



Dial

2-1-1  
Kern County

a program of  
**capk**  
Community Action Partnership  
of Kern

**kit**  
community

**TechFTW**

**C**ommunity Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) is proud to support the Kern Innovation & Technology Community (Kit Community) in its effort to foster local tech talent while doing good, by sponsoring the **“Tech Fighting the Wildfires (Tech FTW)”** Hackathon this coming weekend, from 6 p.m. Friday, August 5, through 9 p.m. Sunday, August 7, at MESH Cowork, 2005 Eye Street, Suite 4 in Downtown Bakersfield.

During this Hackathon, students, engineers, programmers, business professionals, and compassionate residents of Kern County of all skill levels will compete to design and build the best technology tool to help with wildfire response and victim assistance in Kern County, especially in light of the recent Erskine and Deer Fires, which left many families homeless. Tickets are only \$5 apiece. The winning team will receive a cash prize and trophy.

CAPK's 2-1-1 Kern Information & Referral Program has been invited to participate as a Community Expert on Saturday morning, August 6, to educate participants about its 24/7 services, robust online database of social service agencies throughout Kern County, and its partnership with the Kern County Fire Department's Office of Emergency Services (OES). CAPK will also be hosting lunch for some 30-40 expected participants that day.

Since 2009, 2-1-1 Kern has assisted OES with the implementation of the Ready Kern emergency notification system that alerts residents about natural disasters such as wildfires—including, most recently, the Erskine and Deer Fires. 2-1-1 Kern Information & Referral Specialists answer questions about how to register with Ready Kern and, during emergencies, provide life-saving information about what precautions to take, where evacuation centers are located and more.

“We love the opportunity to take part in this event and share our experience with Kern's tech community,” 2-1-1 Kern Program Manager Esperanza Contreras said.

For more information about the **“Tech Fighting the Wildfires (Tech FTW)”** Hackathon, e-mail [kerninnovation@gmail.com](mailto:kerninnovation@gmail.com) or go to Facebook.com and type “Tech Fighting the Wildfires” in the search bar.

For more information about CAPK and its programs, as well as for interview opportunities, please contact Outreach & Advocacy Manager Louis Medina at (661) 379-8203 or [Lmedina@capk.org](mailto:Lmedina@capk.org).