

Host Site Partners

MASSACHUSETTS



SERVICE ALLIANCE

**COMMONWEALTH
CORPS**
INSPIRE. UNITE. ACT.

Program Year
2016-2017



Commonwealth Corps



The mission of the **Commonwealth Corps** is to engage Massachusetts residents of all ages and backgrounds in direct service and capacity building to rebuild communities, address unmet community needs, and increase volunteerism. Corps members provide direct service, build capacity of local organizations, and recruit, organize and mobilize additional volunteers.

The Commonwealth Corps provides opportunities for skill building and leadership development and encourages a lifelong civic vocation for its members. Through the Commonwealth Corps, the Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA) partners with nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and public entities to **reinvigorate civic involvement to help address the Commonwealth's most urgent needs and elevate service and civic engagement throughout the Commonwealth.** **The program has a dual focus on both members' positive impact in their organizations and communities and on members' own growth and development.**

The Commonwealth Corps, a state-funded program administered by MSA, was established in 2007. Since its inception, over 900 Commonwealth Corps members have served , providing over 580,000 hours of service in areas such as community development, health services, afterschool or summer programs, and volunteer recruitment and management, and directly benefiting approximately 590,000 individuals. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is the first state in the country to have a service corps program focused solely on state residents.

MSA invests in community-based organizations and institutions that rely upon **volunteers and people engaged in service to meet their community's needs.** Through investing, convening, advocating, and building capacity, MSA develops and supports initiatives that incorporate service and volunteerism as effective strategies to address the pressing needs in the Commonwealth.

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2016-2017 Host Site Partners

Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development Focus Area:

International Institute of New England

(Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development; Boston, Lynn; full-time)

The mission of the International Institute of New England is to help refugees and immigrants become active participants in the social, political and economic richness of American life. IINE will host 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members in the Career Pathways Initiative who will serve as Career Pathways Specialists at its Boston site and Lynn field office.

Through their service, members will promote a service continuum of economic development and maximization for 140 individuals, including refugees, asylees and immigrants, that increases access to public benefits and resources, English language ability, skills development, employment and career readiness and systems navigation. Members will gain invaluable skills for work in nonprofit settings and direct-service integration work. In addition, they will leverage 50 interns/volunteers to enhance service delivery.

More Than Words

(Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development; Boston or Waltham; full-time)

More Than Words (MTW) empowers youth who are in foster care, court-involved, homeless, or out of school, to take charge of their lives by taking charge of a business. More Than Words will host 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Community Engagement Coordinators in Boston and Waltham. Through their service, members will help MTW build a streamlined community engagement experience, supporting 275 youth to manage their online and retail bookselling business and achieve outcomes in education, employment and self-efficacy. In addition, they will leverage 1050 volunteers that will be engaged in supporting different parts of the MTW model, including education coaching, mock interviewing, book collection initiatives and operations support.

Square One/Springfield Day Nursery

(Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development; Springfield, Holyoke; half-time)

Square One is committed to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed at school, at work, and in life by providing educational programs, family support services, health and fitness resources, and a voice in the community. Square One will host 4 half-time members in Mom's Squad and Family Center Programs as Community Support Specialists providing outreach and recruitment, increasing employment mentors and enhancing employment placement and family stability in the Springfield and Holyoke areas. Through their service, members will assist in matching employer mentors, job search and employment placement as well as strengthening parenting activities. In addition, they will leverage 30 volunteers that assist un/under employed, low income women search and obtain employment placement as well as job retention and career planning.

United South End Settlements

(Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development; Boston; full-time)

The mission of USES is to build a strong community by improving the education, health, safety and economic security of low-income individuals and families in Boston's historic South End/Lower Roxbury and to serve as a national model of successful neighborhood engagement. USES will host 4 full-time Commonwealth Corps Members who will serve on our Workforce Readiness team as Family Support Coordinators, assisting families with obtaining resources for economic security in the Boston area. Through their service, members will allow USES to strengthen our services to families by meeting the holistic needs of the low-income parents enrolled in our education and training programs through individualized case management and wrap around services. Commonwealth Corps Members will partner directly with low-income parents, serving 100 individuals, and as mentors to our volunteers, leveraging 60 volunteers.

Education Focus Area:

826 Boston

(Education; Boston; full-time)

826 Boston is a nonprofit writing center dedicated to supporting students ages 6 to 18 with their creative and expository writing skills while helping teachers inspire their students to write. 826 Boston will host 4 full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Out-of-School Program Coordinators and In-School Program Coordinators in Roxbury and Dorchester, in the city of Boston. Through their service, members will coordinate and expand in-school volunteer tutoring services, creative writing workshops, and student publications. In addition, they will leverage 550 dedicated volunteers that will be engaged in **expanding 826 Boston's** in-school and out-of-school tutoring programs to serve 2,000 students over the course of 13,500 hours of programming.

Buzzards Bay Coalition

(Education; New Bedford/Buzzards Bay Watershed Region; full-time)

The Buzzards Bay Coalition works to protect clean water for all the communities of our region through conservation, research, advocacy and education. The Coalition will host 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members in our Community Engagement department. Serving as Environmental Educators, the members will deliver programs and develop resources that encourage outdoor exploration and help improve academic achievement in 17 Southeastern Massachusetts communities. Through their service, members will directly engage 2,000 unique youth and 60 families in 150 outdoor exploration programs leading to youth demonstrating excitement about outdoor and classroom learning and exploration. They will reach students in over 10 school districts and create outdoor learning spaces in at least 4 schools. In addition, they will leverage 16 volunteers to engage the community in outdoor exploration, education and stewardship.

CitySprouts

(Education; Boston; full-time)

CitySprouts' mission is to develop, implement and maintain beautiful, resource-rich school gardens in collaboration with public school communities. Integrated into curriculum, our gardens inspire teachers, students and families with a deep, hands-on connection to the food cycle, sustainable agriculture & the natural environment. CitySprouts will host 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Middle School Coordinators, leading Out-of-School Time (OST) & in-school programs in Cambridge and Boston and reaching 175 students. Through their service, members will be lead educators for our Middle School pilot at 6 schools, and they will develop and implement family engagement plans with partner schools. In addition, they will leverage the work of 250 volunteers throughout our network of 23 partner schools who will engage in garden education and building projects.

The Home for Little Wanderers

(Education; Boston, Plymouth or Walpole; half-time)

The mission of The Home for Little Wanderers (HFLW) is to ensure the healthy behavioral, emotional, social, and educational development and physical well-being of children and families living in at-risk circumstances. HFLW will host four half-time Commonwealth Corps members who will help us design and launch a tutoring program for children with trauma histories at two of our special education schools. Through their service, members will research best practices, develop training and recruitment materials, recruit and manage volunteer tutors in Boston, Walpole, and Plymouth, and engage with school staff and student caregivers, all towards the end goal of helping our students reach their full academic potential. In addition, they will leverage at least eight new volunteers that will be engaged in the tutoring program.

Homework House

(Education; Holyoke; full-time)

Homework House strengthens the Holyoke community by providing academic and social supports to low income elementary school children in a safe and affirming environment. Homework House will host 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as a Volunteer/Parental Engagement Coordinator to increase our corps of community volunteers and boost the level of parental engagement; and a Technology Education Specialist to build our capacity to serve the children through improved use of educational technology. Through their service, members will expand our academic support programs for low-income children, improve school engagement; and increase parent engagement in student learning. In addition they will leverage the resources of our 230 volunteers and recruit an additional 40 community/parent volunteers who will be act as tutors and mentors.

Housing Families, Inc.

(Education; Malden; half-time)

The mission of Housing Families is to end family homelessness. Housing Families will host 4 half-time Commonwealth Corps Members in its GREAT Youth and Families Program who will serve as Academic Enrichment Assistants and a Volunteer Coordinator, improving the personalization and efficiency of academic services and tutoring services in Malden. Through their **service, Members will improve the program's system to provide personalized tutoring and enrichment assignments for each child, improve volunteer engagement and training, and increase contact with each child's teacher and school.** In addition, they will leverage more than 110 volunteers that will be engaged in academic tutoring and enrichment activities.

Northfield Mount Hermon Upward Bound

(Education: Mount Hermon/Greenfield, Turners Falls, Holyoke, Springfield: full-time)

The mission of Northfield Mount Hermon Upward Bound is to generate the skills and motivation to succeed in high school and college for first generation/low income youth. NMH UB will host 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as college mentors to address severe needs including low college-going rates and low college readiness in Greenfield, Turners Falls, Holyoke and Springfield. Through their service, members will develop new partnerships to increase college application rates, family engagement rates, and program capacity, positively impacting 87 current UB students and 40 new students, including non UB students. Four member projects will provide new approaches and materials for UB and non-UB students, **improve UB's ability to recruit, orient and engage new students and families**, and develop two new partnerships. Members will leverage 40 volunteers that will be engaged in mentoring, tutoring, enrichment and capacity building.

Westport River Watershed Alliance

(Education: Westport: full-time)

The Westport River Watershed Alliance's mission is "to restore, protect, celebrate, and sustain the natural resources of the Westport River and its watershed." WRWA will host 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members as Environmental Educators. They will expand our delivery of and teach the Watershed Education Program (WEP) topics to over 2,000 students in grades K – 12, in Fall River, Westport, Taunton and Acushnet. They will also host 10 weekend learning labs to enhance student and family engagement in experiential science education, reaching over 500 people. Corps Members will engage 40 high school youth as volunteer docents to assist with this expansion of programming. Corps Members will strive to increase student science standards content gain and student appreciation, enthusiasm, awareness, and stewardship of the watershed's natural world and unique resources.

Health & Nutrition

Focus Area:

Community Healthlink

(Health & Nutrition, Worcester; full-time)

Community Healthlink (CHL) is committed to promoting, restoring, and maintaining the physical health, mental health, and dignity of adults, children, and families in Central Massachusetts who are experiencing mental illness, addiction or homelessness. CHL will host 3 full-time Commonwealth Corps members in its Homeless Outreach and Advocacy Program (HOAP) who will serve as Outreach and Engagement Specialists in Worcester, MA. Through their service, members will: 1) improve the physical and mental health of 190 homeless individuals by increasing the number of individuals utilizing behavioral and primary health care and the number of individuals who receive substance abuse treatment services, and 2) expand our reach and effectiveness. In addition, they will leverage 10 volunteers that will be engaged in continuing the project after the service year is complete.

Island Health Care Community Health Center

(Health & Nutrition, Martha's Vineyard; half-time)

The mission of Island Health Care (IHC) is to provide access to high quality, affordable health care services for the residents of Dukes County, primarily the medically underserved, uninsured and underinsured. IHC will host 4 half-time HealthyLivingMV Commonwealth Corps members who will serve to develop capacity of partner health care organizations to recruit volunteers to coach lay-leader evidence-based programs and serve as program supports and patient advocates, including for patients who participate in substance abuse programming. Through their service, Corps members will facilitate evidence-based programs (EBPs) that have as their outcomes: fall risk reduction for elders and people with disabilities, self-care for caregivers of individuals for whom they are making significant decisions or otherwise the primary care provider/manage, and chronic disease management for youth and adults. HLMVCC will recruit 36 lay coaches and 345 volunteers to support individuals in these EBPs, directly impacting 761 individuals.

Middlesex Community College

(Health & Nutrition; Lowell; half-time)

Middlesex Community College (MCC) mission is “everyone teaches, everyone learns.” MCC will host 3 half-time Commonwealth Corps Members who will serve as Wellness Ambassadors to raise student, employee, and community member’s awareness of personal and community health and wellness and strive to build resilience. Service members will focus on three distinct topics: substance abuse prevention, mental health, and nutrition. Their efforts to educate, provide resources, and assess outcomes will ensure these critical issues and the connection between health and success is integrated at MCC and in the community. Service members will collaborate on projects and presentations culminating in a robust calendar of opportunities that will impact 778 individuals. Additionally, they will organize a new food pantry for 50 visitors, directly impact the lives of 180 individuals, and survey at least 400 people.

Youth Development & Violence Prevention Focus Area Host Sites

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell

(Youth Development; Lowell; full-time)

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell seeks to “inspire and enable young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.” Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell will host 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as a Teen Service Learning Coordinator and a Teen Internship Coordinator, expanding outreach to at-risk teens and programming in community engagement and internships in Lowell. Through their service, members will increase the number of teens engaged in positive development programs and demonstrating positive behaviors, increase the number of teens engaged in community service, and prepare teens for work success, impacting 270 teens. As part of their service, they will deliver a substance abuse prevention curriculum to middle school students. In addition, they will leverage 30 volunteers that will be engaged in teen youth development programs at our Boys & Girls Club.

Soccer Without Borders

(Youth Development; Boston; full-time)

The mission of Soccer Without Borders (SWB) is to use soccer as a vehicle for positive change in the lives of newcomer refugee, immigrant and asylee youth, providing a toolkit to overcome obstacles to growth, inclusion and personal success. SWB will host 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Program Associates providing increased capacity to SWB and acting as head coaches in our sports-based positive youth development program in East Boston. Through their service members will support SWB to expand and meet the growing need for extracurricular programs in East Boston, solidify partnerships with local schools, secure in-kind program support, contribute to curricula, and build outreach capacity. In addition, they will leverage 40 volunteers that will be engaged in coaching and mentoring newcomer youth in East Boston.

The Trustees of Reservations

(Youth Development; Boston or New Bedford/Fall River; full-time)

The mission of The Trustees of Reservations is to “preserve, for public use and enjoyment, properties of exceptional scenic, historic, and ecological value in Massachusetts.” The Trustees will host 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members as part of our Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program who will serve as Youth Development Coordinators in Boston and New Bedford/Fall River. Through their service, members will: conduct community outreach and youth recruitment; plan youth conservation projects; develop resources and curricula for job readiness trainings and environmental education lessons; and improve program documentation by collecting evaluation data, photographs, videos, stories, and interviews. In addition, they will leverage 30 volunteers who will be engaged in youth development and environmental stewardship activities.

Main Commonwealth Corps Contacts by Site

Organization	Address	Phone	Staff Contact	Email
Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development Focus Area Host Sites				
International Institute of New England	One Milk Street Boston, MA 02109	617-695-9990	Aisha Necoechea	anecoechea@iine.org
More Than Words	376 Moody Street Waltham, MA 02453	781-314-9329	Naomi Parker	nparker@mtwyouth.org
Square One/Springfield Day Nursery	1095 Main St. Springfield MA, 01103	413-732-5183 x1147	Dawn Distefano	ddistefano@sdn.org
United South End Settlements	566 Columbus Ave Boston, MA 02118	617-375-8120	Joel Nitzberg	jnitzberg@uses.org
Education Focus Area Host Sites				
826 Boston	3035 Washington St., Roxbury, MA 02119	617-442-5400	Jessica Drench	jessica@826boston.org
Buzzards Bay Coalition	114 Front St. New Bedford, MA 02740	5089996363 x224	Robert Hancock	lawson@savebuzzardsbay.org
CitySprouts	678 Massachusetts Ave Cambridge, MA 02139	617-876-2436	Robyn Burns	rburns@citysprouts.org
The Home for Little Wanderers	10 Guest St. Boston, MA 02135	617-927-0643	Taryn Marino	tmarino@thehome.org
Homework House	54 North Summer St Holyoke, MA 01040	413-887-7406	Virginia Dillon	vdillon@homeworkhouseholyoke.org
Housing Families	354 Cross Street Malden, MA 02148	781-322-9119 ext 201	Siobhan Malady	smalady@housingfamilies.org
Northfield Mount Hermon Upward Bound	1 Lamplighter Way, Mount Hermon, MA 01354	413 498-3523	Sharon Gralnick	Sgralnick-ub@nmhschool.org
Westport River Watershed Alliance	1151 Main Road Westport, MA 02790	508-636-3016	Shelli Costa	wep@wrwa.com
Health & Nutrition Focus Area Host Sites				
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Island Healthcare Community Health Center	248 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road Edgartown, MA 02539	508-627-5797 x114	Kathleen Fresher-Samways	ksamways@ihimv.org
Middlesex Community College	33 Kearney Square Lowell, MA 01852	781-760-1901	Rebecca Newell	NewellR@middlesex.mass.edu
Youth Development & Violence Prevention Focus Area Host Sites				
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell	657 Middlesex St. Lowell, MA 01851	978-458-4526	JuanCarlos Rivera	jcrivera@lbgc.org
Soccer Without Borders	9 Waterhouse Street Cambridge, MA 02138	857-400-8681	Lindsey Whitford	lindsey@soccerwithoutborders.org
The Trustees of Reservations	830 Drift Road Westport, MA 02790	508 636-4693 x5004	Linton Harrington	lharrington@thetrustees.org