

# Powering Resilience: LA County's Backup Generators Protect Vulnerable Senior Communities

Resilience in Practice: Los Angeles County, CA

Los Angeles County, California, spans a diverse landscape, from coastal towns to urban centers and desert expanses, each facing unique climate challenges. The region contends with floods, fires, windstorms, and extreme heat. Seniors are among the most vulnerable populations, especially during power outages. For these residents, access to electricity is crucial for running medical equipment and refrigerating essential medications.

In response, LA County installed ten emergency backup generators across 5 senior affordable housing developments, with plans to add 10 more in the next two years. This initiative ensures that vulnerable residents have a safety net during power outages. While it takes about six months to purchase and install a generator, it's a vital measure to protect these communities. LA County collaborates with local partners, including the Air Quality Management District, Fire Department, and Building and Safety Division, to ensure that all installations meet the highest safety standards.

Besides supporting seniors, LA County's use of efficient diesel generators contributes to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) ratings for energy efficiency in affordable housing, as they produce fewer pollutants per unit of energy. Backed by community support and funding from CDBG and Housing Authority capital funds, this project aims to help one of LA County's most vulnerable populations withstand power outages for years to come.

