Rebuilding Together CapacityCorps
Frequently Asked Questions
August & October 2020 Cohorts

Rebuilding Together CapacityCorps is a National Direct AmeriCorps programs with members serving 11 month terms at Rebuilding Together affiliates across the country. AmeriCorps members help improve the lives of low-income homeowners through hands-on repairs, community outreach, and more—all while earning an education award to help with education expenses.

What is Rebuilding Together?
Rebuilding Together works to strengthen the lives of our most vulnerable communities by providing low-income homeowners with critical home repairs, accessibility modifications and energy-efficient upgrades. Rebuilding Together's local affiliates and nearly 100,000 volunteers complete about 10,000 rebuild projects each year. We believe that everyone deserves to live in a safe and healthy home. As we help to stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods across the country, our lasting impact extends beyond each home.

Why is housing important? Why perform repairs and modifications on existing homes?
On average, our homeowners live at or below the poverty level and are forced to choose between food, medicine and shelter needs. We provide these critical home repairs at no cost to qualified homeowners. Rebuilding Together is often the last resort to preserving their homeownership – their only personal asset. Rebuilding Together affiliates serve homeowners in 140 communities and neighborhoods across the country.

What is CapacityCorps?
Rebuilding Together’s 11 month, capacity building AmeriCorps program is called CapacityCorps. Each year, 50 CapacityCorps members serve 28 affiliates in 20 states. Rebuilding Together CapacityCorps members build the capacity of grassroots Rebuilding Together programs so that they may be more sustainable, effective, and efficient in helping additional low-income homeowners and communities in need. For more information about the program, positions available across the country, and more, check out our website www.rebuildingtogether.org/americorps.

CapacityCorps members serve essential roles in building the capacity of their host site organizations in vital program areas, including: recruiting and managing volunteers, performing direct home repairs, connecting homeowners in need with our services, building community partnerships, and creating new programs.
Upcoming CapacityCorps Start Dates

**August 2020:** CapacityCorps members in the August 2020 class will start their term of service on August 10, 2020 and end on June 30, 2021.

**October 2020:** CapacityCorps members in the October 2020 class will start their term of service on October 12, 2020 and end on August 30, 2021.

**January 2021:** Rebuilding Together will have a third CapacityCorps class in January, serving from January 2021 through December 2021. Positions in the January 2021 class will be posted in September 2020.

**March 2021:** Rebuilding Together will have a fourth CapacityCorps class in March, serving from March 2021 through January 2022. Positions in the March 2021 class will be posted in November 2020.

What are the terms of service?
In order to complete your term of service and receive an Education Award, CapacityCorps members must fulfill both of the following requirements: serve a minimum of 1,700 hours before the end of their term, and serve full-time (39-40 hours per week) during the entire term.

Eligibility
Applicants must meet the following criteria to serve with Rebuilding Together CapacityCorps:

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must be a US citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident
- Individuals may serve no more than four terms in AmeriCorps State and National
- Must pass a criminal history review (see below for more information)

Criminal history review
Individuals must pass a criminal history review, including: an FBI criminal background check with fingerprints, state background checks, and a check of the national sex offender registry. What findings would disqualify me from serving in AmeriCorps?

Anyone convicted of murder as defined and described in 18 U.S.C. § 1111 is ineligible to serve. Anyone who refuses to undergo the check may not serve. Anyone who makes a false statement in connection with a program’s inquiry concerning the individual’s criminal history, including your self-report in your AmeriCorps.gov application, is ineligible to serve. If the National Service Criminal History Check returns results that implicate criteria other than those above, Rebuilding Together has the discretion, subject to any federal civil rights law and state law requirements, to decide whether or not the results of a criminal history background check disqualify an individual from service with the grantee.
What do CapacityCorps members do? Where do they serve?
CapacityCorps is named for members’ goal of building capacity at their host sites. But what does that look like in terms of the day-to-day activities you would be doing during a term of service with Rebuilding Together? Each of our 20 CapacityCorps host sites are looking to build their capacity in different ways and want CapacityCorps members to fill different positions of need at their individual affiliate. Some Rebuilding Together affiliates are looking for CapacityCorps members to recruit or coordinate volunteers, others want to coordinate rebuilding day projects, perform direct hands-on repairs, or reach out into the community to build community partnerships or help homeowners become aware of the services Rebuilding Together may be able to provide for them. Each Rebuilding Together affiliate has unique position descriptions for each of the CapacityCorps positions at their affiliate.

Visit our website www.rebuildingtogether.org/americorps to see a full list of CapacityCorps host sites, position descriptions, and links to apply.

Why serve in CapacityCorps?
Let currently serving members and alumni tell you about why they decided to serve in CapacityCorps, and what this experience meant to them.

Check out our YouTube playlist to see all our videos in which members explain CapacityCorps, why the work that they’re doing matters in their communities, the impact that safe and healthy housing programs have on the lives of their clients, and more.

Benefits of service
Serving with CapacityCorps offers of host of professional development, networking and leadership opportunities. Here are just some of the benefits of service:

- Nonprofit management experience such as partnership development, community engagement, volunteer management and program development.
- Opportunity to address housing issues hands-on in your community.
- Work with and support 49 other AmeriCorps members across the country.
- Travel for orientation and/or MLK project (see below for more information).
- Living allowance of $15,000 over 11-month term of service, which amounts to $681 twice per month before taxes.
- Health insurance including dental and vision plans.
- Education Award of upon completion of a service for qualifying education expenses or loans, upon completion of the term of service term (education award was $6,095 in 2019. Updated award amount will be announced in May 2020).
- Federal student loan forbearance and interest accrual payment.
- Positions are eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.
National AmeriCorps Orientation
The national orientation for Rebuilding Together’s August 2020 and October 2020 classes will be held virtually. Although members will start with their local host site on August 10, 2020 or October 12, 2020, we have set aside 2-2.5 hours each day for the first week of service (August 10-14, 2020 & October 12-16, 2020) for Rebuilding Together’s National Service Programs team to orient our new AmeriCorps members.

Each host site will also provide a local orientation in addition to the national orientation for new members.

National AmeriCorps MLK Week of Service
Once a year, all 60 CapacityCorps members come together to perform hands-on repairs on several homes in the same community during the week of Dr. Martin Luther King Day in January. Our annual AmeriCorps MLK project embodies Dr. King’s dream of communities lifting each other up through service. The MLK Week of Service 2021 will be hosted by a Rebuilding Together affiliate in the week around MLK Day, January 18, 2021. In past years, the MLK Project was hosted by Rebuilding Together New Orleans, Rebuilding Together Acadiana (Lafayette, LA), Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, and Rebuilding Together Oklahoma City.

Travel, housing, and meals are provided by the program for the MLK Project. Housing will be in volunteer housing or a hostile, which could include shared living facilities.

Application Process
All applicants must apply through the application portals online at www.rebuildingtogether.org/capacitycorps. After you apply, your application will be reviewed by each of the local Rebuilding Together host sites separately. Successful applicants will be invited to interview with the affiliate. The entire process typically takes about four weeks from the time of your initial application online. We make offers on available positions as suitable candidates are identified, don’t wait until the deadline to apply as the position may no longer be available!

More questions?
If you have any questions about Rebuilding Together or AmeriCorps please contact Stacy Patterson, Manager for the national Rebuilding Together AmeriCorps programs, at spatterson@rebuildingtogether.org.

Rebuilding Together CapacityCorps Disaster Resiliency Fellowship
In addition to our 11 month CapacityCorps program, Rebuilding Together has opportunities to make a difference in your community during a shorter, 8-month term from July 13, 2020 through March 5, 2021. For more information, check out https://rebuildingtogether.org/disaster-resiliency-fellowship.