

# Massachusetts Service Alliance

*Building Stronger Communities through Service and Volunteerism*



## Fall 2017 News & Updates

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### 1,000+ Mass AmeriCorps Members Take the Pledge to Serve on November 3



AmeriCorps members taking the pledge at the Reggie Lewis Center on Friday, November 3.

1,000+ AmeriCorps members serving at over 500 service locations across Massachusetts gathered at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center on November 3 for an inspirational day of connecting, reflecting and service. The program included special remarks from Secretary Rosalin Acosta of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, Dr. Tommy Chang, Superintendent of Boston Public Schools, Tim Noelker, General Counsel for the Corporation for National and Community Service, and U.S. District Judge Leo T. Sorokin.

Following the morning ceremony and pledge, AmeriCorps members participated in 17 different service activities throughout the city including Cradles to Crayons and The Greater Boston Food Bank, along with tours of the Moakley U.S. Courthouse, the Museum of African American History and the State House.

**Thank you for getting things done in Massachusetts, AmeriCorps Members!!**

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## Commonwealth Corps Welcomes 2017-2018 Members and Partners



Commonwealth Corps members gathered in October for Shoshanna Cogan's "Remarkable Service Leadership" training sessions, held in Boston and Worcester, where they connected key leadership attributes to their current service experiences and their future professional and personal endeavors.

The Commonwealth Corps 2017-2018 program year is off to a great start! Since beginning service in mid-August, our 36 new members have contributed over 14,000 hours of direct service and capacity building, while also building skills and receiving professional development opportunities.

True to the mission of the program "to engage Massachusetts residents of all ages and backgrounds in service," MSA has partnered with 17 agencies across Massachusetts to host members who span over 40 years and bring a wide range of prior experiences. Some members are serving during college, graduate school or pursuit of their GED. Other members are serving either right out of school to gain experience, as a mid-career change, or as a way to re-enter the professional world.

Our members do a fantastic job of balancing their service on top of family, school and work commitments. They are all serving because they want to give back to their communities and make a difference, while also gaining professional skills and experience.

## Commonwealth Corps 2018-2019 RFP to be Released in Mid- December

MSA will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2018-2019 program year in mid-December.

Agencies will be invited to apply to become a Commonwealth Corps host site partner until mid-to late January 2018. Technical assistance webinars will also be held in mid-December and available online afterwards, with more details coming soon via MSA's website and listserv.



Buzzards Bay Coalition Commonwealth Corps member, Nina Santos, leads a group of students in outdoor exploration in the Bay.

At this time, interested agencies can review last year's RFP [here](#) and are welcome to contact CC Program Manager Amy Mulvena ([amulvena@mass-service.org](mailto:amulvena@mass-service.org)) with any questions.

## New AmeriCorps Program Update! PAARI (Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative)



In response to the opioid crisis, Mass Service Alliance has awarded [PAARI](#) (Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative) a three-year grant for 25 AmeriCorps members each year to assist in police-led addiction recovery programs.

Since October, AmeriCorps recovery coaches and program coordinators have been assisting law enforcement agencies throughout the state, enabling them to better reach and support individuals dealing with addiction. These AmeriCorps members are working directly with community members, connecting them to treatment and recovery services as well as strengthening the ties between law enforcement and citizens.



PAARI AmeriCorps Members at the AmeriCorps Opening Day Swearing-In Ceremony

"P.A.A.R.I.'s mission is to provide resources to help law enforcement agencies combat the opioid epidemic and this innovative new program will add significant capacity to the law enforcement agencies we work with in Massachusetts," said PAARI Executive Director Allie Hunter McDade. "As an AmeriCorps alum myself, I am thrilled to partner with the Massachusetts Service Alliance

and leverage the power of service through this exciting new program."

For more info on PAARI's AmeriCorps program, click [here](#).

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## Congratulations to the 2018 MLK Day of Service Grantees!



These 9 organizations will be hard at work over the next couple of months planning volunteer service projects on Monday, January 15, 2018 to honor Dr. King and his notion of a beloved community. Please check the MSA website in early January to see how you can get involved with one or more of our projects!

Boston Cares  
Cambridge Community Foundation  
Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands  
Emmaus  
Friends of St. Stephen's Youth Programs  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Northern Berkshire Community Coalition  
YMCA Southcoast

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### Request for Qualifications: Child Wellness Consultant

The Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA) is pleased to release this [Request for Qualifications](#) (RFQ) to identify a consultant with expertise in the child wellness field who will support our efforts to develop new AmeriCorps programming to:

- Reduce and/or prevent child abuse;
- Improve outcomes for child victims of abuse; and
- Improve the outcomes for foster youth, including youth aging out of foster care.

We will review responses on a rolling basis, with a preference given to those received by Nov. 27, 2017.

Statewide data shows that the number of children experiencing child abuse and neglect and the number of children living apart from their families has been increasing in Massachusetts in recent years. MSA feels that AmeriCorps can and should be part of our state's effort to support children and families and is looking to develop new AmeriCorps programming in response to this issue.

The identified consultant will be responsible for conducting a community asset mapping process to identify promising programs, organizational leaders in the field, resources already deployed in Massachusetts, and gaps in service; researching and identifying strong program models and practices that can be incorporated into an AmeriCorps program design; and providing direct program development support. Please [review the RFQ](#) for more specific information on what the project entails, timeline, contract information, and instructions on how to respond. Please share this message broadly with your networks and encourage anyone you know who might be interested

to review this information.

If you're an organization in this field and you think we should know about something you're doing, or want to stay connected with us as we move forward with this effort, please reach out to Beth McGuinness, MSA's Director of Programs, at (617) 542-2544, ext. 217 or [bm McGuinness@mass-service.org](mailto:bm McGuinness@mass-service.org).

Click [here](#) to view the Request for Qualifications.

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## Mass Nonprofits Earn Service Enterprise Certification

Congratulations to our newest certified organizations from the 2016 Service Enterprise Initiative!

**Boston Cares**  
**Boston Partners in Education**  
**New Bedford Whaling Museum**  
**Sociedad Latina**



These organizations have been recognized by the Points of Light Foundation and MSA for applying leading practices in organizational and volunteer management. They have completed over 20 hours of training and have complied with the rigorous certification standards for this national program. Thanks to our partners at Boston Cares, the United Way of Greater New Bedford and Cape and Islands United Way for another successful program year!

For more information about participating in the Service Enterprise Program for Massachusetts, please contact: Lisl Hacker, Director of Training and Technical Assistance [lhacker@mass-service.org](mailto:lhacker@mass-service.org), or visit [www.pointsoflight.org/service-enterprise-initiative](http://www.pointsoflight.org/service-enterprise-initiative) for more information about the national initiative.

