PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND HOST SITE PARTNERS

2018-2019
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 950 Commonwealth Corps members have served, providing more than 650,000 hours of service in areas such as community development, health services, afterschool or summer programs, and volunteer recruitment and management, and directly benefiting approximately 600,000 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.

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HOST SITE PARTNERS
2018-2019

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY/
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

BOSTON EDUCATION, SKILLS & TRAINING CORP.
(BEST HOSPITALITY TRAINING)
(Boston; Full-time)
The mission of BEST Hospitality Training is to provide individuals with the education, skills and training to excel in the hospitality industry and in their personal lives. BEST will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will support volunteer recruitment, mentoring, and management and workforce development programming. Members will recruit 30 volunteers to support education, skills training, and career coaching. They will offer workforce development services, including referrals into skills training and employment services and job development activities, to clients ineligible for regular programming due to funding restrictions. Impacting, in total, over 90 unique individuals.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MA
(Springfield; Half-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, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston’s Working Cities Challenge (WCC) Initiative as Community Outreach Support Specialists, providing community resident, leader and employer outreach and coaching and mentor recruitment. Through their service, members will increase our capacity to connect residents who are underemployed or unemployed to community leaders and employers who are vital to sustained employment. Members will leverage the work of 30 partner volunteers and over twenty employers that are engaged in connecting low-income residents to meaningful employment. Directly impacting 1,000 unique individuals.
LYNN SHELTER ASSOCIATION
(Lynn; Full-time)

The mission of the Lynn Shelter Association is to provide shelter, supportive services, housing solutions, and access to a continuum of community supports to more than 1,000 individuals and families experiencing homelessness each year. The Lynn Shelter Association will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Enrichment Center Program Coordinators and will support the development and implementation of new Enrichment Center/Programming to support the economic mobility and workforce development needs of our homeless clients, as well as establish a new volunteer engagement program across the organization to increase our capacity and leverage the impact of our work in Lynn. Through their service, members will increase both the number of clients we can serve with enrichment center/programming as well as the variety and effectiveness of those programs, by increasing our capacity to engage both new program partners as well as volunteers. In addition, they will leverage at least 60 volunteers that will be engaged in supporting our clients in a variety of ways, including offering/providing new economic mobility focused enrichment center programs and providing supervised play times for children while parents are in enrichment programs.

MORE THAN WORDS
(Boston & Waltham; Full-time)

The mission of More Than Words (MTW) is to empower 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 in our Career Services Department who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Employment & Partnership Coordinators in Waltham and Boston. Through their service, members will mobilize an engaged community to support youth, audit and pilot improvements to MTW's employment focused curriculum, build partnerships with employers, and build and pilot systems to engage new employer partners in youths' success, impacting 301 individuals. In addition, they will leverage 55 volunteers that will be engaged in career coaching and an improved and formalized program of mock interview practice for current youth and graduates.
CHILDREN’S SERVICES OF ROXBURY
(Boston; Full-time)

Children’s Services of Roxbury (CSR) is a 50-year old, minority-run community-based nonprofit whose mission is to provide high quality services to economically disadvantaged children and families. CSR will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Early Childhood School Readiness Coordinators, serving to strengthen school readiness of preschool children from Greater Roxbury, including a high percentage of homeless children, DCF-involved children, and children of teen parents. Commonwealth Corps School Readiness Coordinators will strengthen child social/emotional development and literacy skills by a) supporting expanded engagement of children in social/emotional development and literacy skill-building activities, and b) creating new opportunities for parents to increase their knowledge and skills of early child development, and c) engaging the larger community in providing in-kind resources and volunteer service. Through their service, corps members will support preschool children to demonstrate school readiness gains in both social/emotional development and literacy skills, help parents/caregivers/guardians increase engagement in their child(ren)’s early childhood education, and increase access to books at the children’s homes and at school. In total, impacting 300 unique individuals. Additionally, corps members will leverage 240 volunteers and create new opportunities for volunteer engagement with the childcare center, generating new resources and building CSR’s long-term capacity for volunteer engagement. The School Readiness Project offers CSR a rare chance to build the Center’s capacity and leverage assets both within and outside CSR to strengthen school readiness.
**EDUCATION - GENERAL**

**826 BOSTON**  
*(Boston; Full-time)*

826 Boston empowers traditionally under-served students ages 6-18 to find their voices, tell their stories, and gain communication skills to succeed in school and in life. 826 Boston will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps Members who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Writers’ Room Associates in the Boston neighborhoods of Jamaica Plain and Dorchester, in the city of Boston. Through their service, members will coordinate in-school volunteer tutoring services, creative writing workshops, after-school clubs, and student publications. In addition, they will leverage a network of 600 volunteers who will be engaged in delivering 826 Boston’s in-school programs to serve 1,250 students over the course of one year of programming.

**FRIENDS OF THE HERNÁNDEZ INC.**  
*(Boston; Half-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 three half-time Commonwealth Corps members; two will serve as Commonwealth Corps Lee Commigo Coordinators (LCC), who will implement a literacy peer mentoring program for Boston students; and one will serve as a Commonwealth Corps Community Coordinator, who will recruit and manage Hernández After School Program volunteers, and run after school field trips. Through their service, members will bolster literacy skills for bilingual students and increase access to supplemental arts and educational opportunities, impacting 200 unique individuals. In addition, they will leverage 45 volunteers throughout the school year who will be engaged in literacy program tutoring, homework help, and mentoring.
The mission of Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) is to provide high quality learning opportunities and services that respond to diverse student and community needs, foster success, and stimulate civic, workforce, and economic vitality. MWCC will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps Members who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Changemaking Innovators to design, implement, and evaluate capacity-building pilot initiatives to improve K-12 education in the North Central Massachusetts region. Through their service, Members will impact 1,460 students and leverage 180 volunteers to develop capacity and systems to support the Change maker Education movement taking place within MWCC, Fitchburg, and Leominster Public Schools for the purpose of increasing United Way Youth Venture (UWYV) social entrepreneurship opportunities for youth and Early College students.

Reader to Reader, Inc. is dedicated to expanding literacy and learning opportunities for the nation’s most chronically underserved and vulnerable communities. Reader to Reader will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members to serve as Commonwealth Corps Program Support Coordinators for two Reader to Reader programs: Read, Think, Share and Blueprint for Success, in Western Mass. Through their service, members will increase the capacity of both programs to support more Massachusetts public schools, recruit more college mentors, and manage day-to-day program logistics. In addition, they will leverage 225 volunteers who will be engaged in mentoring 750 students from low-income backgrounds.
**UTEC**  
*(Lowell; Full-time)*

UTEC ignites and nurtures the ambition of proven-risk young adults to trade violence and poverty for social and economic success. UTEC will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members on the UTEC Education Team who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Education Specialists supporting competency-based education and assessment, including high school equivalency preparation and community college dual-enrollment programming in Lowell, MA. Through their service, members will assist 25 or more chronically-unemployed young adults who are working to increase their educational attainment, at least ten of whom will earn their high school equivalency credentials. In addition, they will leverage three volunteers to develop and deliver enrichment classes that support young adults’ social-emotional learning and core competency development.

**WESTPORT RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE**  
*(Fall River, Taunton & Westport; Half-time)*

The mission of the Westport River Watershed Alliance (WRWA) is to restore, protect, celebrate, and sustain the natural resources of the Westport River and its watershed. WRWA will host three half-time Commonwealth Corps members serving as Commonwealth Corps Environmental Educators. Through their service, members will teach the Watershed Education Program (WEP) topics to over 2,000 students in grades Pre K – 12, in Fall River, Dartmouth, Westport and Taunton. They will also develop the displays, volunteer training materials, and educational handouts for our new River Center. In addition members will engage 100 high school youth as volunteer docents to assist with programs in the River Center. Corps members will strive to increase student science standards content gain, appreciation, enthusiasm, awareness, and stewardship of the watershed’s natural world.
**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 a Commonwealth Corps College and Career Readiness Coordinator, deepening the program’s post-secondary supports, and a Commonwealth Corps Student Recruitment Coordinator, supporting more high-needs youth in successfully accessing the program, in Boston. Through their service, members will impact approximately 100 under-resourced Boston students, by providing wrap-around support and developing targeted college and career programming. In addition, they will leverage 90 volunteers that will be engaged in supporting students’ writing and thinking skills through workshops, job shadows, and reading/editing student writing.

**HEALTH & NUTRITION:**

**GREATER LAWRENCE FAMILY HEALTH CENTER**  
*(Lawrence; Full-time)*

The mission of the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center (GLFHC) is to improve and maintain the health of individuals and families in the Merrimack Valley by providing high quality, comprehensive healthcare services and by training healthcare professionals to respond to the needs of a culturally diverse population. GLFHC will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members to serve in our Social Determinants of Health and Maternal/Child Health programs, serving as Commonwealth Corps MCH Volunteer Coordinators and Commonwealth Corps Social Needs Patient Navigators. Through their service, members will build upon our mission through expansion of social needs screening and intervention programs and through support of programs to serve the needs of pregnant women and young children. In addition, they will leverage over 25 volunteers that will be engaged in activities providing direct service in the areas of social needs and maternal child health, impacting 500 unique individuals.
The mission of Madison Park Development Corporation (MPDC) is to foster a vibrant, healthy Roxbury neighborhood that supports the well-being and advancement of the community. MPDC will host three half-time Commonwealth Corps Members in for the Community Action department’s Health Equity & Wellness program, who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Leadership Capacity Builders in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston. Through their service, members will work with 20 identified resident leaders in the Health Equity & Wellness program to identify training needs, build programs, and enhance community partnerships. Members will also research other resident leadership programs nationwide and determine beneficial improvements to the structure of the leadership program. In addition, they will recruit 15 volunteers who will be engaged in community organizing and outreach.

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 two full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Out of School Time Coordinators to deliver out of school time programming and develop a youth advisory board to support our programming in the Greater Boston area. Through their service, Commonwealth Corps members will increase the number of underserved young people who receive critical health education and grow Peer Health Exchange’s capacity to meet young people where they are in out of school time settings, impacting over 220 individuals. In addition they will leverage over 280 volunteers that will be engaged in providing relatable, accurate health education to young people in Boston.
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT/YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION:

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GREATER LOWELL
(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 two full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Commonwealth Corps Teen Enrichment Coordinator and Commonwealth Corps Teen Pathways Coordinator and increase positive youth development opportunities for at-risk teens in Lowell. Through their service, members will advise 75 teens in planning service, violence prevention and cultural awareness projects; train 35 teens as Junior Staff; coordinate 20 teen internships; and assist 20 teens in applying for summer jobs; benefiting 150 total teens. In addition, they will leverage 20 volunteers that will be engaged in teen programs focused on academic success, healthy lifestyles, and good character and citizenship.

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

MassArt is a public art and design college. MassArt’s Center for Art and Community Partnerships (CACP) seeks to cultivate innovative, sustainable relationships with the broader community to explore and expand the role of art and design in public life. CACP will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as the Commonwealth Corps Student & Youth Engagement Coordinator and the Commonwealth Corps sparc! the ArtMobile Program Coordinator in Boston, MA. Through their service, members will support CACP’s Community-Based Student Employment Program and sparc! the ArtMobile initiative in program development, event facilitation, and curriculum documentation to share CACP’s methodologies and philosophy with diverse audiences. In addition, they will leverage 12 volunteers that will be engaged in program participation/support for CACP’s Employment Program and sparc! the ArtMobile initiative.
# Commonwealth Corps

## Main Contacts by Host Site:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Staff Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development Focus Area Host Sites</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Education, Skills &amp; Training Corp. (BEST Hospitality Training)</td>
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<td><strong>Education Focus Area Host Sites</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Development &amp; Violence Prevention Focus Area Host Sites</strong></td>
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