MISSION

The mission of the Commonwealth Corps service internship program is to engage Massachusetts residents of all ages and backgrounds in direct service to rebuild communities and address unmet community needs. The program provides opportunities for skill building, and leadership development, while encouraging and enhancing a lifelong civic vocation. Commonwealth Corps members provide direct service, build capacity, and recruit, organize, and mobilize additional volunteers, thus building a grassroots movement of volunteers dedicated to service.

OVERVIEW

Administered by the Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA), the Commonwealth Corps is a state-funded program that was established by Governor Deval Patrick and his partners in the state legislature in 2007. Since then, nearly 1,000 members have served in areas such as benefit screenings, health services, after-school and summer programs, community development, and volunteer recruitment and management. No other state in the country has a service corps program focused solely on state residents.
10 YEARS IN REVIEW

Across Massachusetts
nearly 1,000 Commonwealth Corps Members contributed 603,700+ hours of service to 67 nonprofit agencies in the first 10 years.

607,600+ Beneficiaries
received new or improved services.

34,600+ Volunteers
recruited and/or managed, who served over 765,000 hours.

$3.6 Million Dollars
leveraged in cash or in-kind support.

Over 19,920
hours of member training, supervision, and support provided by host site partners.

Countless Opportunities
for skill building, leadership development, and enhanced civic vocation for members.

COMMONWEALTH CORPS
INSPIRE. UNITE. ACT.
(2008-2018)
FOCUS AREAS

Economic Opportunity
Education (Early & K-12)
Health/Nutrition
Youth Development

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

Greater Boston
Northeastern Mass
North Central Mass
South Coast
Western Mass

HOST SITE PARTNERS

826 Boston | Big Brothers Big Sisters of Massachusetts Bay | BEST Hospitality Training | Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell | Buzzards Bay Coalition | CitySprouts | Economic Development Council of Western Mas | Homework House | International Institute of New England | More Than Words | Mount Wachusett Community College - United Way Youth Venture | Mystic Learning Center | Northfield Mount Hermon Upward Bound | Reader to Reader, Inc. | Waltham Partnership for Youth | Westport River Watershed Alliance
17-18 MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- Increased girls' participation in fitness and athletics
- Launched a youth-led blog and alumni network
- Started and led an after-school literacy magazine club
- Enhanced efficiency through data and systems
- Grew volunteer training capacity and quality
17-18 PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

CITYSPROUTS

CitySprouts' mission is to develop, implement and maintain beautiful, resource-rich school gardens in collaboration with public school communities. CitySprouts hosted two full-time members who served as Commonwealth Corps Middle School Coordinators, leading Out-of-School Time (OST) programs for youth ages 11-14 in Cambridge and Boston. Through their service, members broadened programming at six schools with a focus on deepening youth voice and engagement, while further expanding family engagement plans with partner schools. CitySprouts' Commonwealth Corps members managed 172 volunteers who contributed 578 hours in the gardens, piloted a new climate justice curriculum, led after-school programming for over 120 youth, hosted four Family Days, and greatly improved efficiency for volunteer, family engagement, and youth programs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MA

The Economic Development Council of Western MA (EDC) is committed to delivering resources that will enable companies to thrive in Western MA and improve the quality of life through the creation of quality jobs and increased investment. The EDC hosted two full-time members in the Springfield WORKS, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston’s Working Cities Challenge (WCC) Initiative who served as Commonwealth Corps Community Outreach Support Specialists. Through their service, members expanded community outreach and mentor recruitment to reach a greater number underemployed or unemployed residents. Because of the Commonwealth Corps, Springfield WORKS was able to train hundreds of job seekers and coaches on how to build skills-based profiles that align with employer needs using an innovative technology.
"Throughout this pilot year, I led school administrators, teachers, students, and college staff through a series of professional development sessions aimed at identifying collaborative ways for our community to foster leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, and empathy in students."

Bryan Nolan, Mount Wachusett Community College–United Way Youth Venture

"Because of the Commonwealth Corps, I have been able to regroup both personally and professionally. I honed existing and developed valuable new skills, met and served alongside phenomenal people, and made important contacts that have led to my next job."

Cheryl Holmes, BEST Hospitality Training Center

"Through the Commonwealth Corps, I've been able to successfully launch a series of SAT and college counseling workshops at a local high school, organize events for high-profile guest speakers in the education field to connect with our college mentors, and expand our organization's capacity through on-site mentor sessions."

Jennifer Kim, Reader to Reader