
TYPES OF PDA VOLUNTEER TEAM HOSTING SITES

For clarity, PDA differentiates between three different types of volunteer host sites / hosting opportunities. The three types are:

I - **Recovery Hosting** – This type of hosting is set up by PDA, in partnership with a host site, usually a church. The main objective of these host sites is to provide a safe, sanitary and secure place for volunteer work teams to stay while they perform meaningful, case managed and code correct work to help survivors get back into their homes. This type of work can continue for years after a disaster and usually involves rebuild type jobs.

II - **Response Hosting** – Response Hosting- Response hosting may be necessary after large, regional disasters that impact a broad area. While Recovery Host Sites-essential for long term recovery needs-typically open 6-12 months after a disaster, Response Host Sites could feasibly open within weeks, even days, of a disaster. This early response provides much needed assistance to those in need, plus allows volunteers the opportunity to engage as early responders. This type of hosting puts one or more NRT members on the ground to set up and manage a host site for a time.

II - **Referral Hosting** – Referral Hosting occurs when PDA becomes aware of a volunteer opportunity where there is both a work partner and housing available. This information is then posted on the PDA website so that volunteers may contact the organization directly. This type of hosting is not managed by the PDA Call Center or PDA.

Responsibilities for Recovery Hosting

Church - To become a PDA Volunteer Recovery Host Site, the church makes a long-term commitment to host volunteer work teams, usually 2 years. Churches usually provide a number of hospitality-type amenities that may include, comfortable sleep areas, Wi-Fi, meals, or access to kitchen facilities, ice for coolers, showers, laundry facilities, common area for lounging, etc. The church usually provides a person or committee to serve as hosts for the teams.

Presbytery – As with all PDA activity, PDA’s involvement with Recovery Hosting happens at the invitation of the presbytery. Presbytery involvement will vary from disaster to disaster. Presbytery involvement may include: distribution of grants to the church and work partner, logistical support from the presbytery office or promotion of response work opportunities within the presbytery and synod. On occasion a presbytery will hire a Disaster Response Coordinator. Supporting Recovery Volunteer Team Hosting is an important responsibility of this position.

Teams - Volunteer work teams find PDA host sites by viewing the list or emailing the PDA National Call Center, pda.callcenter@pcusa.org. Once the host site is determined, the team will make contact with the “host” at the church and work out arrival details. Teams are

expected to pay a per diem per person directly to the host site to help offset costs of facility maintenance, utilities, food, etc. Fees are charged to ensure there is not an additional burden to the disaster-stricken area, including the church. Once scheduled, teams are expected to honor arrival and departure dates/times. Once at the host site, teams are expected to be good guests and follow the church's rules.

Work Partner – To have a successful volunteer work trip experience it is necessary to have a reliable, trusted work partner. The work partner will be responsible for providing safe, meaningful, case-managed jobs. Partners are also responsible for communicating with teams to determine skill levels, need for tools, supplies, fees and anything else required to perform the jobs assigned. Partners are expected to work with local Long-Term Recovery Groups or others, who are providing case management to ensure those who need the most are helped first.

PDA - PDA helps churches discern if they would be an appropriate recovery host site. PDA will also assist in identifying a reliable, trusted work partner. Once the host site is approved (by session and PDA), PDA will provide training on how to operate a successful host site, calendar management and coordination by the National Call Center and possible grant funding to assist the church prepare its facilities for hosting. Additional grant funding may be provided for tools or other needed supplies for work teams. PDA offers on-going support to the church (host site) to ensure a successful hosting experience.

For more information about hosting contact Nell Herring at the PDA National Call Center pda.callcenter@pcusa.org, (866/732-6121).