



For Immediate Release

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City of San Jose and Airbnb Launch New “Host Corps,” the First Program of Its Kind in the U.S.

Host Corps to Proactively Recruit and Prepare Residents to Provide Temporary Housing Ahead of a Disaster

San Jose, CA -- Today, Airbnb and the City of San Jose launched “Hosts Corps,” a new initiative to encourage San Jose residents to offer their home free-of-charge in the event of a disaster, such as a flood or earthquake. The partnership follows last year’s floods in San Jose which resulted in more than 14,000 evacuations, and will be available through Airbnb’s [Open Homes Program](#).

“With floods and fires becoming all-more-frequent occurrences, we must utilize every tool available to ensure we’re prepared to house residents displaced during a disaster,” San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo said. “With the help of Airbnb’s unique platform, we’ll proactively engage the many compassionate residents in our community who are willing and able to help their neighbors in time of need.”

“Mayor Sam Liccardo and the City of San Jose are using innovative ways to solve complicated problems. Host Corps, announced in partnership with the City of San Jose, will enable communities to better respond to disasters and provide housing relief to local residents in times of need. This is the first time that Airbnb has worked with a city in this capacity - to proactively recruit people before a disaster and we are delighted that Host Corps is being piloted in San Jose,” said Kim Rubey, Airbnb’s Global Head of Social Impact and Philanthropy.

About the new Host Corps Program:

- Host Corps is a new group of Airbnb and non-Airbnb hosts that commit to opening their home, free of charge, in the event of a disaster.
- San Jose is the pilot city for the new Host Corps and as part of the partnership, the City and Airbnb will work together during a disaster to assess urgent housing needs and provide free temporary housing through Airbnb’s Open Homes Program.
- Airbnb’s [Open Homes Program](#) provides free temporary accommodations, waiving all booking fees and charges for those that sign up for the program. Since launch of the

program in 2012, Airbnb has helped more than 15,000 people seek housing in times of need.

- To get the word out about the partnership, Airbnb and the City of San Jose are working on joint efforts targeting residents of San Jose on how to sign up for the program. The partnership includes a digital campaign, in-person events, and coordination with local organizations.

San Jose residents interested in becoming an inaugural member of the new Host Corps can do so at airbnb.com/openhomes-sanjose. This is a great opportunity for residents to make a major impact on the San Jose community during a time of urgent need.

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