

**ADA National Network Learning Session: Using
the California Power Safety Power Outages for
Inclusive Emergency Planning**

May 14th, 2020

INTRODUCTION

Ana Acton
Executive Director

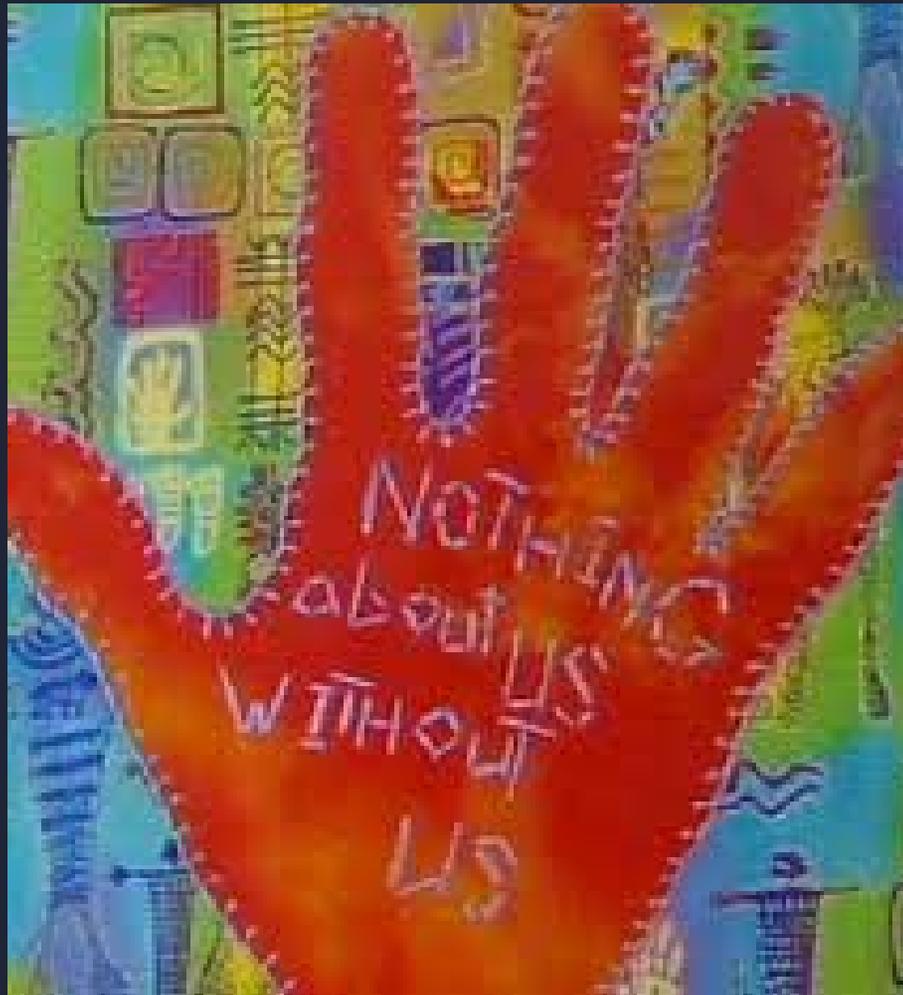


ABILITY REDEFINED.

Nevada, Sierra, Yuba, Sutter Colusa Counties

WHAT WE WILL COVER

- FREED & Independent Living Centers
- Aging & Disability Resource Connections
- Access and Functional Needs Survey
- 2019 California Public Safety Power Shut-offs (PSPS) Timeline
- Stories from the community
- What worked
- Barriers
- Effective strategies that could become best practices
- Listos Campaign



NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US

FREED is an Independent Living Center (ILC) serving people of all ages including youth and older adults in Nevada, Sierra, Yuba, Sutter, and Colusa Counties.

Independent Living Centers operate from a peer delivered, person-centered model of services to support self-determination of people with disabilities.

Find your California local ILC

<http://cfilc.org/find-ilc/>

CALIFORNIA ILC CORE SERVICES – Federal & State



1. Independent living skills training
2. Individual and systems advocacy
3. Peer counseling – individual & group
4. Information and referrals
5. Transition
 - Nursing home to community
 - Diversion from institutions
 - Youth to post-secondary
6. Housing assistance
7. Personal assistance services
8. Assistive Technology
 - AT Reissue
 - Device Lending Library

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION (ADRC) OF NEVADA COUNTY



- ❑ Goal of ADRC is to streamline access to long term services and supports (LTSS).
- ❑ Collaboration between FREED and Agency on Aging Area 4 and other providers of LTSS and safety net services.
- ❑ Services and supports based on individuals needs and regardless of age, income, or disability.
- ❑ 4 Core services – Enhanced Information & Assistance, Short Term Service Coordination, Person Centered Options Counseling, and Transition

FREED's ROLE IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

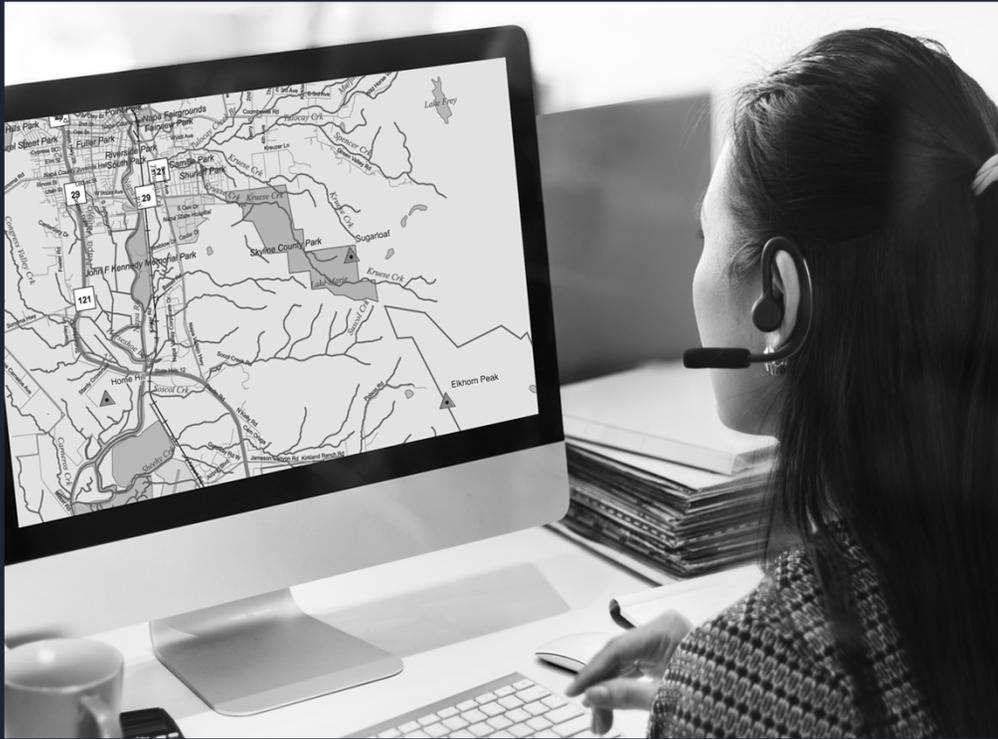
ONGOING BASIS

- Work with local OES on emergency planning and sheltering needs
- Provide information to consumers on personal preparedness
- Sign-up consumers for notification and alert systems
- Participate in state-wide advocacy regarding AFN
- Identifying individuals who are at-risk due to power shut offs

LEADING-UP & DURING

- Call consumers in our database in the impacted areas
- Work with consumers who have lost AT for replacement
- Suspend normal intake process during emergency
- Embed a staff person in the county operations center
- Visit shelters to provide support to individuals and technical assistance

POWER SHUT-OFF DE-ENERGIZATION



- In October 2019, PG&E executed 5 PSPS event in FREED's catchment area in the northern Sierra Nevada foothills area due to elevated wildfire risk
- People with disabilities and older adults require power for life-sustaining measures or independent living

PSPS TIMELINE



September

- Event #1: September 23-25 - Nevada & Yuba

October

- Event #2: October 5th – 6th three counties, Butte, Yuba, and Plumas
- Event #3: October 9th – Oct 12th
- Event #4: Oct 23rd-Oct 24th
- Event #5: Oct 26th-Oct. 28th
- Event #6: Oct. 29th-30th

November

- Almost Event #7: Nov 19th

STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY



Individuals dependent on power for medical devices or assistive technology.

FREED PSPS RELIEF EFFORT SNAPSHOT

Serving Nevada, Sierra, Yuba, Sutter, and Colusa

- Received 198 incoming calls
- 80 individuals were served, batteries, hotels, gasoline
- Made 18 hotel arrangements for a total of 67 nights
- Transported 6 individuals to hotels
- Provided 24 people with gasoline for generators
- Distributed 49 back-up battery charging stations
- Charged 26 devices at FREED's Charging Station - 9 people with multiple devices or returning consumers
- Hotspot purchased in order to continue working while power was out
- FREED staff incurred 24.4 overtime hours
- Designated staff for: (1) intake; (2) hotel and transportation; (3) battery distribution; volunteers for moving and dropping off batteries
- Follow-up and home visits performed

GOAL ZERO Yeti 3000 Lithium Portable Power Station with Wi-Fi



- Works well for c-pap, bi-pap, part-time minimal oxygen, charging wheelchairs
- Most people (unless only using for c-pap or bi-pap) required daytime charging at a CRC or other location
- For some it worked well WITH a generator back-up system
- It requires a certain comfort level with technology – or support for troubleshooting.
- Can take up to 25 hours to receive a full recharge

WHAT WORKED



PG&E Coordination of Resources

- Quick organization and response
- Hotel Vouchers
- Batteries
- Food Vouchers
- Transportation Vouchers
- Provided back up generation to areas of downtown Grass Valley, including hospital, Skilled Nursing Facilities, hotels, gas stations, FREED
- Community Resource Centers – expanded from 1 to 3



WHAT WORKED

- Pre-screening consumers before the PSPS event – assess community need
- County Messaging to Community Partners & Public
- Marketing & outreach - DHHS, PG&E, other community partners
- County Emergency Alerts
- Nevada County OES Facebook
- Local media
- FREED considered a critical service
- Forwarding FREED calls after hours to staff cell phones
- Hot spot to address no internet and phones
- Follow-up calls to consumers who got batteries to improve usability

WHAT WORKED



Coordination

- Emergency Operations Center **Coordination is key**
- 211 operating in the EOC = direct feedback loop
- 211/County/FREED shared database for coordination
- **211 – 24/7 call center pre-screening**
- FREED/Foodbank adapt and serve large populations
- Strong relationship, collaboration, and coordination with County OES and Public Health
- County OES emails to community partners multiple times a day



WHAT WORKED

Coordination Cont.

- Homeless shelter recuperative care coordination
- Hospital Navigation - Reduced hospitalization
- Fire Safe Council
- Volunteer support

BARRIERS

- Back to back PSPS events - some with no power for 7/8 days
- Standing up a program in the middle of PSPS
- Limited fuel sources for vital services and general public
- Access to oxygen
- Single pharmacy
- Inability for individuals to refrigerate expensive medications



BARRIERS



- Community Resource Centers - Limited hours, unmet need for overnight charging of DME, privacy, temporary tents
- Organizations ceasing service during PSPS
- Re-energizing “surges” damaging equipment and household appliances costing business owners and families thousands of dollars

Messaging

- PG&E inconsistent
- Lost Phone and Internet services
- PG&E outage maps not up-to-date

BARRIERS



- Crisis for individuals dependent on electricity for life sustaining devices
- Individuals with no plan
- Dropping temperatures and an ability to stay warm
- Batteries, hotels did not meet all needs
- Batteries too technical for some



STRATEGIES

- Coordinate across public and private partners – organizations that already interface with AFN
- Proactively identify, outreach, and plan with people who depend on power
- Diverse solutions for diverse needs – back-up battery charging stations, whole house systems, hotels
- Organizations build capacity to work remote, without access to power or phones

STRATEGIES



- Utilities develop mechanism to keep power on to critical infrastructure
- Utilities improve communication including to community partners
- Community Resource Centers – overnight, drop off DME, brick and mortar, privacy, charge multiple devices



LISTOS CALIFORNIA CAMPATING

Step 1: Find Your 5 Trusted Allies and Share Your Plan

Step 2: Prioritize Your Health Needs and Create Lists

Step 3: Create Your Emergency Supplies Kit

Step 4: Plan How and When to Evacuate

\$50 M urgency legislation (AB 72) to establish the “California for All Emergency Preparedness Campaign”

The campaign will bolster the efforts of first-responders by ensuring at least one million of the most vulnerable Californians are connected to culturally and linguistically competent support to plan for emergencies.

<https://www.listoscalifornia.org/>

Pacific ADA Center Partnership

LISTOS CAMPAIGN NEVADA COUNTY



Pacific ADA Center Nevada County Partners

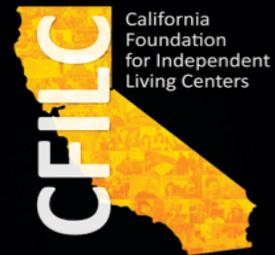
- FREED
- Nevada-Sierra Connecting Point Public Authority
- Gold County Community Services
- Neighborhood Center of the Arts
- Sierra Foothills Village
- The Food Bank of Nevada County

QUESTIONS

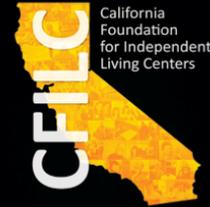


Using the California Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) for Inclusive Emergency Planning

Christina Mills, Executive Director
California Foundation for
Independent Living Centers (CFILC)

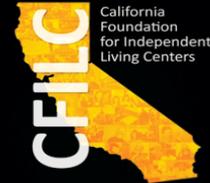


Mission Statement



To increase access and equal opportunity for people with disabilities by building the capacity of Independent Living Centers.

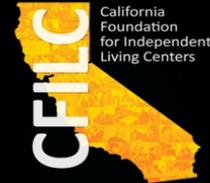
CFILC programs



**Membership/
Public Policy**



CFILC members

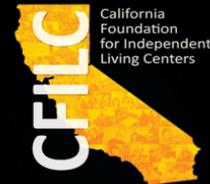


CFILC is **not** an Independent Living Center

Independent Living Centers (ILC) make-up CFILCs board of directors and our membership. CFILC's membership covers 56 of California's 58 counties.

CFILC membership directory, <http://www.cfilc.org/members/meet-members.php>

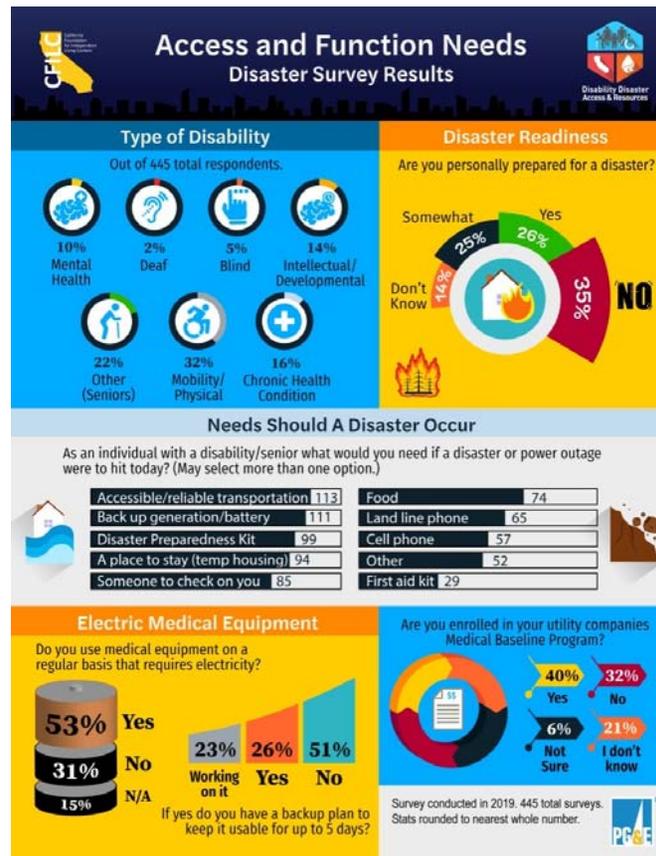
How did we get here?



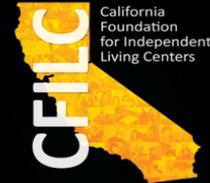
CFILC and Independent Living Centers:

- Commissioned after action disaster reports
- Sponsor, support and oppose legislation
- Provide expert witness testimony
- Host and participate in disability disaster coalitions
- Regional & local OES coordination and planning
- Functional Assessment Service Teams (FAST)
- Virtual and onsite shelter accessibility support
- Fulfill AT and DME needs or provide referrals
- Advisory committee and board participation
- Established the Richard Devylder Disaster Relief Fund
- Accessible Charging Stations at ILCs
- Pacific Gas & Electricity Contract

Community Assessment



CFILC Pilot Program

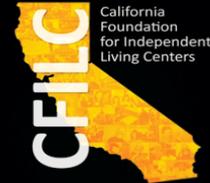


CFILC Disability Disaster Access & Resources Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) **Pilot Program**

Funded by Pacific Gas & Electricity

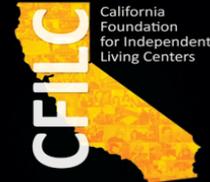
www.disabilitydisasteraccess.org

2019 PSPS Research & Impacts



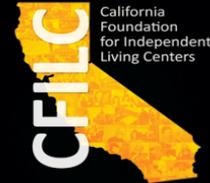
- Developed relationships with battery vendors
- Small Sample Tests of AT/DME w/ Batteries
- Received over 1000 incoming calls from individuals impacted
- Provided 250 batteries to individuals
- Assisted with over 82 hotels stays
- Over 250 meals were provided
- Assisted over 40 individuals with transportation/gas

2019 Lessons Learned

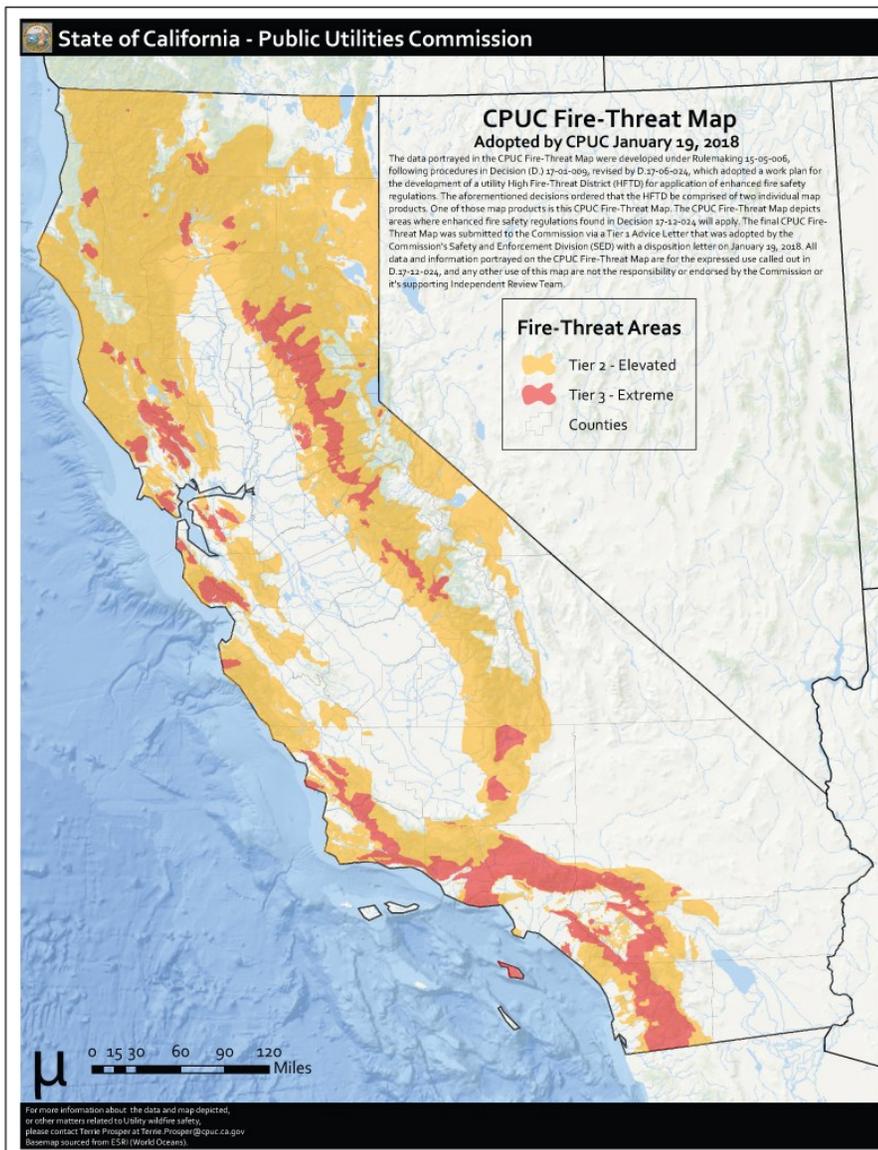


- Every individuals situation is unique
- Eligibility for PSPS resources need to be on a individual by individual basis
- Batteries are a band aid
- Educating and working with individuals to develop a long term sustainable disaster/PSPS plan is critical
- Resources are limited and only reach so many individuals

2020 Pilot Program



- Prioritizing Tier 3 areas of California first and Tier 2 areas second
- Statewide uniformed consistency, but with local expertise
- Educating and enrolling qualified individuals into the Medical Baseline Programs
- Assist in meaningful long-term disaster/PSPS plans
- Providing training and public awareness

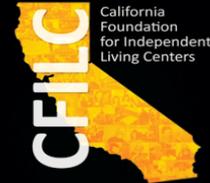


Most Vulnerable Counties Tier 3

Alameda	Nevada
Alpine	Orange
Amador	Riverside
Butte	San
Calaveras	Bernardino
Contra Costa	San Diego
El Dorado	San Luis
Fresno	Obispo
Humboldt	San Mateo
Kern Lake	Santa Barbara
Los Angeles	Santa Cruz
Madera	Shasta
Marin	Sierra
Mariposa	Siskiyou
Medocino	Sonoma
Monterey	Tuolumne
Napa	Ventura

<https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/firemap/>

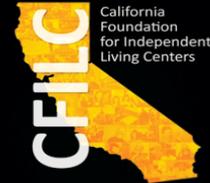
PSPS Pilot Partners



All counties are covered by the pilot
except for San Diego and Imperial

20 ILCs are engaged as partners and will be
partnering regionally and locally with CBO's in their
respective areas

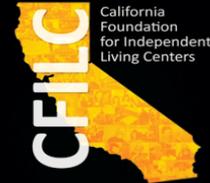
What is a Pilot Program?



A small scale preliminary program or study that is conducted in order to evaluate feasibility, duration, cost, adverse events, and improve upon prior to performance of a full-scale program.

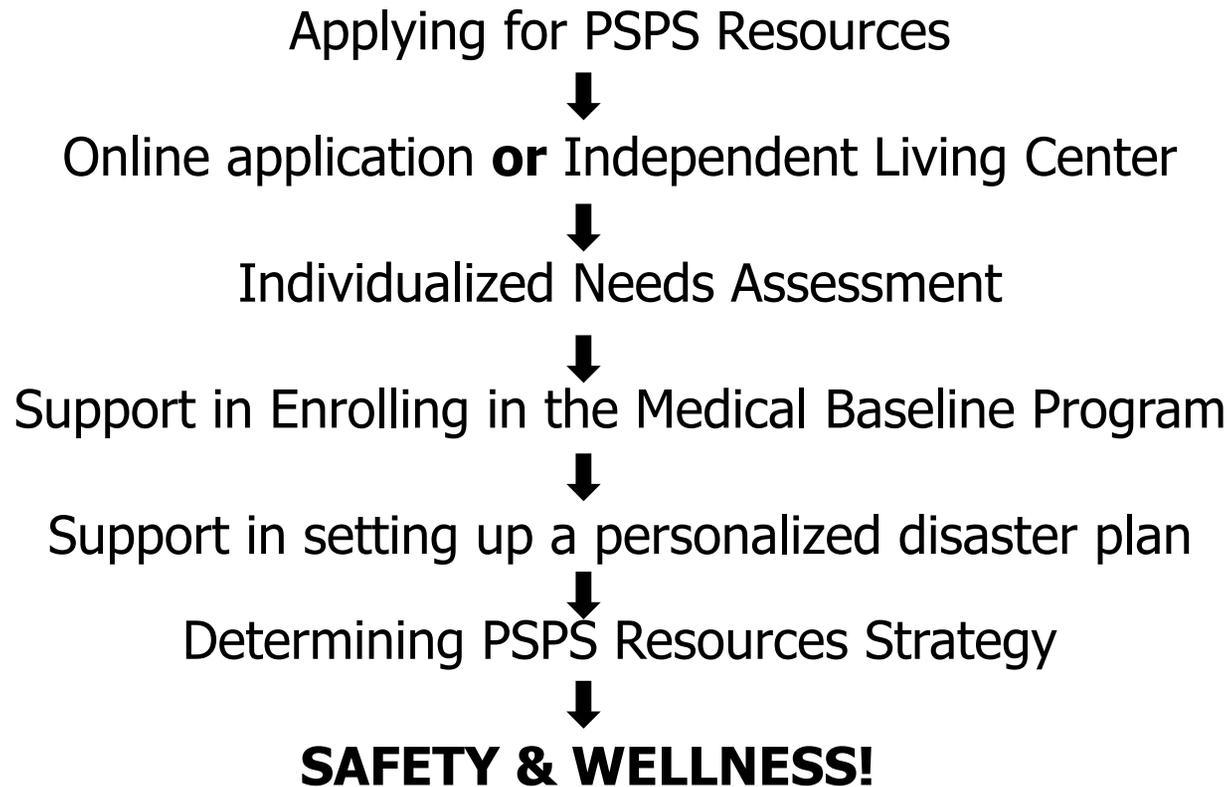
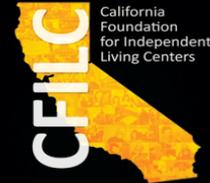
There is no road map for what we are doing.

PSPS Pilot Priorities

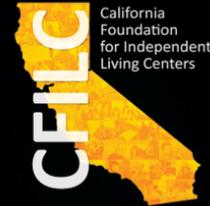


- A) Keep people with disabilities that have access and functional needs safe
- B) Provide support and resources to individuals with disabilities who use electric powered AT or DME devices before, during & after a PSPS
- C) Bust the Medical Baseline Myth and increase the number of individuals eligible for the program
- D) Assist in personal preparedness planning
- E) Organize and conduct informational trainings
- F) Host and participate in public awareness activities to educate the community on disaster related AT tools & devices during a disaster

How does it work?



Questions & Comments:



Thank you!

Christina Mills – christina@cfilc.org
(916)838-6472

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