

**SBP**

**CONTACT:** Evan Achiron | [eachiron@sbpusa.org](mailto:eachiron@sbpusa.org)

SBPUSA.org

Monday, October 5, 2017



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**AmeriCorps Awards National Long-Term Disaster Recovery Organization, SBP,  
Additional 140 Positions for Texas' Hurricane Harvey Recovery**

*SBP now recruiting prospective AmeriCorps members for operations across the Texas Coast*

HOUSTON – The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the Federal agency which oversees the national service program, AmeriCorps, announced today the grant award of an additional 140 members to [SBP](#), the nation's leading long-term disaster recovery non-profit organization. SBP, which relies on AmeriCorps members and volunteer labor to rebuild homes for low-moderate income homeowners after disaster events for 40% the cost of market rate contractors, will play a major role in long-term recovery efforts in Texas as the state rebuilds from Hurricane Harvey.

The grant from CNCS effectively doubles the number of AmeriCorps members under SBP's direction nationally and will enable SBP to deploy its proven effective disaster recovery and rebuilding model which is based on the Toyota Production System (TPS) across devastated parts of Texas, thereby shrinking time between disaster and recovery.

SBP established a presence in Texas just days after Hurricane Harvey's flood waters receded and has committed to long-term recovery efforts, recently opening an office in Houston. Part of SBP's initial response, has focused on sharing free, vital [resources](#) with homeowners to help them make smart, informed decisions that will help them avoid common pitfalls and speed their recovery. ([sbpusa.org/start-here](http://sbpusa.org/start-here))

Moving forward, AmeriCorps members operating under SBP will serve homeowners impacted by Hurricane Harvey, by providing case management services and serving as construction leads, guiding volunteers in rebuilding efforts, and training other organizations in the utilization of SBP's proven effective model. As such, SBP anticipates that 70 AmeriCorps members will serve directly under SBP, and 70 will be embedded within partner organizations across Texas.

**GRANT INFORMATION & BACKGROUND:**

This grant was provided as part of more than \$2.8 million the agency awarded in funding to support long-term recovery activities for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. \$225,000 of this was to a Senior Corps program in Houston, currently active in response activities. \$1.8 million was provided to SBP, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, and Utah Conservation Corps to support approx. 175 members. \$800K went to commissions: One Star Foundation, Puerto Rico

Commission for Volunteerism and Community Service, United Way Association of South Carolina, Volunteer Florida, and the Volunteer Louisiana Commission.

SBP AmeriCorps members will serve 10-month terms of service, and will be trained and equipped to serve in the following capacities:

- Construction Project Lead
- Construction Specialist
- Supply and Logistics Coordinator
- Client Services Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Placement Site Trainer

To learn more about SBP's AmeriCorps program and to apply, visit:

[sbpusa.org/get-involved/ Americorps](http://sbpusa.org/get-involved/ Americorps)

**Statement from Chester Spellman, Director of AmeriCorps at Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS):**

"For decades, AmeriCorps members have stood arm in arm with communities impacted by disaster. We hold this same commitment to helping communities impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria recover. AmeriCorps is proud to provide this new grant to SBP to support this work, which will enable many more young people to answer the call to serve. AmeriCorps will continue to support these communities over the long haul and together, we will rebuild."

**Statement from Zack Rosenberg, SBP Co-Founder and CEO:**

"SBP's mission is to shrink time between disaster and recovery, and there is no effective disaster recovery without AmeriCorps. Nationally, AmeriCorps members serving with SBP have provided direct impact and leveraged volunteer labor from across the country to rebuild communities following disaster. Through this grant, SBP will not only be able to rebuild efficiently, but these additional AmeriCorps members will also share SBP's rebuilding model and best practices with other local and national organizations involved in recovery, thereby increasing the capacity, efficiency and ability to efficiently serve more homeowners in need.

AmeriCorps facilitates and emblemizes Americans' unbreakable ties to each other, despite distance and perceived differences. The opportunity for Americans to join AmeriCorps thanks to this grant, will enable those who wish to serve their fellow citizens in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, a meaningful, impactful way to do so."

###

## **About the Corporation for National and Community Service and AmeriCorps**

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads the nation's volunteering and service efforts. The agency has more than 2,000 AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members active in response work in Texas, Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. AmeriCorps members hail from all 50 states. For more information, visit [NationalService.gov](http://NationalService.gov).

## **About SBP**

SBP's mission is to shrink time between disaster and recovery. Since its founding in 2006 in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, SBP has rebuilt homes for more than 1,300 families with the help of 180,000 volunteers in New Orleans; Joplin, MO; Staten Island, NY; Rockaway, NY; Monmouth and Ocean Counties, NJ; San Marcos, TX; Columbia, SC; White Sulphur Springs, WV and Baton Rouge, LA.

SBP's model is enhanced by AmeriCorps, which provides 180 (now 320) members annually to manage worksites and clients, and train the organization's volunteers nationally. Through its Disaster Resilience and Recovery Lab (DRRL), SBP works to share lessons learned, prevent common barriers to recovery and help communities utilize SBP's standardized, repeatable and proven-effective model.

The AmeriCorps members that operate under SBP, represent a part of AmeriCorps' robust response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, joining the more than 2,000 AmeriCorps and SeniorCorps members active in impacted areas.

SBP shrinks time between disaster and recovery via five interventions:

1. **Rebuild** homes quickly after disasters by mobilizing private sector innovations and assigning a single point of contact to make the home rebuilding process faster and more predictable.
2. **Share** rebuilding innovations with other rebuilding organizations to allow for efficient, predictable recovery on a national scale.
3. **Prepare** home and business owners prior to and following disaster with specific steps to mitigate risk and improve resilience.
4. **Advise** policy makers immediately after a disaster so they can deploy federal dollars sooner, and in a way that empowers an efficient recovery.
5. **Advocate** for the reform of disaster recovery strategies in the U.S. to improve the predictability and speed of recovery.

To learn more, visit [www.SBPUSA.org](http://www.SBPUSA.org) and like/follow on Facebook & Twitter @SBPUSA