

# Award Announcement

2023 Southern California Edison Home Hardening Pilot Program

**\$461,000.00**

Funding two (2) projects in the Southern California Edison service area.

**JULY 31, 2025**

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*Funding provided by Southern California Edison, a  
subsidiary of Edison International.*

# Funding Summary

\$461,000.00 | 2 Grants Awarded



## Award Announcement

California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) is pleased to announce two grant awards for the 2023 Southern California Edison Home Hardening Pilot Program. Funding for this program is provided to CFSC from Edison International. The 2023 Southern California Edison Home Hardening Pilot Program will support home hardening education and resource development as well as direct home retrofits in communities in Ventura and Santa Barbara, helping residents across these counties to live safely with wildfire.

CFSC awarded a combined total of \$461,000.00 in grant funds to Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council (VRFSC) and Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council (SBCFSC) to educate, empower, and mobilize individuals in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties through planning, risk reduction, home hardening education, assessments, and retrofits.

## From Pilot to Framework: The Home Hardening Pilot Program Mission

The California Fire Safe Council, through the Fire Safe Communities Program, seeks to prevent community ignition and help residents to live safely with wildfire through preparedness and mitigation activities. Communities stand a better chance at surviving catastrophic wildfires when all resiliency-bolstering activities and neighborhood-scale protections are in place. These activities include: Hardening Homes; Creating Defensible Space; Mobilizing Community Mitigation; Reducing Fuels; Boosting Forest Health and Landscape Resilience; Planning for Evacuation; Outreach and Education; and Community Capacity Building

CFSC will leverage best practices and resources developed through the 23 SCE Home Hardening Pilot Program to provide home hardening retrofits and technical assistance to communities across California in the future. CFSC will work closely with VRFSC and SBCFSC to develop a framework for statewide implementation by researching and compiling available techniques, best practices, training, software, and home hardening resources.

Through a combination of resources and on-the-ground best practices, CFSC will bolster neighborhood-scale protections in communities across California and support local Fire Safe Councils and other practitioners as they develop impactful home hardening programs. [Learn more](#) about CFSC's Fire Safe Communities Program.





# The Awards

## 2023 Southern California Edison Home Hardening Pilot Program



### Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council

Award Amount: \$230,500.00



The Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council (SBCFSC) was formed in 1997 to unify public and private organizations in Santa Barbara County to educate, motivate, and coordinate to minimize losses associated with wildfires. Since its founding, the SBCFSC has worked to promote wildfire safety throughout Santa Barbara County through education and action.



The Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council operates several programs focused on home hardening and creating defensible space to reduce fire risks in the community. These programs include both direct services and educational initiatives designed to help homeowners improve the safety of their properties. The Community Chipping Program helps homeowners reduce hazardous vegetation on their properties by providing free chipping services; the Home Evaluation Program provides homeowners with personalized assessments to improve their defensible space and home hardening efforts; and the Defensible Space Assistance Program specifically targets low-income, elderly, and high fire risk residents who may be unable to perform the necessary defensible space work on their own.



The 2023 Edison International Home Hardening Pilot Program will support the SBCFSC as they integrate financial support with educational efforts to directly address the growing need for home hardening retrofits. SBCFSC will empower residents to take the necessary steps to protect their homes and families, focusing on vulnerable populations such as the elderly, low-income, and those in high-risk areas and ultimately enhancing the overall fire resilience of entire communities.





# The Awards

## 2023 Southern California Edison Home Hardening Pilot Program



### Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council

Award Amount: \$230,500.00



The Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council (VRFSC) is a grassroots community-led nonprofit organization that mobilizes residents to protect their homes, communities, and environments from catastrophic wildfire, through collaborative planning, programs, mitigation and education.



The Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council (VRFSC) currently operates two core programs aimed at supporting wildfire risk reduction through home hardening and defensible space creation: the Home Wildfire Assessment Program and the Resident Grant Program. These programs work together to educate, support, and assist Ventura County residents — particularly those most vulnerable to wildfire impacts — in understanding their risks and taking action. The Home Wildfire Assessment Program provides free, on-site assessments for residents and the Resident Grant Program supports residents with the highest wildfire vulnerability, using a layered mapping and scoring approach to evaluate applications and to complete the work recommended in the assessments.



The 2023 Edison International Home Hardening Pilot Program will strengthen wildfire resilience at both the household and neighborhood level, with a particular focus on those most vulnerable to wildfire impacts in Ventura County. This program builds upon VRFSC's existing foundation of home wildfire assessments and resident grant support, but with an expanded strategy that emphasizes neighborhood-scale protection, targeted outreach, low cost home hardening improvements, and the promotion of noncombustible Zone 0 retrofits in anticipation of upcoming building code changes. The program will also build capacity and put VRFSC in a position to perform additional home hardening retrofits in the future.





# Contact Us

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**Since 2018, the California Fire Safe Council has partnered with Edison International to provide more than \$1,000,000 in grants to organizations in the Southern California Edison service territory.**

These programs have helped to build wildfire resilience by increasing the capacity for local Fire Safe Councils and others to lead, staff, plan, organize, and implement wildfire readiness within their communities.



**Helping Californians to live safely with wildfire.**