

Rebuilding Together Dutchess County - CapacityCorps FAQs

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 Dutchess County?

Rebuilding Together Dutchess County 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. Nationally, Rebuilding Together's 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 in the August class will start their on January 16 and end on December 11, 2020. Rebuilding Together will also have an August class of CapacityCorps, serving from August 2020 through June 2021. Positions in the August 2020 class will be posted in March 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 (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 Dutchess County? The AmeriCorps Program Coordinator oversees all aspects of running a program of Rebuilding Together, from meeting with clients to developing scopes of work, or from presenting to volunteer groups to managing inventory. This position is a great opportunity for someone who likes every day to be different and seeks experience in nonprofit program coordination. The AmeriCorps Program Coordinator meets with clients, activates community volunteers, organizes logistics, oversees rebuilding projects, collects data and compiles program reports. The AmeriCorps Program Coordinator is involved in all aspects of our organization and works as part of our team to increase our capacity, efficiency, and quality of services.

For more information about the AmeriCorps Program Coordinator position, [click here](#) to view the full position description. To apply, [submit an application](#) online.

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 \$15,000 over 11-month term of service, which amounts to \$681 twice per month before taxes.
- Health insurance including dental and vision plan.
- [Education Award](#) of \$6,095 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 half-week of National AmeriCorps Orientation in New Orleans, LA, 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. At the end of Orientation, we'll be joined by the August class of CapacityCorps for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week of Service (more details below).

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.

"My experience at orientation helped me understand that the mission and the work Rebuilding Together is doing so much more. I met a group of amazing individuals who all shared similar goals as far as wanting to be a part of the Rebuilding Together impact. I also learned how to use new tools which was fun."

Housing will be in volunteer housing, which could include shared living facilities. The first day of the AmeriCorps term will be January 16th, the travel day to New Orleans for National AmeriCorps Orientation with classroom training days held January 17th-19th. Orientation is immediately followed by the AmeriCorps MLK Week of Service.

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. The MLK Week of Service 2020 will be hosted by Rebuilding Together New Orleans on January 20-23, 2020.

AmeriCorps members will be in New Orleans for the orientation for roughly a week and a half, total, and return home on January 24th. Following Orientation and MLK Week, your first day with your Rebuilding Together affiliate host site is Monday, January 27th. The affiliate host site 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. In years past, the MLK Week of Service has been hosted by Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, Rebuilding Together Acadiana (Lafayette, LA), and Rebuilding Together Oklahoma City.

"It was very exciting to be able to increase our impact by coming together from all over the place, I liked the community and the people we got to help out in Pittsburgh. I learned about the challenges the community has faced, and how the disinvestment in their community has affected the residents. I also learned how resilient people are in their times of need and hardship. It never ceases to amaze me." - Zaira Portillo, MLK Week 2018

"I really enjoyed getting to see Lafayette, it was incredibly different from my host site and anywhere I'd ever been. Everyone was so welcoming from the RT Acadiana staff to the homeowners and house captains. Getting to help out the homeowners was wonderful and it was super awesome to get to do so in an area that had such a unique culture and sense of community behind it." -Amanda Nagler, MLK Week 2017

Application Process

All applicants must apply through the application portal online at <http://sgiz.mobi/s3/7340dd2834c0>. After you apply, your application will be reviewed and successful applicants will be invited to interview. 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.