



Francisco Sánchez, Jr.

Francisco Sánchez, Jr. was appointed in January 2022 by President Joseph R. Biden to serve as Associate Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), where he oversees the Office of Disaster Assistance and is helping lead the nation's economic recovery from COVID and natural disasters. He is an architect of a historic effort by the SBA to reimagine its approach to helping local economies prepare for, respond to, and recover from increasingly frequent and catastrophic disasters. Under his leadership the SBA is revamping its disaster and resilience enterprise to by reshaping its programs for the nation's 32.5 million small businesses, homeowners and renters, and private non-profits to ensure they have the resources they need to weather any storm and build back stronger than ever.

As the first presidential appointee to this position, Francisco's new role elevates the priority of business and economic recovery. Under his leadership, the SBA will re-invent its disaster approach with new bold initiatives on climate change, resilience, diversity and equity, and improving the customer service experience.

Francisco previously served as the Deputy Homeland Security and Emergency Management Coordinator for the Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management where he was the organization's lead for strategic development, planning, public affairs, and community preparedness initiatives. In his tenure there, the nation's third largest county responded to historic hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, and major industrial incidents while averaging a presidentially declared disaster every nine months. He also played a leading role in public safety efforts to host major security events like Super Bowl 51, the NCAA finals, and multiple World Series.

Francisco has served on command staff for four of the nation's ten most devastating natural disasters and is involved in public safety at the local, state, and national levels.

In 2020, he served as an Incident Commander for the initial Harris County emergency management response to COVID-19 with aggressive protective measures that mitigated infection rates in the greater metro area.

In 2015, he received the President's Lifetime Achievement Award by then President Barack Obama and that same year was named Public Official of the Year by the University of Houston. In November 2013, he was featured as [Emergency Management Magazine's Major Player](#) for his work on emergency public information and proposal for a national dialogue on the topic. In 2017, he was listed as one of the [Top 11 Public Safety Tech Leaders to Watch](#) by *StateScoop* for using cutting edge emergency communications technology for the betterment of the community and helping lead the single greatest revamp of the nation's alerts and warnings infrastructure.

Francisco is a graduate of the University of Houston and Sam Houston State University. He is a former member of the Ponderosa Volunteer Fire Department and is the pup parent of Boston, Winston, and Quincy.