

Rebuilding Together CapacityCorps Frequently Asked Questions

Rebuilding Together CapacityCorps is a National Direct AmeriCorps program with members serving 10.5 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 ten 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.

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.

CapacityCorps members across the country start will start their term in mid-August, 2018 and end their term at the end of June 2019.

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 (38-40 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
- 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 a 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 MLK project (see below for more information).
- Living allowance of \$13,732 over 11-month term of service, which amounts to about \$429 twice per month before taxes.
- Health insurance including dental and vision plan.
- [Education Award](#) for qualifying education expenses or loans.
- [Federal student loan forbearance and interest accrual payment.](#)
- Positions are eligible for [Public Service Loan Forgiveness.](#)

National AmeriCorps Orientation

CapacityCorps members begin their term with a week of national AmeriCorps where CapacityCorps members serving at host sites across the country come together to learn more about Rebuilding Together, AmeriCorps policies and procedures, and safe and healthy housing principles.

Whether they will spend their term completing hands-on repairs themselves, coordinate volunteers, or support homeowners, it's important for CapacityCorps members to have this volunteer experience, feel what it's like to be in someone else's home while it is also a project site, and get to know their fellow CapacityCorps members! One of the greatest benefits of Rebuilding Together's national AmeriCorps program is the chance to meet other passionate, talented individuals who will be serving alongside you in spirit during your term.

Travel, housing, and meals for National AmeriCorps Orientation are provided by the program. Housing will be in volunteer housing, which could include shared living facilities. National AmeriCorps Orientation starts on the first day of the term with travel to Orientation. Members will travel home after Orientation and begin serving at their host site the next business day.

Following National AmeriCorps Orientation, the affiliate will provide a local orientation to everything you will need to know to get up to speed and start making an impact in your community. The local orientation will vary depending on the affiliate and specific position.

National AmeriCorps MLK Project

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. In past years, the MLK Project was hosted by Rebuilding Together Acadiana (Lafayette, LA), Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, and Rebuilding Together Oklahoma City. The exact dates and location of the upcoming MLK project are still being determined, but will be about a week around MLK day in January 2018.

As will National Orientation, travel, housing, and meals are provided by the program for the MLK Project. Housing will be in volunteer housing, 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 Jessie Permar, Senior Director for the national Rebuilding Together AmeriCorps programs, at jpermar@rebuildingtogether.org.

Rebuilding Together SummerCorps

In addition to our ten month CapacityCorps program, Rebuilding Together has opportunities to make a difference in your community during a shorter, nine week term with multiple start dates throughout the year. For more information, check out www.rebuildingtogether.org/summercorps.