

USAgging provided a donation for victims. The donation was intended for immediate relief and necessity items for displaced seniors.



WF Funding

Additional funding from the State and ACL intended to provide emergency CM services, emergency preparedness, and outreach.

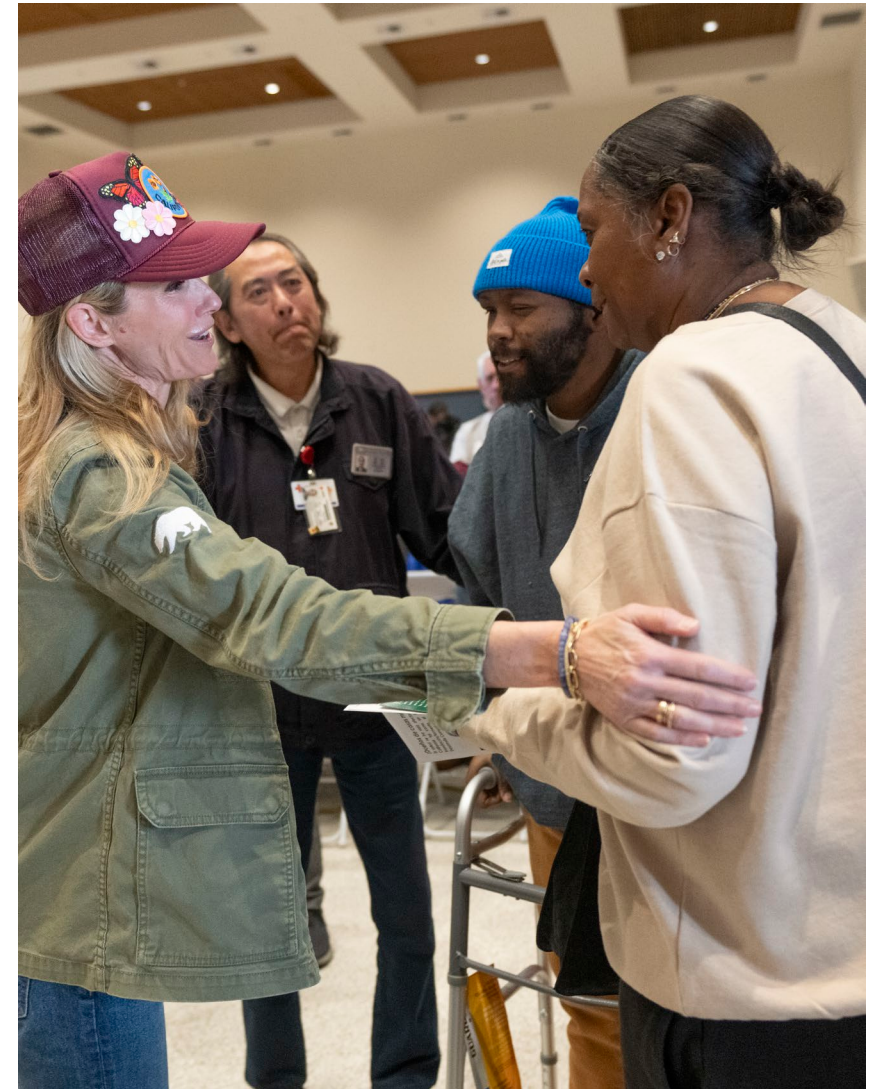


Emergency Food Vouchers

Used to provide immediate food relief to seniors who qualified for III-B services.



Strategic Partnerships & Lessons Learned

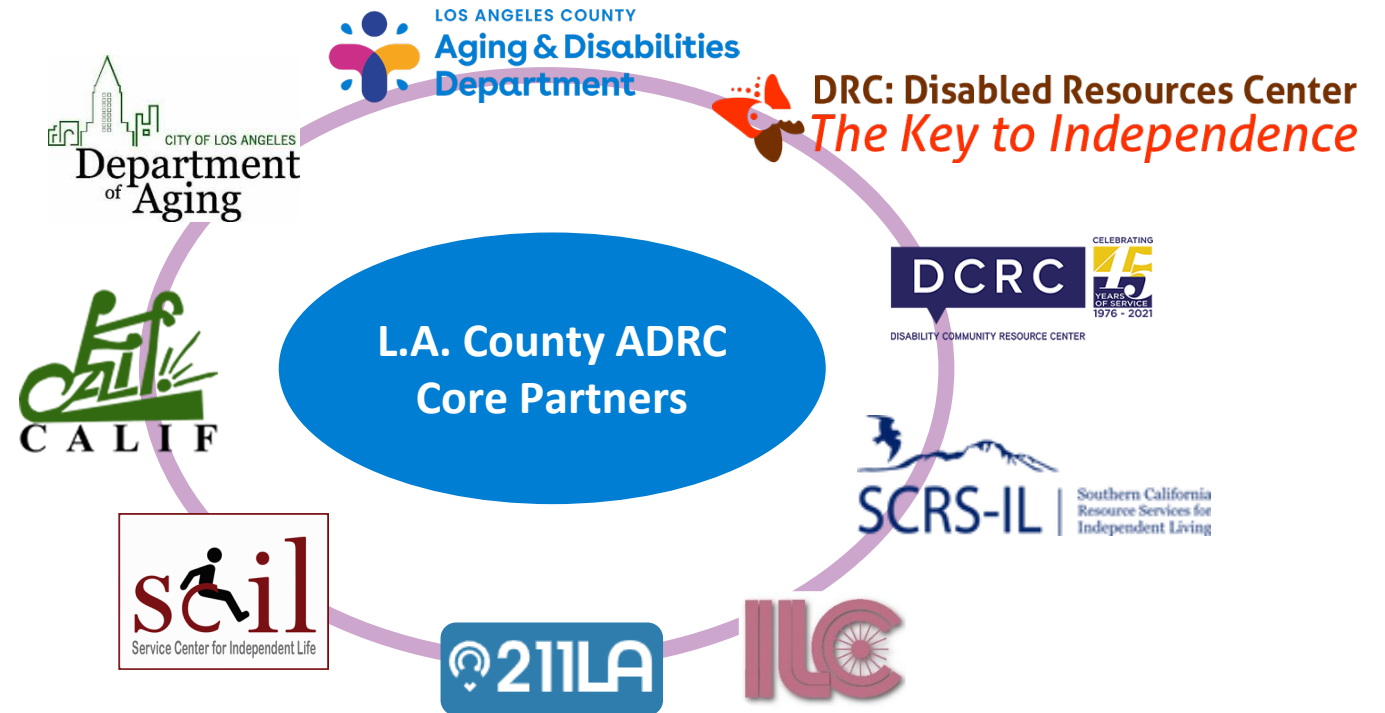


Collaboration with AAAs, ILCs, and local nonprofits



Although our AAA collaborates widely with agencies, service providers, and municipalities throughout L.A. County, here we will highlight our L.A. County Aging & Disability Resource Connection and its critical role during the fires.

L.A. County Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)
and the “No Wrong Door” system.



What we were able to do

- ❖ Provided accessible, multilingual emergency information via phone, web, and community partners.
- ❖ Supported evacuations for older adults, mobility-impaired residents, and individuals requiring medical transport.
- ❖ Coordinated urgent replacement of medications, oxygen tanks, and durable medical equipment.
- ❖ Assisted caregivers with respite options and continuity of personal care services.
- ❖ Conducted welfare checks for homebound residents and individuals dependent on electricity for medical devices.
- ❖ Collaborated with county departments, Red Cross, community-based organizations, and Independent Living Centers.

ADRC/ILC and AB 1069



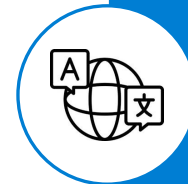
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1069

“As part of disaster planning and response, a representative of the county welfare director, in coordination with the lead local agency designated with sheltering support duties under the State Emergency Plan Emergency Support Functions, shall initiate a memorandum of understanding with an area agency on aging (AAA), an independent living center (ILC), or an Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) program to allow access by the AAA, the ILC, or the ADRC program to an emergency shelter established for evacuation purposes during an active event, in order to ensure that older adults and persons with disabilities receive continuous services and necessary support.”

Learnings



Improved data-sharing and real-time client location tools.

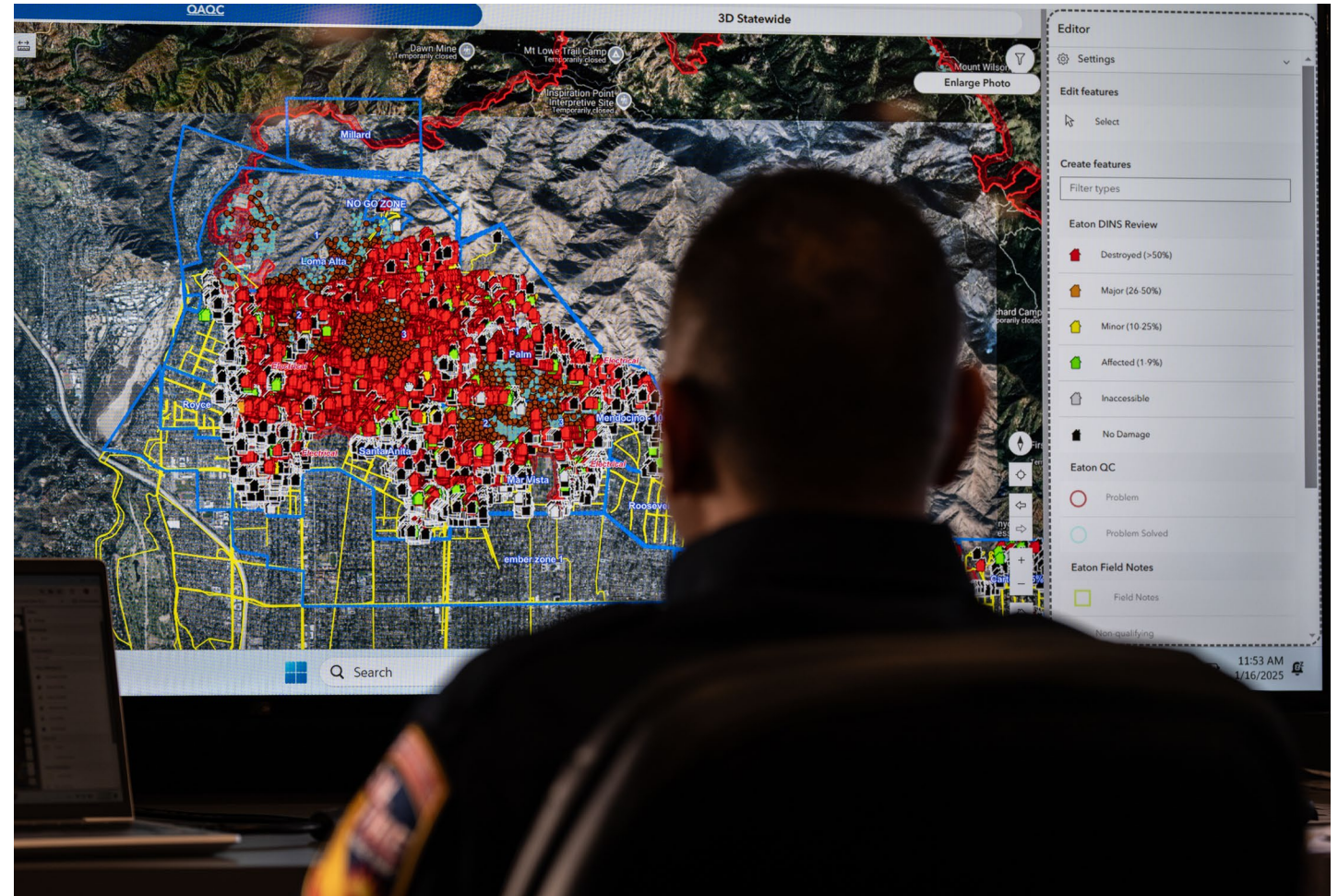


Wider emergency communication strategies.



Expanded training for older adult and disability-inclusive disaster response.

Data & People



L.A. County Data Team



Our Team

A team of analysts and data developers supporting department programs through data management, reporting, analytics, and mapping solutions.



Our Reports

We create interactive dashboards and self-service reports for staff and contracted providers to monitor trends, performance, and service delivery.

Our Data

We manage and analyze program data from multiple systems and vendors to support accurate reporting and informed decision-making.



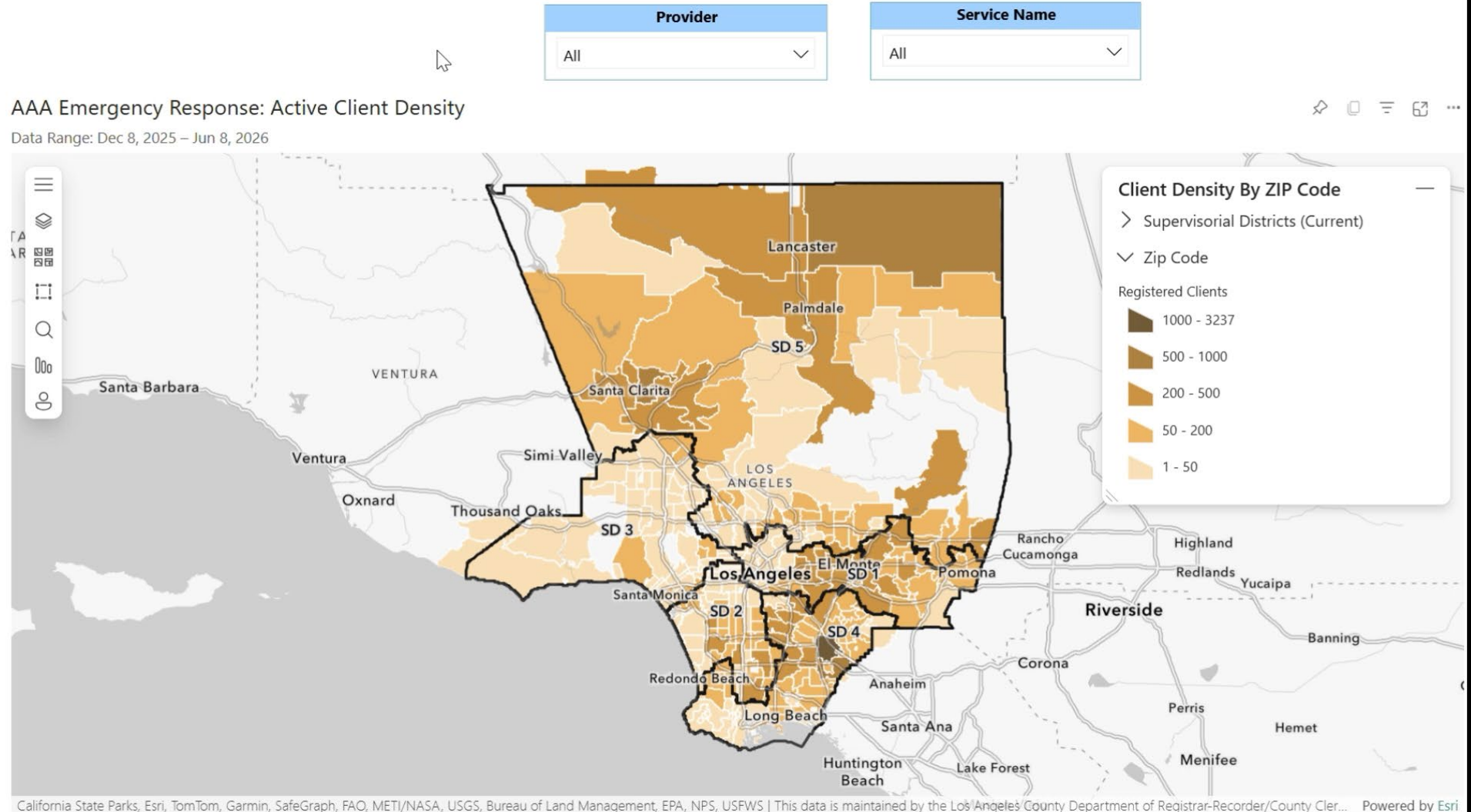
Our Maps

We develop geographic maps and visual tools that support program planning, emergency response, and data-driven decisions across Los Angeles County.

Evolution of Emergency Data



Dashboard Demo



Questions & Ideas for the future



Additional Resources



L.A. County

- L.A. County ADRC site: ad.lacounty.gov/services/older-adult-services/ADRC/



211 LA

- Wildfire Response: 211la.org/211-la-wildfire-response
- NOTFORGOTTEN The Data & Stories of Recovery from the 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires: [STORYBOOK_FINAL_01172026.pdf - Google Drive](#)
- ADRC | Referral and Resource Directory: 211la.org/adrc-aging-and-disability-resource-connection-referral-and-resource-directory

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