



BLUE SKY VOLUNTEER PLANNING

2025 DISASTER SEASON

BLUE SKY VOLUNTEER PLANNING

PRESENTATION



Steering Committee

- Amy Zachmeyer, New Houston
- Andi Cook, Just Serve
- Brooke Campbell, United Way of Greater Houston, GHDA
- Gary Flaharty, TGCRVOAD
- Jackie Miller, City of Houston
- Jeremy Samuels, Interfaith Ministries
- Robert Nnake, Harris County, County Judge's Office
- Roman Aguilar, City of Houston, DON
- Sheroo Mukhtiar, Interfaith Ministries
- Kristina Clark, HCOHSEM
- Tommy Holstein, Baker Ripley
- Trevor Barnet, The Restoration Team
- Jackie Golz, HCOHSEM



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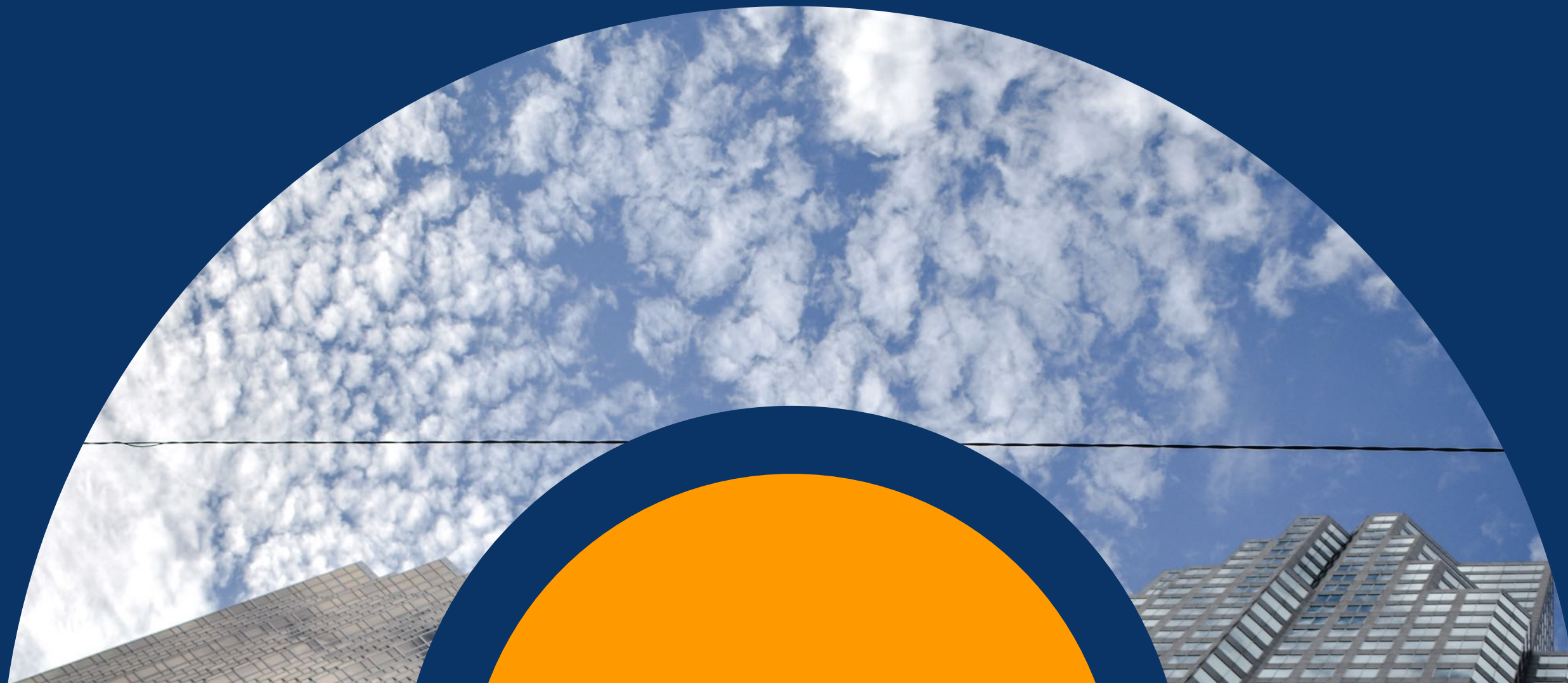
OVERVIEW



Why Volunteer Planning?

Our area faced 5 disasters in 2024, putting a high demand on our local organizations and volunteer base. There were significant unmet needs and we identified key opportunities for improvement.

This kind of planning has to happen in advance so that when the storm clouds do roll in, we are ready to act fast!





Challenges & Solutions

01

Volunteer Recruitment

Traditional methods did not result in volunteer capacity needed.

02

Lack of Volunteer Houston Awareness

People want to help, getting plugged in wasn't easy.

03

Volunteer Experience

VOADs must be prepared to engage & effectively utilize volunteers.

04

Communities Underserved

Connect VOADs to traditionally underserved communities

By building awareness of Volunteer Houston and streamlining the process, we can ensure that people who want to help know where to go, that organizations who need people can get what they need, that they are ready to accept them, and that all communities are better served.



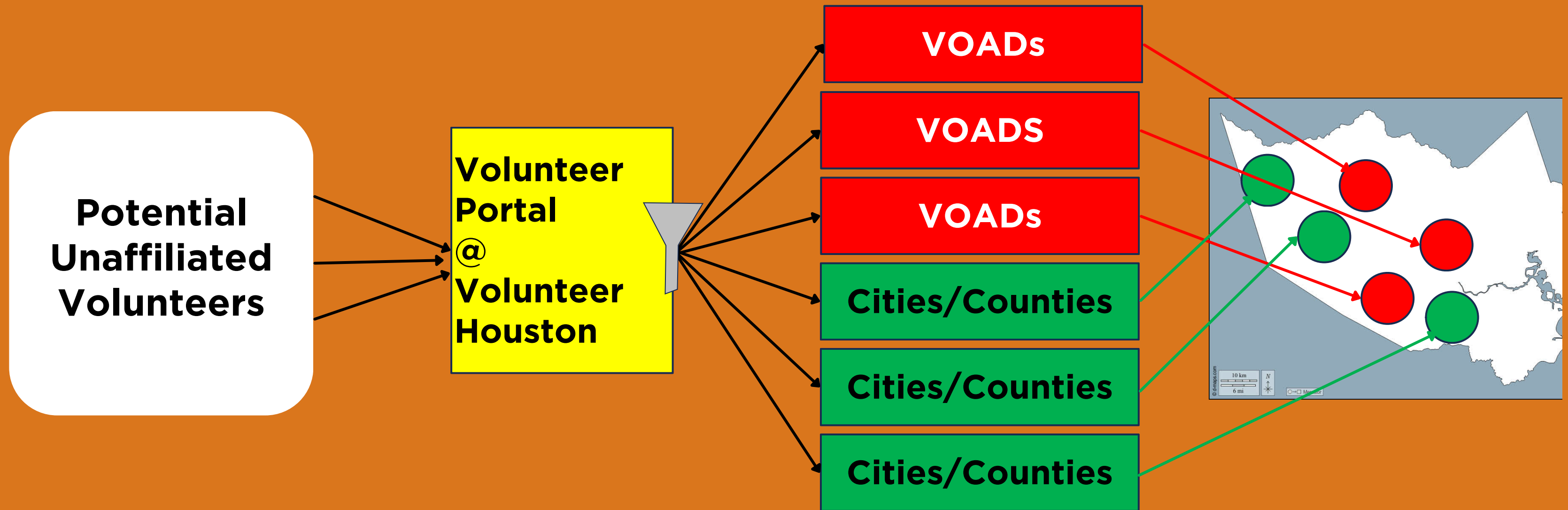
Process Overview

Recruit Volunteers

Place Volunteers

Volunteer Experience

Build Capacity & Locate Volunteers





Our Goal: 5000 Volunteers

With your help we can achieve this!

Organizations will be connected with more volunteers, volunteers will have a great experience, and **more of our neighbors will be helped!**

This process is scalable to meet disasters of any size!

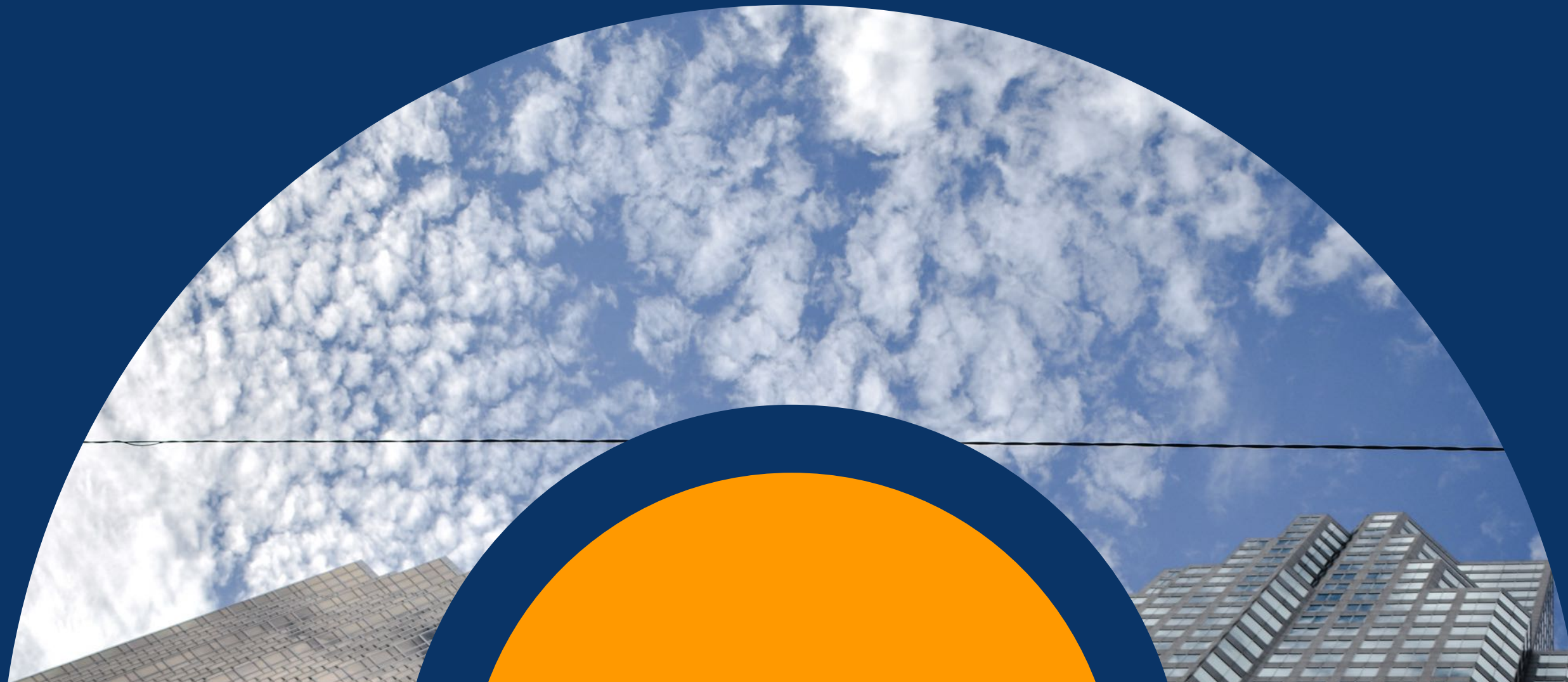




Volunteer Recruitment

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Engagement Strategy

In-Person Conversations Prioritized for Effectiveness

- **Asks made to organizations of all types**
 - Create materials with a unified message across mediums to help coordination:
 - Outreach email
 - One-pager
 - Bulletin board posts
 - Social media posts
- **Engagement to begin during blue sky periods**
 - Identify liaisons at organizations for coordination
 - Build trust & relationships to leverage during disaster



Outreach & Coordination

- **Meet with targeted organizations**
 - Engage religious, corporate, and civic organizations to train and recruit volunteers
- **Execute strategies for spontaneous vs. pre-identified volunteers**
 - **Pre-identified:** Volunteers who are already engaged with partner organizations
 - **Spontaneous:** Utilize multi-channel messaging across elected, corporate, religious, and other community influencers encouraging sign up on Volunteer Houston



Pending Actions

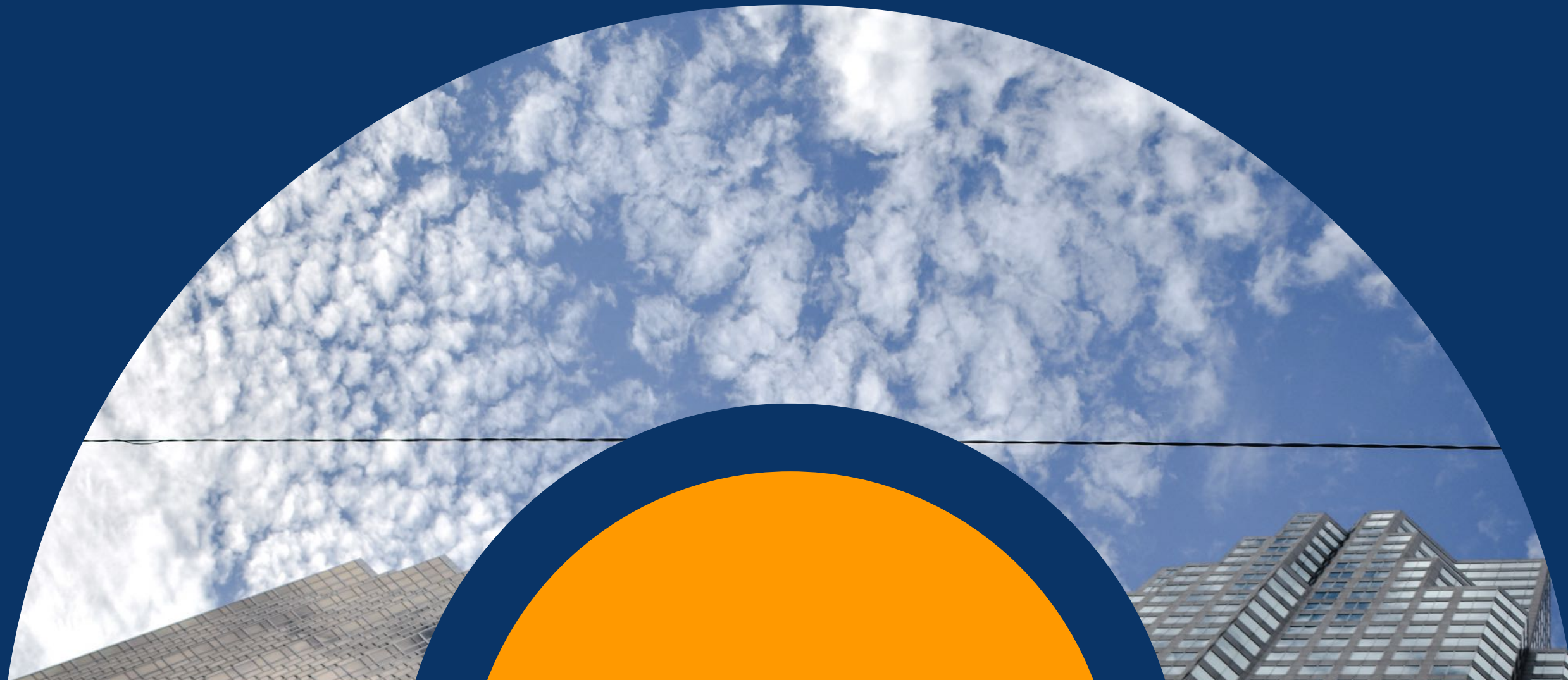


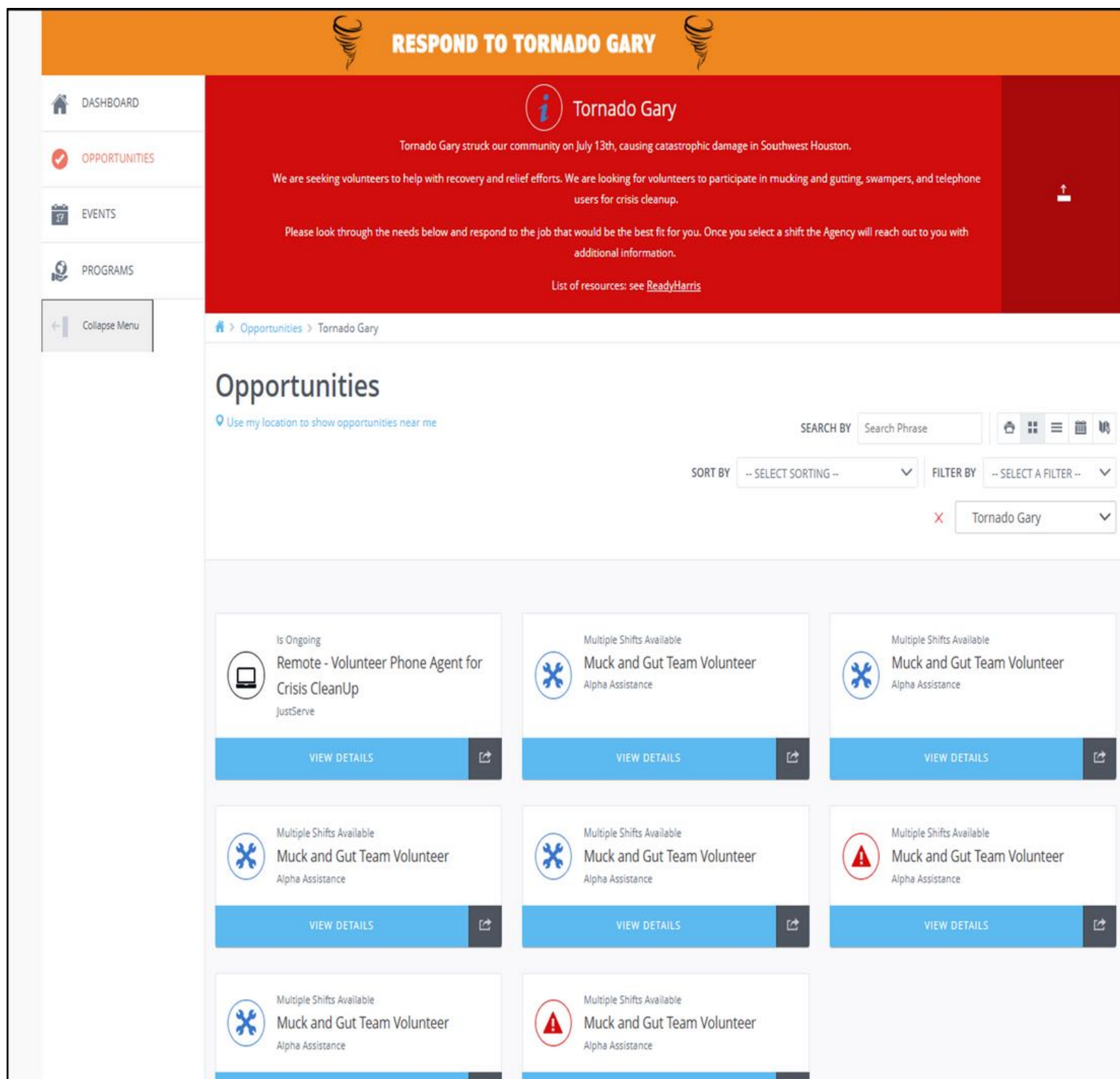
- **Develop & distribute organizational capacity survey**
- **Finalize 'menu of actions' and tools**
- **Schedule meetings with organizations**



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The New Volunteer Houston Disaster Page





When there is a disaster:

- Orange banner on every VH page
- Disaster Home Page
 - Red - Narrative & Resource Links
 - Disaster Description - Opportunities
 - Icon, job description, VOAD

[VOLUNTEERHOU.ORG/DISASTER](https://volunteerhou.org/disaster)



The Volunteers' Experience

01

Easy Sign Up

It only takes
3-4 clicks!

02

Connecting to Needs

Volunteers are shown
needs sorted by
distance and priority.

03

Email Confirmation

Once they submit, they
receive an email with
the location, contact
information, safety
reminders, and other
key details.

Sorting by priority means that we connect people with the **highest need** jobs that are closest to them. This ensures that the most populations with the biggest storm impact receive assistance.



Teams Facilitate Response

DASHBOARD

OPPORTUNITIES

EVENTS

PROGRAMS

Collapse Menu

Description

Join a team to help families clean up after water damage. You will help save their belongings and remove damaged things like some furniture, wet carpet, or damaged sheetrock. This prepares the house for drying, repairs, and rebuilding. Volunteers must be physically strong, work well with others, stay safe, and be kind to those affected.

Shifts

RESPOND

RESPOND AS TEAM

BEGINS	DURATION	OPEN SPOTS	RESPOND
Tue Jul 15, 2025 @ 9:00am to 5:00pm	8.00 hours	5 of 5	RESPOND INDIVIDUALLY RESPOND AS TEAM

SHOWING 1 TO 1 OF 1 ENTRIES

PREVIOUS

NEXT

Additional Details

☒ 16 and older

Skills

Program

A

Alpha Assistance

BECOME A FAN

i

Location

5749 S Loop E

Houston, TX 77033

Team Name *

Team 1

ADD ME

ADD VOLUNTEER

How big is my team now? 6

How big can my team be for this opportunity? 5

How many shifts are available for this team size? 0

Add new team members.

Check by a name to select one or more team leaders.

LEADER	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	EMAIL	QUESTIONS	REMOVE
☒	Andi	Cook	cooka@comm.churchofjesusChrist.org		

SHOWING 1 TO 1 OF 1 ENTRIES

PREVIOUS

1

NEXT

- Opportunities choose to accept individuals, teams, or both
- *click "Respond as a Team"*
- **Build Your Team**
 - Add contact information for the team lead/POC
 - Add an alternate POC
 - [Add team members]
 - Expected team size

Standard Job Descriptions

Muck and Gut Team

Tarping Team

Chainsaw Team Sawyer

Chainsaw Team Swamper

Documentation Coordinator

Disaster Resource Navigator

Point of Distribution Volunteer

Disaster Customer Service

Post-Disaster Canvassing

Post-Disaster Feeding

Post-Disaster Warehouse

Volunteer Phone Agent

Muck and Gut Team Volunteer

Join a team to help families clean up after water damage. You will help save their belongings and remove damaged things like some furniture, wet carpet or damaged sheetrock. This prepares the house for drying, repairs, and rebuilding. Volunteers must be physically strong, work well with others, stay safe, and be kind to those affected.

Skills, Knowledge, Abilities

	Physical Strength: Be able to lift, carry, and move heavy items (30-50 pounds) like debris, furniture, and cutting and removing drywall.		Tools: Tools are not required, but volunteers are encouraged to bring their own if they have them.
	Teamwork: Be able to work well with a team and follow the team leader's instructions and meet the team's goals, even in tough and emotional situations.		Problem Solving: Able to think fast and solve problems.
	Safety: Be committed to following safety rules and wearing protective gear (PPE) to keep yourself and others safe.		Age: Must be at least 18 years old. Those who are 16 or 17 can volunteer with a guardian.
	Compassion: Be kind and caring, ready to listen and help disaster survivors with respect, patience, and understanding.		



Maintenance & Upkeep

- **Blue Sky**

- Use standardized job descriptions
- Create pending jobs now
- Create communication templates
- Jobs remain unpublished until activation is needed
- Onboarding process

- **Grey Sky**

- Activate pending jobs for public view
- Customize volunteer confirmation emails
- Set and update custom shifts daily
- Close filled or completed jobs daily to maintain accuracy



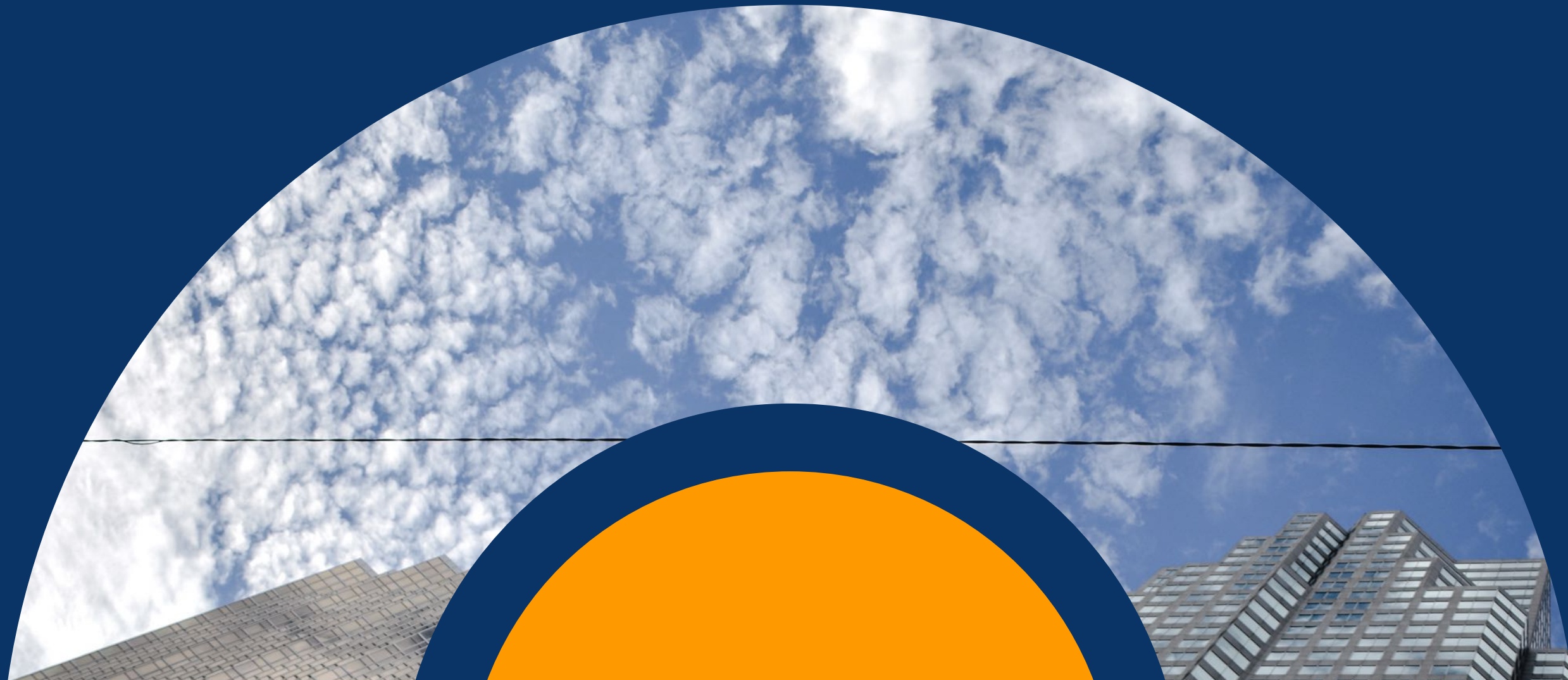
What's Different?

- **Standard job descriptions**
- **Post-Disaster needs are posted quickly**
 - Pending to activated
- **Custom shifts for better control**
 - Needs and volunteer rosters updated daily
- **Immediate organizational alerts for volunteer signups**
- **VOADS are strongly encouraged to participate**
- **Volunteer Houston broadly marketed**
- **Blue sky preparation and training**



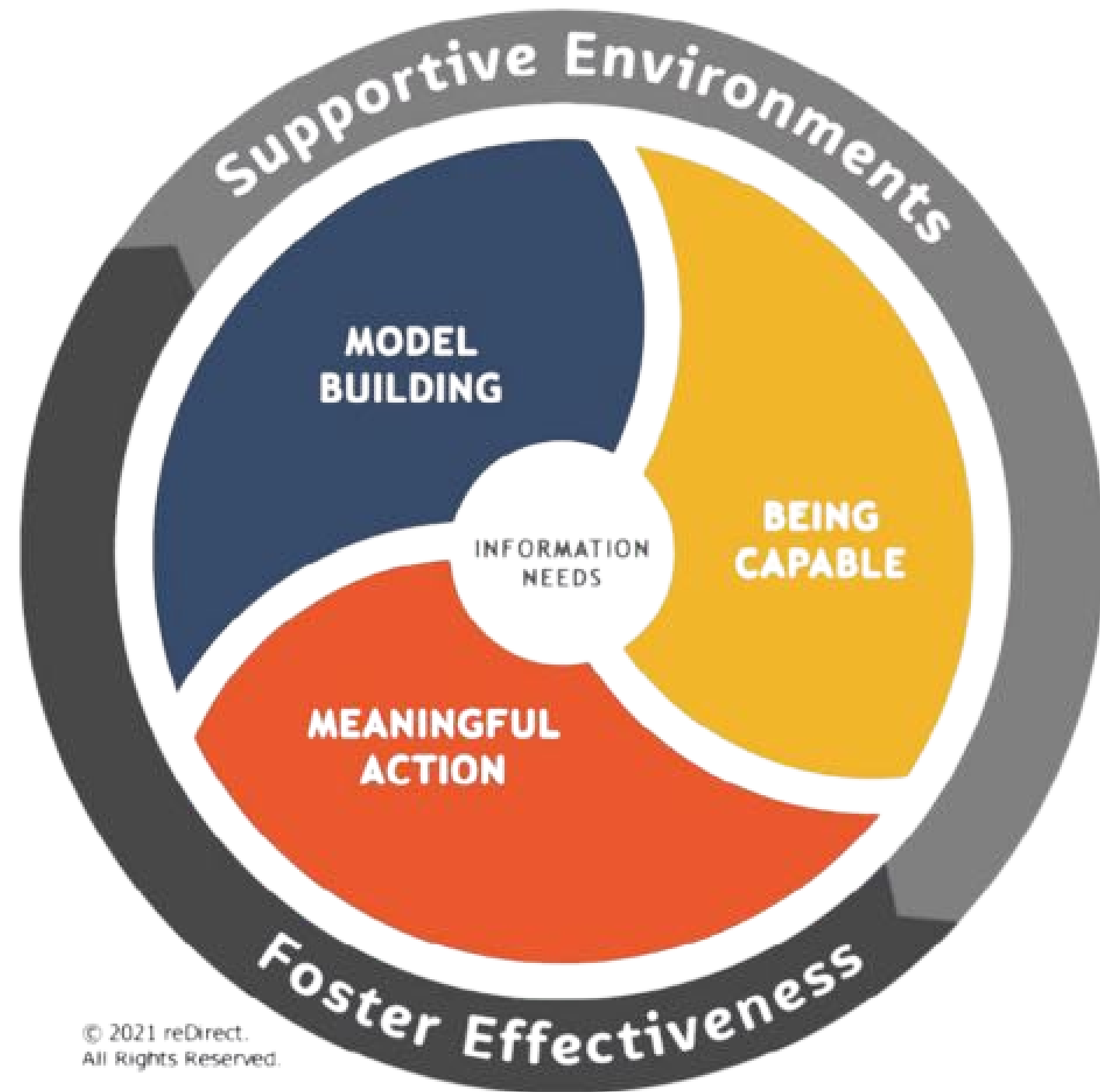
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The Volunteer Experience





The Volunteer Experience



**Humans survived by
interpreting the world
around them –**

**and if we lack clarity about
the environment we're in
and how we can engage with
it –**

we are not at our best.



Design & Discussion Series

Best practices in spontaneous disaster volunteer coordination

Developing a simple tool to support organizations in this space

Engaging with, championing, and maintaining this tool

Thanks to:

Andi Cook, LDS Church

Jay Brenk, Harris County Public Health

LaKeshia Oludare, Houston Food Bank

Mark Osborne, Catholic Charities

Monique Williams, Bread of Life

Patrice St. Pe, WHAM

Rachell Cook, Team Rubicon

Roman Aguilar, City of Houston DON

Sandra Morena, BakerRipley

Sonya Meyers, The Restoration Team

Thomasina Burns, Houston Responds



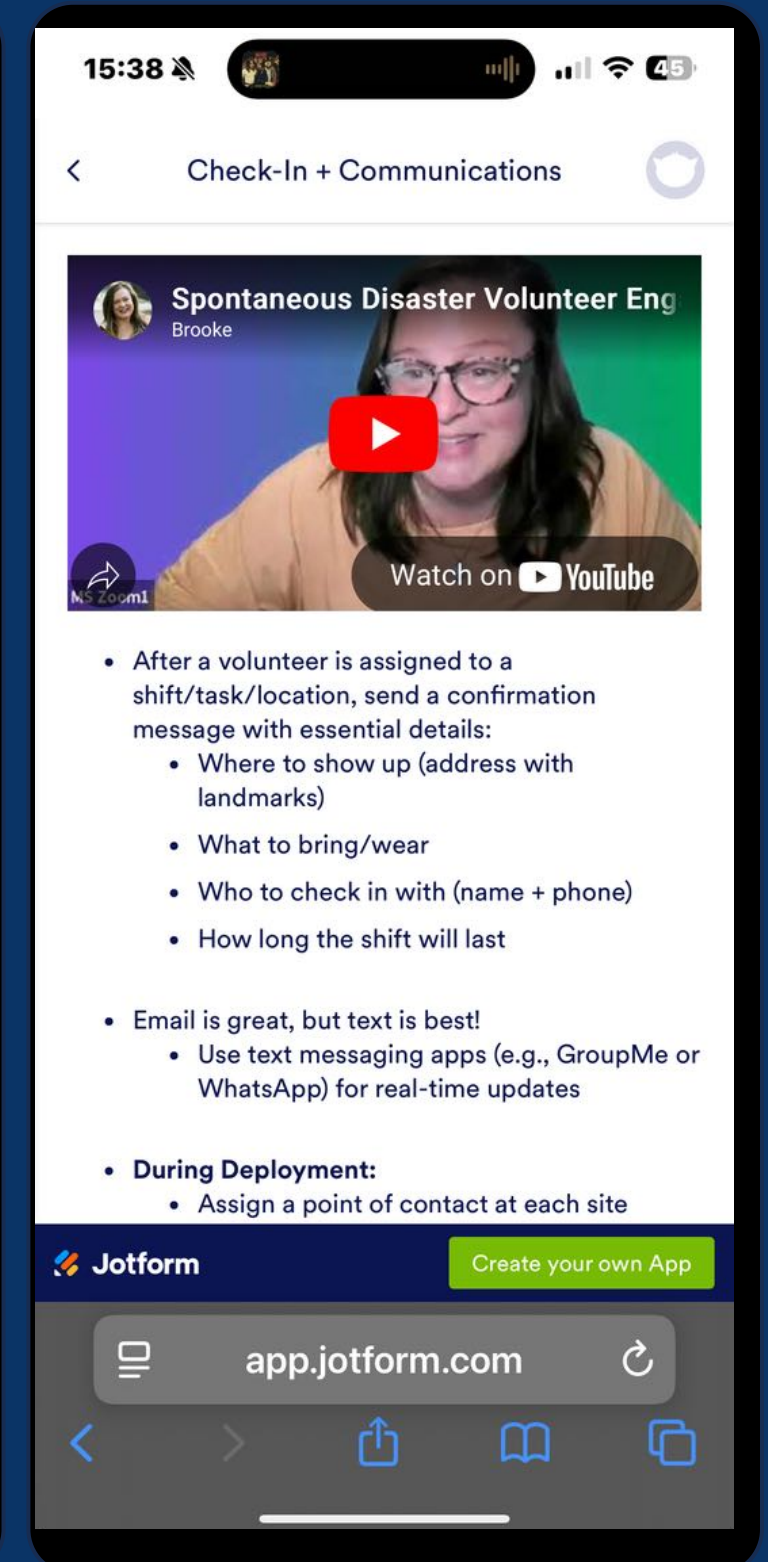
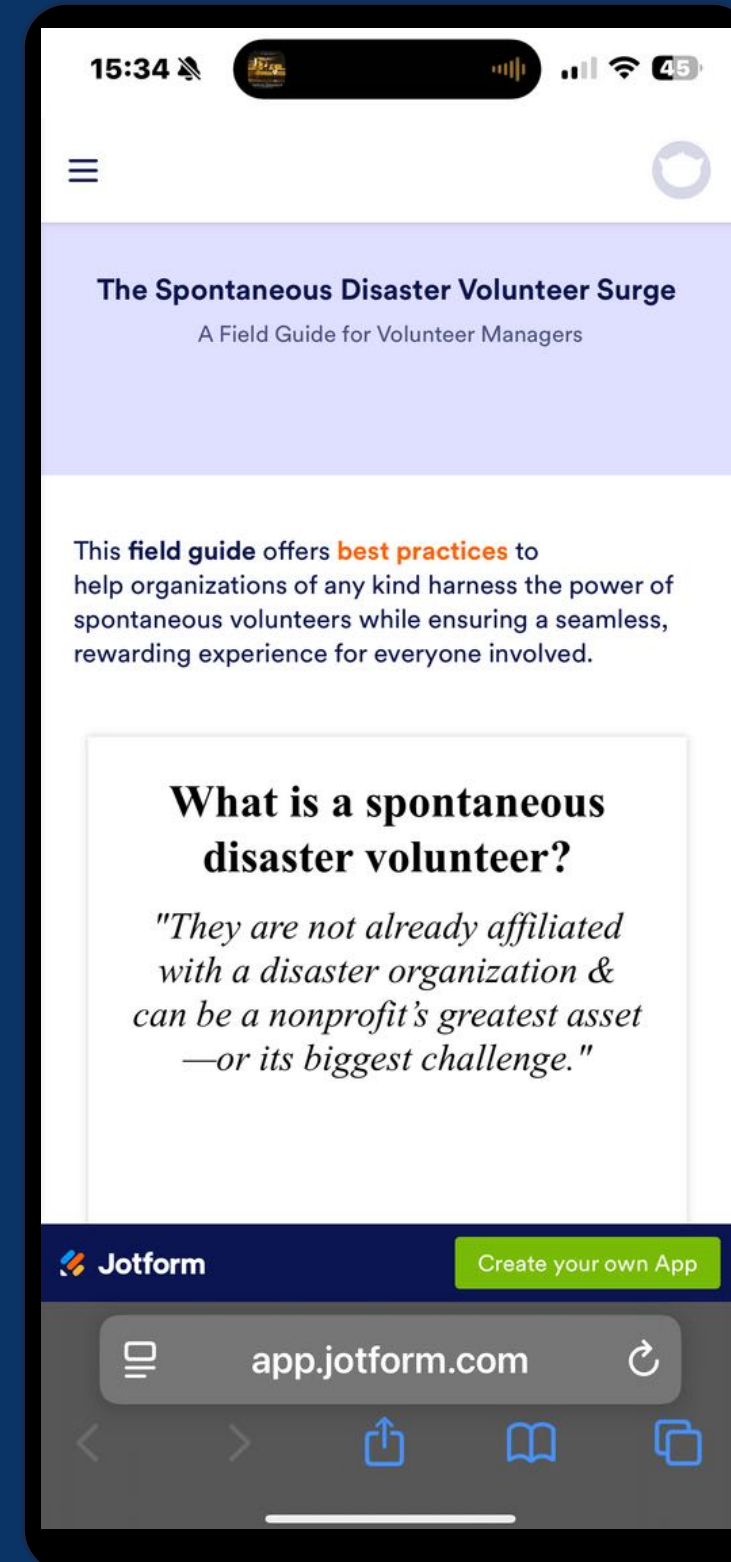
A Field Guide for Volunteer Managers

- Blue Skies Preparation
- Promoting Volunteer Opportunities
- Volunteer Check-In & Communication
- Training & Safety
- Deployment & Coordination
- Data Collection & Impact Measurement
- Utilizing Teams/Groups of Volunteers
- BONUS: Returning to Normal Ops



A Field Guide for Volunteer Managers

- Easy-to-maintain “mobile app”
- 1-minute orientation video per section
- References local processes, tools, and resources
- Will not be printed





Spreading the Word

The Spontaneous Disaster Volunteer Surge: A Field Guide for Volunteer Managers

- 1 Scan to download the mobile app
- 2 Add to your home screen
- 3 Share with 1 person
- 4 Deliver a volunteer experience they'll never stop talking about!

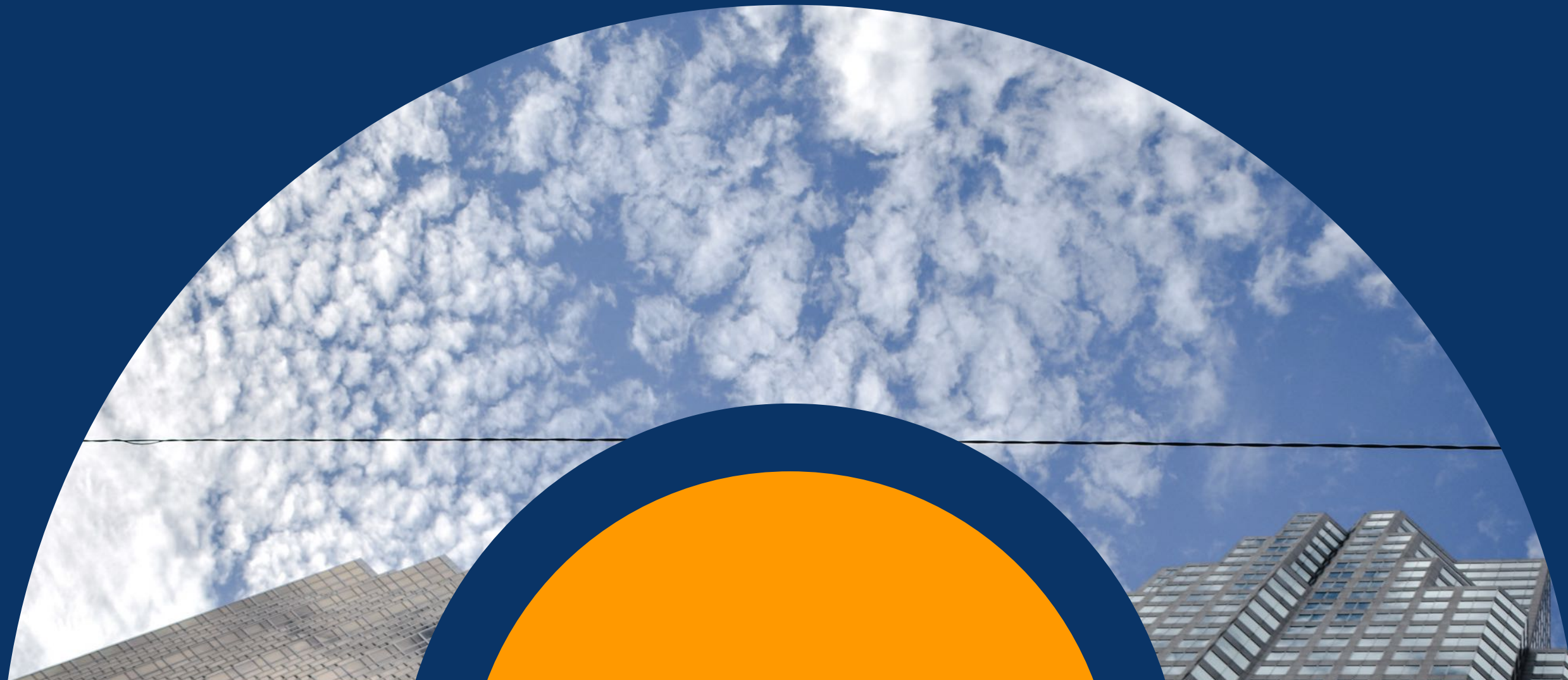


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Capacity Building and VOAD Placement





Building Volunteer Capacity

- **Re-introduce Volunteer Houston**
 - TGCRVOAD Meetings
 - LTRC Meetings
 - Online Training/workshops
- **Accelerated On-Ramp for Out-of-Town Responders**
- **Shelter, Showers, and Supper for Out-of-Town Responders**
- **Capacity Building**
 - Training
 - Greenfield Organizations
 - TGCRVOAD and LTRC Membership



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Disaster Preparedness Training

Friday, May 9th, 2025, 9:00-12:30

Moody Methodist Church
2803 53rd St.
Galveston TX 77551



Click or Scan
to Register!

9:00 AM	Check In
9:15 AM	Homeowner Preparedness Training
9:45 AM	Break
10:00 AM	Muck-Gut-Tarp Training
12:30 PM	Wrap-Up and Raffle

Saturday, June 14, 2025, 9:00-12:30

Metropolitan Multi-Service Center
1475 W. Gray St.
Houston, TX 77019



Click or Scan
to Register!

9:00 AM	Check In
9:15 AM	Homeowner Preparedness Training
9:45 AM	Break
10:00 AM	Muck-Gut-Tarp Training
12:30 PM	Wrap-Up and Raffle

Saturday, May 17th, 2025, 9:00-12:30

Houston ToolBank
1215 Gazin St.
Houston, TX 77022



Click or Scan
to Register!

9:00 AM	Check In
9:15 AM	Homeowner Preparedness Training
9:45 AM	Break
10:00 AM	Muck-Gut-Tarp Training
12:30 PM	Wrap-Up and Raffle

LED BY:

houston
ToolBANK





Grey Sky Coordination

- **TGCRVOAD Coordination Call**
 - **0900-1000**
- **TGCRVOAD – Houston Responds Faith Community Call**
 - **1500-1600**
- **TGCRVOAD- OEM Situational Awareness Call**
 - **1600-1630**
- **Organization Check-in and Jurisdiction RFAs**
 - **Reduce barriers in High-SVI communities**
 - **Purposeful placement of VOADs**
- **Sit Reps, Progress Reports, Damage Reports**



Priority Jobs

- **Priority needs set by OEMs and TGCRVOAD**
 - **High SVI communities**
 - **Significant Damage**
 - NWS
 - Red Cross Damage Assessments
 - iSTAT
 - Crisis Cleanup
 - Connective
 - SitReps of unmet needs
- **Volunteer Houston maintains the priority jobs designation**



Outreach

May

June

July

Key Corporations & Organizations

County OEMS

TGCRVOAD Members

TXVOAD & NVOAD

LTRCS

Faith Communities

Civic Organizations



1

Share the Link

Help spread the word now
AND when the storm hits:

- Put the link in your bulletin or newsletter
- Email your lists
- Share on social media

2

List your event

Not every organization
needs to host an event,
but if you do, share it on
Volunteer Houston.



You can help **prepare** for the next storm



BLUE SKY VOLUNTEER PLANNING

THANK **YOU!**