ABOUT THE CORPS

The Commonwealth Corps is a state-funded service internship program that engages Massachusetts residents of all ages and backgrounds in direct service and capacity building to rebuild communities and address unmet community needs.

The Commonwealth Corps provides opportunities for skill building and leadership development, and it encourages and enhances a lifelong civic vocation for Corps members.

Corps members provide direct service, build capacity, as well as recruit, organize, and mobilize volunteers, thus building a grassroots movement of volunteers dedicated to service.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Since its inception in 2007, over 950 Commonwealth Corps members have served in the program, providing over 650,000 hours of service and directly benefiting over 600,000 individuals.

FOCUS AREAS

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

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

- Greater Boston
- Northeastern Mass
- North Central Mass
- South Coast
- Western Mass

DIVERSE MEMBERS

Commonwealth Corps members represent a more diverse cohort than the average year-of-service program. Members have ranged in age from 18-65+, and have come to the program from various personal, professional, and educational backgrounds, including current students, recent graduates, sector switchers, career-reentry, and retirees.
TESTIMONIALS

Because of the Commonwealth Corps, I had the power to reduce poverty on a local level, while serving intentionally and meaningfully. I grew up in a household that was in and out of public benefit assistance, which greatly affected the financial outcomes of my own mother. Once I had the opportunity to learn about the system, showcase the public benefit cliffs, and examine the local poverty loop, I was even more inclined to pursue a masters in economics.

___ Krizia Valentino, 2017-2018 Corps Member, EDC of Western Mass

Before the Commonwealth Corps, I was taking my career path in a direction I felt uncertain about. Now, I have a clear idea of who I am as a professional and where I can go from here. Through my service, I was able to plan and facilitate a yoga and journaling workshop for youth, assist in the publication of two chapbooks written by student authors, lead an evening tutoring programming, and receive relevant training that benefited me both professionally and personally.

___ Christina Amen, 2017-2018 Corps Member, 826 Boston

Our Commonwealth Corps members have been instrumental in our growth as an organization. The benefit we have seen in recruiting and training volunteers, for example, is not just the progress toward our numeric goals, but the increased capacity to manage the program as it grows to better serve underprivileged students in Western Mass.

___ Dennis Quinn, Associate Director, Reader to Reader

2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS

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

2018-2019 PROGRAM

The Massachusetts Service Alliance is partnering with 17 agencies to host 37 Corps members and impact 56 cities and towns across the Commonwealth. For a complete list of agencies, visit www.mass-service.org/cc.