



BLUE SKY VOLUNTEER PLANNING GROUP

DISASTER SEASON

BLUE SKY VOLUNTEER PLANNING

P R E S E N T A T I O N

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL
RESILIENCE COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 18, 2025



BLUE SKY VOLUNTEER PLANNING

Steering Committee

Roman Aguilar	City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods
Trevor Barnett	The Restoration Team
Brooke Campbell	United Way of Greater Houston
Kristina Clark	Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Andi Cook	Just Serve
Gary Flaharty	Texas Gulf Coast Regional VOAD
Tommy Holstien	BakerRipley
Jackie Miller	City of Houston Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security
Robert Nnake	Harris County Judge's Office
Jennifer Wandrey	AARP Texas
Gayla Wilson	Volunteer Houston, a program of IM Houston
Amy Zachmeyer	New Economy for Working Houston



Why Blue Sky 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

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

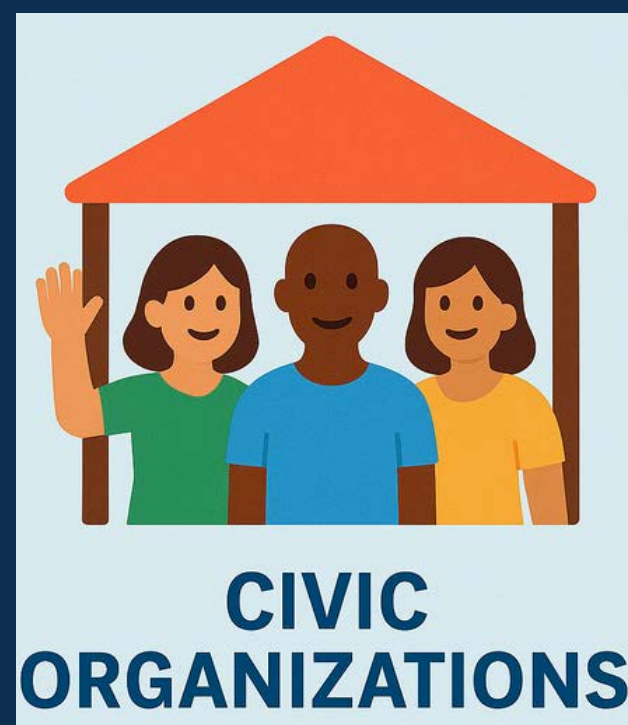
Capacity Building

Connect VOADs to traditionally underserved communities

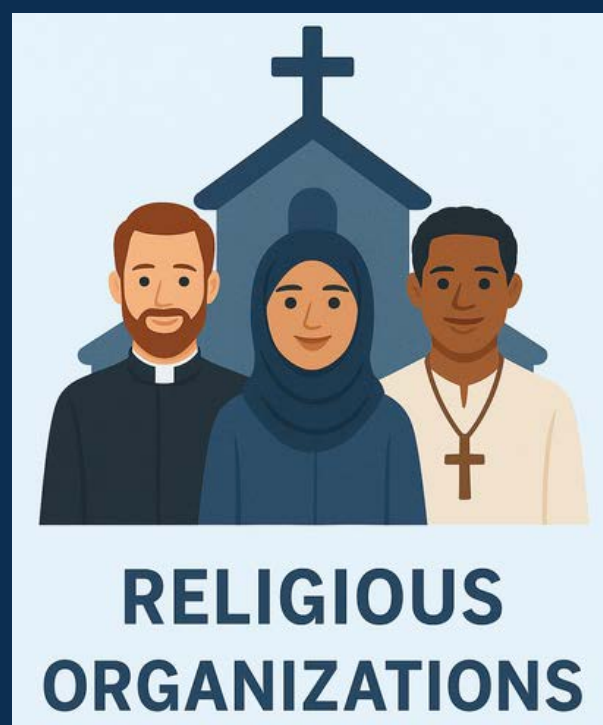
By building awareness of how to volunteer and streamlining the process, we can ensure that people who want to help know where to go, and the organizations who need people can get what they need.



Volunteer Recruitment



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Volunteer Houston

01

New Disaster Interface

Ready-to-Go
Disaster Response
page with prioritized
needs

02

Streamlined Sign-Up

Simplified registration
for spontaneous
volunteers

03

Rapid Confirmation and Referral

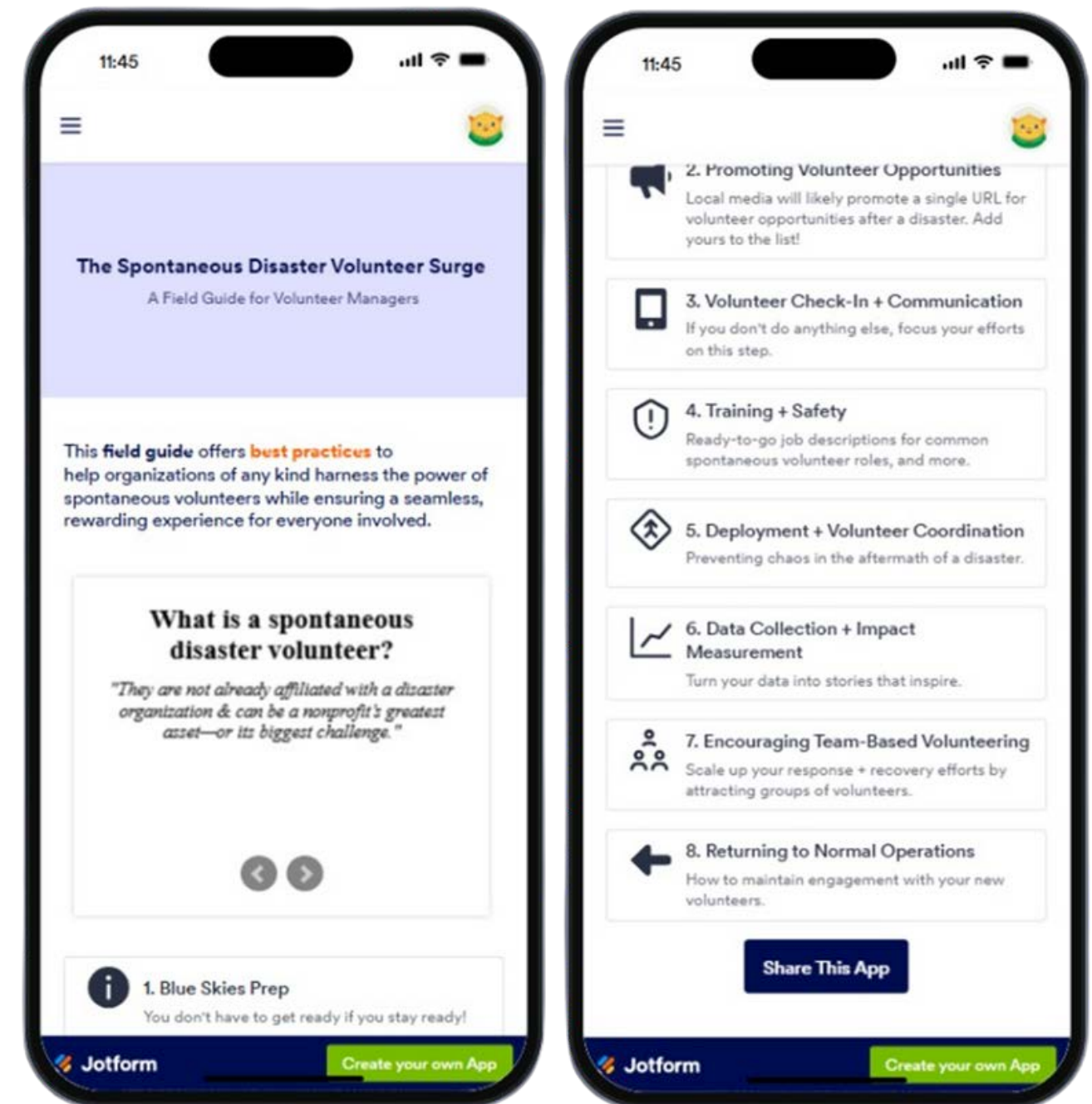
Once registered,
volunteers and host
each receive key details

Sorting by priority means that we connect people with the **highest need**.
This ensures that the communities with the biggest impact receive assistance.



Volunteer Experience

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



Capacity Building

Standard Job Descriptions

Handy

Muck and Gut
Tarping
Chainsaw Sawyer
Chainsaw Swamper

Distributions

POD Volunteer
Post-Disaster Feeding
Post-Disaster Warehouse

Administrative

Canvassing Team
Remote Phone Agent
Documentation Coordinator
Disaster Resource Navigator
Remote Customer Service

Blue Sky Trainings Preparing for Varying Storms



Blue Sky Planning Grey Sky Readiness





BLUE SKY VOLUNTEER PLANNING GROUP

CALL TO ACTION & NEXT STEPS



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!**



1

AMPLIFY: Share the link

When the storm hits:

- Post the link in your bulletin or newsletter
- Email your lists when a disaster hits
- Share the message on social media

2

RESPOND: Join an event

Organize groups from your organization to help!



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



American
Red Cross



LINA HIDALGO



JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.





How You Can Help

Roadshow and Execution

Referrals

Who Should We Be Talking To

Unified Messaging

Encouraging Community Leaders to be on the Same Page

Resources

Year-Round Personnel, Platform Costs, Branding Support, Recognition



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QUESTIONS?