PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND HOST SITE PARTNERS 2019-2020
The mission of the Commonwealth Corps service internship program 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 1,000 Commonwealth Corps members have served, providing more than 680,000 hours of service in areas such as community development, health services, after-school or summer programs, and volunteer recruitment and management, and directly benefiting approximately 620,000 individuals. Massachusetts is the first and only state in the country to have an active 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.

**COMMONWEALTH CORPS CONTACTS:**

**STACEY SIROIS**  
Commonwealth Corps Program Manager  
617-542-2544 ext. 220  
ssirois@mass-service.org

**BETH MCGUINNESS**  
Director of Programs  
617-542-2544 ext. 217  
bmcguinness@mass-service.org

**JULIANNE DEFILIPPIS**  
Commonwealth Corps Program Associate  
617-542-2544 ext. 202  
jdefilippis@mass-service.org

**LINDSAY ROONEY**  
Director of Operations & External Affairs  
617-542-2544 ext. 212  
lrooney@mass-service.org
2019-2020 OVERVIEW

MSA is partnering with 16 agencies to host 42 Corps members and impact 56 cities and towns across the Commonwealth. Members will serve in full-time (1,500 hours) and half-time (750 hours) capacities in teams of 2-4.

Commonwealth Corps members represent a more diverse cohort than the average year-of-service program. Over the course of the 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.

FOCUS AREAS

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

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

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

HOST SITE PARTNERS

- Chelsea Collaborative
- Coalition for a Better Acre
- Economic Development Council of Western Mass
- Epilepsy Foundation New England
- Friends of the Rafael Hernández School, Inc.
- Girl Scouts of Eastern MA
- Girls Inc. of the Valley
- Massachusetts College of Art and Design
- More Than Words, Inc.
- Peer Health Exchange
- Phoenix Charter Academy Network
- Regional Environmental Council, Inc.
- United South End Settlements
- UTEC, Inc.
- Westport River Watershed Alliance
- WriteBoston

CONNECT WITH US

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- Twitter @MSA_Comm_Corps
- Instagram @MSA_Comm_Corps
HOST SITE PARTNERS
2019-2020

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY /
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

CHELSEA COLLABORATIVE
(East Boston, Everett & Revere; Full-time)

The mission of the Chelsea Collaborative is to empower Chelsea residents to enhance the social and economic health of the community and its people; and to hold institutional decision makers accountable to the community. The Chelsea Collaborative will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members in Chelsea Se Prepara (Chelsea Gets Ready), an adult workforce development pipeline designed to increase economic advancement and justice in our community. Members will serve as Commonwealth Corps Community Outreach Advocates and will play an integral role in expanding the reach of our programming to new communities, including East Boston, Everett, and Revere. Members will build the capacity of our adult workforce development pipeline to connect more residents in our geographic focus area to job training, adult education, work readiness skills, and employment opportunities. In addition, they will leverage 50+ volunteers who will be engaged in additional community education and outreach and career advising activities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MA
(Springfield; Full-time)

The Economic Development Council of Western MA (EDC) is committed to enabling companies to thrive in Western MA and improve the quality of life through the creation of quality jobs and investment. The EDC will host two full-time members in the Springfield WORKS, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston’s Working Cities Challenge (WCC) Initiative, as Commonwealth Corps Community Alignment Specialists to expand a city-wide two-generation/whole family approach to jobs. Through their service, members will increase partner capacity to serve residents using a two-generation/whole family approach to jobs. Members will leverage the work of the Springfield WORKS partners including two community colleges, Dress for Success Foot in the Door, HCS Head Start, over twenty employers, and other human and workforce service providers in this collective action initiative.
**MORE THAN WORDS**  
(Boston & Waltham; Full-time)

More Than Words (MTW) empowers youth who are in the foster care system, court involved, homeless, or out of school to take charge of their lives by taking charge of a business. MTW will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Employment and Partnership Coordinators in Boston and Waltham, while we ramp up to serve 60% more youth. Through their service, members will join the recently expanded Career Services Department to support our young people in advancing employment and career goals, refine a new evaluation methodology to track graduate employment, turn the evaluation into action by piloting new methods of career advancement coaching, and formalize employment and education partnerships. In addition, they will leverage 10 volunteers that will be engaged in 1:1 support of our youth through individualized coaching and mock interviewing.

**EDUCATION - EARLY**

**UTEC, INC.**  
(Lowell; Full-time)

UTEC, Inc. ignites and nurtures the ambition of proven-risk young adults to trade violence and poverty for social and economic success. UTEC will host three full-time Commonwealth Corps members on the UTEC Early Education Team who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Early Education Specialists, supporting competency-based education and assessment, including school readiness and whole-family engagement activities in Lowell, MA. Through their service, members will assist at least 20 children (ages 0-5) and their chronically-unemployed young parents (ages 17-25) who are working to increase their educational and other competencies. In addition, they will leverage three volunteers to develop and deliver whole-family engagement and enrichment activities that support social-emotional learning and core competency development for both generations.
EDUCATION - GENERAL

COALITION FOR A BETTER ACRE
(Lowell; Full-time)
Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA) is a community development corporation that promotes healthy, vibrant neighborhoods in Lowell and the Merrimack Valley by developing resident leaders, affordable housing, and economic opportunities, and by responding to community needs through collective action. CBA will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members in our Youth Educational Success (YES) program and its expansion as Commonwealth Corps Youth Development Program Associates, supporting underserved children 6-13 with afterschool tutoring, enrichment classes, and family engagement activities in Lowell, MA. Through their service, members will improve 50 kids' academic, behavioral, and personal successes and increase engagement with their families, connecting them to CBA resources. In addition, they'll leverage 100 volunteers to support tutoring, career days, and community events.

FRIENDS OF THE HERNÁNDEZ, INC.
(Boston; Full-time)
Friends of the Hernández Inc. (FOH) supports bilingual education at the Hernández School by providing high quality, affordable after school programming, and vital arts and cultural education. FOH will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members in Roxbury: one will serve as the Commonwealth Corps Community Coordinator, recruiting and managing over 150 volunteers engaged in literacy tutoring, homework help, and mentoring, and the other will serve as the Commonwealth Corps Lee Conmigo Coordinator, running a bilingual literacy peer mentoring program for 40 students. Through their service, members will bolster literacy skills for bilingual students, increase access to supplemental arts and educational opportunities, and ensure the sustainability of the Hernández After School Program.
The mission of Girls Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEMA) is to develop girls of courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place. GSEMA will host three half-time Commonwealth Corps members in GSEMA’s Community Programs, serving as Commonwealth Corps Community Program Coordinator’s in three regions – South Eastern, Metro-Boston, and Metro-North. Through service, members will contribute to building volunteer capacity that supports the leadership development of girls grades K-12 by recruiting, onboarding, and supporting Community Program Volunteers. Members will leverage 40 volunteers to mentor girls to develop a strong sense of self, positive values, and healthy relationships; solve problems; and seek challenges. In addition, they will support volunteers to facilitate quality programming in areas of life skills, STEM, outdoors, and entrepreneurship.

The mission of the Phoenix Charter Academy Network is to operate schools that challenge resilient, disconnected students with rigorous academics and relentless supports, so they take ownership of their futures and succeed in high school, college, and as self-sufficient adults. Phoenix will host two full time Commonwealth Corps members to serve as Commonwealth Corps College and Career Residents for formerly out-of-school youth at two of Phoenix’s schools, located in Chelsea and Lawrence. Through their service, members will be responsible for supporting students in dual enrollment programming and the college process, ultimately increasing the number of students who enroll and succeed in college. In addition, they will leverage 120 volunteers who will be engaged in service days focused on college essay support, career exploration, and resume support.
**UNITED SOUTH END SETTLEMENTS**  
(**Boston; Full-time**)  
The mission of United South End Settlements (USES) is to harness the power of our diverse community to disrupt the cycle of poverty for children and their families. USES will host four full-time Commonwealth Corps members: two who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Youth STEAM Integration Coordinators, developing STEAM curriculum and engaging parents and volunteers in STEAM programming, and two who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Student Engagement Coordinators, researching and developing behavior management strategies and engaging parents and volunteers. Through their service, members will build capacity in our club48 after school program, ensuring that children are developing the social-emotional skills they need to thrive, and that their parents are equipped with the knowledge to help them do so. In addition, they will leverage 25 volunteers who will be engaged in STEAM activities and provide classroom support.

**WESTPORT RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE**  
(**Fall River, Taunton & Westport; Full-time**)  
Westport River Watershed Alliance’s (WRWA) 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 to serve as Commonwealth Corps Environmental Educators. Through their service, members will teach the Watershed Education Program (WEP) topics to over 2,500 students in grades PreK-12 in Fall River, Dartmouth, Westport, Fairhaven and Taunton. They will also help develop and produce website content, displays, and pamphlets for the new River Center (slated to open in the summer of 2019). In addition, they will leverage 150 high school youth as volunteer docents to assist with programs in the River Center.
WRITEBOSTON
(Boston; Full-time)
WriteBoston seeks to ensure that all students develop into skillful academic writers and communicators, ready for college and career. WriteBoston will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members in the Teens in Print program who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Youth Program Associates, deepening the program’s college and career readiness services and supporting student writing growth, in Boston. Through their service, members will impact approximately 150 under-resourced Boston students by providing individualized writing support and wrap-around services that target college and career readiness skills. In addition, they will leverage 25 volunteers that will support students’ writing and thinking skills through mentoring relationships centered around reading, writing, and career and college exploration.

HEALTH & NUTRITION

PEER HEALTH EXCHANGE
(Boston & Lynn; Full-time)
The mission of Peer Health Exchange (PHE) is to empower young people with the knowledge, skills, and resources to make healthy decisions. PHE will host three full-time Commonwealth Corps members serving as Commonwealth Corps Health Educators to develop and deliver workshops and out-of-school time programming, including the youth advisory board, as well as support a new initiative to reach students in Lynn. Through their service, members will increase the number of underserved young people who receive critical health education and grow PHE’s capacity to meet young people where they are in out of school time settings. In addition, they will leverage over 300 volunteers that will be engaged in providing relatable, accurate health education to young people throughout Greater Boston.
The Regional Environmental Council (REC) is a grassroots food justice organization located in Worcester, Massachusetts. Founded in 1971, REC has been dedicated to building healthy, sustainable and just communities in Worcester for more than 40 years. The REC will host three half-time Commonwealth Corps members, two who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Community & School Garden Volunteer Engagement Specialists and one who will serve as a Commonwealth Corps YouthGROW Volunteer Engagement Specialist. Through their service, members will increase the sustainability of school and community gardens in Worcester as a source of healthy food, as well as increase healthy food production and community awareness at the YouthGROW Farm, our youth-run urban farming program. In addition, they will leverage 100+ volunteers that will be engaged in hands on garden support and maintenance and inner-city food production for food insecure neighborhoods.

Epilepsy Foundation New England’s mission is to help people affected by epilepsy throughout New England. The Foundation will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Young Leaders Network Coordinators in Boston, Lowell, Worcester, and Springfield. Through their service, members will advance 100 at-risk young people’s emotional and physical health and self-sufficiency potential through small group mentoring, community service, and leadership skill training. In addition, they will leverage 20 volunteers who will contribute by engaging youth, supporting activities, and mentoring. Youth participants will show one-year gains of increased self-confidence, social networks, coping, leadership, and community engagement.
GIRLS INC. OF THE VALLEY  
(Holyoke, Springfield & Chicopee; Full-time)

Girls Inc.’s mission is to inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold by providing them with the opportunity to develop to their full potential. Girls Inc. of the Valley will host four full-time Commonwealth Corps members in our Elementary School Partnership Program, who will serve as Commonwealth Corps School-Based Program Facilitators, helping to create this new program through developing the program offerings, recruiting volunteer support and girls to participate, and delivering programming. Through their service, members will enable Girls Inc. to engage 200 additional elementary school-aged girls in positive youth development activities and enhance organizational capacity by building a school partnership package. In addition, they will leverage 20 volunteers who will assist in program delivery or provide STEM/career exploration presentations.

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN  
(Boston; Full-time)

Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt) is a public, independent institution that prepares artists, designers, and educators from diverse backgrounds to shape communities, economies, and cultures for the common good. MassArt will host four full-time Commonwealth Corps members in two Boston-based programs: the Commonwealth Corps sparc! the ArtMobile Program Associate and Commonwealth Corps Teaching Artist in Residence will serve with the Center for Art and Community Partnerships, while the Commonwealth Corps Alumni Success Associate and Commonwealth Corps Community Engagement Associate will serve with Artward Bound. Through their service, members will support MassArt in program development, evaluation, and the forging of accessible pathways to art and design education for Boston youth and families. In addition, they will leverage 23 volunteers that will be engaged in participation and support of MassArt programs.
# Commonwealth Corps

## Main Contacts by Host Site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Staff Contact</th>
<th>Staff Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development Host Sites</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chelsea Collaborative</td>
<td>318 Broadway</td>
<td>Sylvia Ramirez</td>
<td><a href="mailto:slyviar@chelseacollab.org">slyviar@chelseacollab.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development Council of Western Mass</td>
<td>1441 Main Street</td>
<td>Anne Kandilis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:a.kandilis@westemmassedc.com">a.kandilis@westemmassedc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Than Words</td>
<td>56 Felton Street</td>
<td>Naomi Parker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nparker@mtwyouth.org">nparker@mtwyouth.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Education Focus Area Host Sites</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Coalition for a Better Acre</td>
<td>517 Moody Street</td>
<td>Sako Long</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sako.long@cbacre.org">sako.long@cbacre.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Rafael Hernandez School, Inc.</td>
<td>61 School Street</td>
<td>Sara Kilroy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:director@friendsoftherhernandez.org">director@friendsoftherhernandez.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girl Scouts of Eastern MA</td>
<td>420 Boylston Street</td>
<td>Kerrie Constant</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kconstant@gsema.org">kconstant@gsema.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix Charter Academy Network</td>
<td>60 Canal Street</td>
<td>Douglas Bass</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dbass@phoenixcharteracademy.org">dbass@phoenixcharteracademy.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United South End Settlements</td>
<td>48 Rutland Street</td>
<td>Kaiti Coffin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kcoffin@uses.org">kcoffin@uses.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTEC, Inc.</td>
<td>15 Warren Street</td>
<td>Seth Johnson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sjohnson@utecinc.org">sjohnson@utecinc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westport River Watershed Alliance</td>
<td>1151 Main Road</td>
<td>Shelli Costa</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wep@wrwa.com">wep@wrwa.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WriteBoston</td>
<td>2300 Washington Street</td>
<td>Carla Gualdron</td>
<td><a href="mailto:carlagualdron@writeboston.org">carlagualdron@writeboston.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Health &amp; Nutrition Focus Area Host Sites</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Health Exchange</td>
<td>745 Atlantic Avenue</td>
<td>Bethany Allen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ballen@peerhealthexchange.org">ballen@peerhealthexchange.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Environmental Council, Inc.</td>
<td>9 Castle Street</td>
<td>Grace Sliwoski</td>
<td><a href="mailto:grace@recworcester.org">grace@recworcester.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Development &amp; Violence Prevention Focus Area Host Sites</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Epilepsy Foundation New England</td>
<td>650 Suffolk Street</td>
<td>Susan Linn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:slinn@epilepsynewengland.org">slinn@epilepsynewengland.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Inc. of the Valley</td>
<td>6 Open Square Way</td>
<td>Becca Neubardt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rneubardt@girlsinovalley.org">rneubardt@girlsinovalley.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts College of Art and Design</td>
<td>621 Huntington Avenue</td>
<td>Bethany Strohm</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bfstrohm@massart.edu">bfstrohm@massart.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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