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Nonprofits' readiness for disaster studied

By Cecilia M. Vega

San Francisco's nonprofit and faith-based organizations will probably be the first emergency responders for some neighborhoods if an earthquake strikes, according to city officials who announced on Tuesday the launch of a new study on how well prepared those organizations are for a large-scale disaster.

The **Fritz Institute**, a San Francisco-based nonprofit that works on disaster-relief issues, will lead the two-year study, which is intended to identify gaps in preparedness of local groups that often serve the city's most at-risk populations.

The research will lead to recommendations to city leaders and the philanthropic community about how they can best support the organizations so that all city residents receive the care they need in the event of a disaster.

The study, unveiled at San Francisco's Glide Memorial Church, which played a major role in bringing services to residents after the 1989 Loma Prieta quake, is believed to be the first of its kind.

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