

Host Site Partners

MASSACHUSETTS



SERVICE ALLIANCE

**COMMONWEALTH
CORPS**
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Program Year
2015-2016



Commonwealth Corps



The mission of the **Commonwealth Corps** is to engage Massachusetts residents of all ages and backgrounds in direct service to rebuild communities, address unmet community needs, and increase volunteerism. Commonwealth Corps members work to strengthen the bonds of common purpose and unite people in service for the common good. Corps members provide direct service, build capacity of local organizations, and recruit, organize and mobilize additional volunteers – building a grassroots movement of volunteers across the Commonwealth dedicated to service.

The Commonwealth Corps provides opportunities for skill building and leadership development and encourages and enhances a lifelong civic vocation for its members. Through the Commonwealth Corps, 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 the ethic of 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 the Massachusetts Service Alliance, was established in 2007. Since its inception, nearly 875 Commonwealth Corps members have served in the program, providing over 535,000 hours of service in areas such as community development, health services, benefits screenings, afterschool or summer programs, and volunteer recruitment and management, and directly benefiting approximately 570,000 individuals. No other state in the country has a service corps program focused solely on state residents.

Commonwealth Corps Contacts:

Susanna Flug

Commonwealth Corps Program Manager

P. 617-542-2544 Ext. 202

E. SFlug@mass-service.org

Beth McGuinness

Director of Programs

P. 617-542-2544 Ext. 217

E. BMcGuinness@mass-service.org

Amy Mulvena

Commonwealth Corps Program Assistant

P. 617-542-2544 Ext. 220

E. AMulvena@mass-service.org

Lindsay Rooney

Director of External Relations

P. 617-542-2544 Ext. 212

E. LRooney@mass-service.org

2015-2016 Host Site Partners

Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development Focus Area:

International Institute of New England

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

The mission of the International Institute of New England (IINE) is to invest in the future of our cities and towns by preparing immigrants for participation in the social, economic, and political richness of American life through active citizenship. IINE seeks two full-time Commonwealth Corps members to support workforce development and volunteer recruitment at IINE's sites in Boston and Lowell, MA, as Resource Clinic Specialists. At each site, members will establish a Resource Clinic that will support a total of 284 clients seeking career resources. Members will recruit a total of 50 volunteers and interns across the two sites to support the clinic and larger workforce program. Outcomes include improved client financial stability via service intervention, referrals to job training and placement services, completion of job training and other skills development services, and successful job placement.

Middlesex Community College

(Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development; Lowell; half-time)

Middlesex Community College, where "everyone teaches, everyone learns," will host four half-time Commonwealth Corps members, who will raise 200 MCC students' awareness of necessary job readiness skills, connect this knowledge to classroom learning and translate internships and other employment related experiences to future employability in Lowell and the Merrimack Valley geographic area. Through their service, members will design and implement small group workshops and school-wide seminars on resume writing and other employment skill development. In addition, they will mentor a minimum of 100 students, increase referrals to MCC academic and career advising offices as well as to area career placement services by a minimum of 10%. They will leverage 33 community volunteers to serve as role models, real world instructors, resume reviewers, and mock interviewers.

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 Outreach & Marketing Coordinators in Boston and Waltham. Through their service, members will help MTW build an engaged community of volunteers and champions in the community, supporting 214 youth to manage their online and retail bookselling business and achieve outcomes in education, employment and self-efficacy through conducting mock interviews, education coaching, and increased employment options post-transition. In addition they will leverage 800 volunteers who will strengthen the business and increase overall support as they develop long-term advocates of the organization.

New England Business Associates

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

The mission of New England Business Associates (NEBA) is to enable people with disabilities or other barriers to employment, whose rights and freedoms are most likely denied them, to be fully included in community life, primarily through employment. At our two offices in Springfield, MA, NEBA will host four half-time Commonwealth Corps service members in DTA and MRC Career Ladders, who will serve as Employment Assistance Specialists. Through their service, members will assist 127 job seekers to increase their skills, identify career options, and find employment; will recruit at least 8 new volunteers who will donate a total of 300 hours and help sustain NEBA's in-depth community-based support to our job seekers

Education Focus Area Host Sites

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, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. 826 Boston will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members in its In-School Writing & Publishing Program, who will serve as an In-School Program Coordinator and a Writers Room Coordinator, in partnership with Boston Public Schools located in Roxbury and Dorchester. Building on the success of former Commonwealth Corps members, the members will coordinate in-school volunteer tutoring services, creative writing workshops, and student publications. Through their service, members will leverage a corps of 300 dedicated volunteers and expand 826 Boston's in-school tutoring program to serve 2,250 students and offer of 13,500 hours of tutoring.

African Community Education Program, Inc.

(Education; Worcester; full-time)

The mission of the African Community Education (ACE) Program is to assist African refugee and immigrant youth and families in achieving educational and social stability through access to academic support, leadership development, cultural expression, and community outreach in Worcester, MA. ACE will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members in the Education focus area who will serve as a Volunteer Specialist, focusing on volunteer support, and an Enrichment Resource Specialist, focusing on the development of educational resources. Through their service, members will improve student academic success through enhancement of ACEs current program offerings by providing 75 students with skilled volunteers and educational resources. In addition, they will leverage 100 volunteers that will be engaged in tutoring and assistant teaching.

Boston Debate League

(Education; Boston; full-time)

The mission of the Boston Debate League (BDL) is to integrate argumentation and competitive debate into BPS schools to develop critical thinkers ready for college, career, and engagement with the world around them. BDL will host 2 full-time Commonwealth Corps members in the After-School Debate League who will serve as Engagement Specialists to 1) recruit volunteers; 2) retain volunteers; and 3) engage parents of participating students. Through their service, members will create volunteer recruitment and retention activities and contribute to 125 middle school students demonstrating increased school engagement. In addition, they will leverage 250 volunteers that will be engaged in supporting students at monthly debate tournaments.

Breakthrough Greater Boston

(Education; Boston, Cambridge; full-time)

The mission of Breakthrough Greater Boston (BTGB) is to prepare low-income students for success in college and train the next generation of urban teachers using its unique Students Teaching Students model. BTGB will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Program Fellows at BTGB's Cambridge and Dorchester Campuses. Through their service, members will develop and implement systems to recruit and train volunteers who support BTGB's students as tutors, as well as design and implement curriculum for BTGB's Study Hall Plus Program. Members will leverage 130 volunteer tutors focused on providing academic support to Breakthrough's students and provide tutoring and other academic support directly to students as needed. Together, the Corps members will advance the academic engagement and success of 200 Breakthrough students.

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 two, 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 1800 unique youth and 50 families in 140 outdoor exploration programs, leading to youth demonstrating excitement about outdoor and classroom learning and exploration. In addition, they will leverage 14 volunteers to engage the community in outdoor exploration, education and stewardship.

Coaching 4 Change

(Education; Brockton; full-time)

Coaching4Change (C4C) is working to transform the educational experience for urban youth. C4C was founded on the belief, young people need to be prepared to enter college and the workforce with leadership skills that enable them to think critically, solve problems, and communicate effectively. C4C will host two full time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as Career and College Readiness Coaches in Brockton. Their time will be divided between: 1) Direct service, such as coaching and supporting college volunteers and high school participants and leading 4 family engagement events, and; 2) Capacity building, such as expanding use of program data, creating and publishing C4C newsletters, developing volunteer recruitment materials, and building a resource library. In addition, they will leverage 100 volunteers engaged in training, mentoring, and supporting 150 disengaged high school students in serving as role models to 400 younger students.

Housing Families, Inc.

(Education; Malden; half-time)

The mission of Housing Families is to end family homelessness. Housing Families will host 4 part-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 for 165 children impacted by homelessness. 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 100 volunteers that will be engaged in academic tutoring, enrichment activities, and other program and agency opportunities.

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 two full-time Commonwealth Corps members who will serve as advising assistants to address severe educational needs of low-income high school students, including low college-going rates, low grade point averages, poor standardized test scores, and low college readiness in Greenfield, Turners Falls, Holyoke and Springfield. Members will provide tutoring, test preparation, college awareness activities, community service, and college and cultural trips and events. 87 current UB students and 30 new students will receive services. The capacity of the program will be increased through five additional member projects. Members will leverage 50 volunteers to tutor, present workshops, and assist with fundraising.

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 teach the Watershed Education Program (WEP) topics to over 600 Westport students in grades K – 5. They will also host 10 weekend learning labs to enhance student and family engagement in experiential science education, reaching over 1,500 people. Corps members will engage 10 high school youth as volunteer docents to assist with this expansion of programming. Corps members will strive to increase student appreciation, enthusiasm, awareness, and stewardship of the watershed's natural world and unique resources.

YMCA Southcoast Fall River Branch

(Education; Fall River; full-time)

The mission of YMCA Southcoast is focused on the improvement of the spiritual, mental, social, educational and physical conditions of all persons. YMCA Southcoast will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members in our Fall River Educational Achievement Center Project, serving 350 children and 50 parents and caregivers. A Curriculum Coordinator will develop and implement educationally impactful curriculum, and a Caregiver Engagement Coordinator will develop meaningful opportunities for caregivers to learn about their children's education and advance their own. Members will support capacity building in their areas of focus and also increase the number of programs and participants served. Through additional programming, they will also leverage at least 20 new volunteers and help support and train them.

Health & Nutrition Focus Area Host Site

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 two full-time Commonwealth Corps members in its Homeless Outreach and Advocacy Program (HOAP) who will serve as Outreach and Engagement Specialists in Worcester, reaching 190 homeless individuals. Through their service, members will (1) improve the physical and mental health of homeless individuals by increasing the number of individuals using behavioral and primary health care and (2) expand HOAP's reach and effectiveness by recruiting and developing a team of 10 committed college student volunteers to continue the members' outreach and engagement work after the service year is complete.

Youth Development & Violence Prevention Focus Area Host Sites

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell

(Youth Development; Lowell; full-time)

The mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell is to “inspire and enable young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens through a dedicated staff and innovative programs, provided in a safe environment.” The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members in Education who will serve as a Power Hour Coordinator, for homework help and educational enrichment, and a Project Learn Coordinator, to incorporate high-yield science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) activities into all Club program areas. Through their service, members will expand our academic support programs for low-income youth ages 7-18, especially in STEM; improve school engagement by youth; and increase parents/guardians/caregivers’ engagement in student learning. In addition, they will leverage at least 20 volunteers that will be engaged in providing literacy and mathematics tutoring assistance for younger youth and subject area tutoring for teens in higher mathematics and the sciences.

Sociedad Latina

(Youth Development; Boston; full-time)

The mission of Sociedad Latina is to work in partnership with youth and families to build the next generation of Latino leaders who are confident, competent, self-sustaining and proud of their cultural heritage. Sociedad Latina will host two full-time Commonwealth Corps members to serve as Volunteer Engagement Assistants. Through their service, Commonwealth Corps members will be responsible for recruiting 50 adult volunteers, including volunteers from program families, who will connect youth to education, work readiness, civic engagement and arts opportunities. Commonwealth Corps members will also assist with volunteer training, volunteer appreciation, and documentation. These efforts will help to build the capacity of our highly successful Pathways to Success youth development model to work with a greater number of youth from Boston’s Latino and Mission Hill/Roxbury communities and to increase family engagement.

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Main Commonwealth Corps Contacts by Site

Organization	Address	Phone	Staff Contact	Email
Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development Focus Area				
International Institute of New England	One Milk Street Boston, MA 02109	617-695-9990	Alexandra Weber	aweber@iine.us
Middlesex Community College	33 Kearney Square Lowell, MA 01852	978-656-3100	Melissa Welch	welchm@middlesex.mass.edu
More Than Words	376 Moody Street Waltham, MA 02453	781-314-9332	Kylie Stone	kstone@mtwyouth.org
New England Business Associates	1985 Main Street, S. 303 Springfield, MA 01103	413-821-9200	Mercy Jenkins	mercy.jenkins@nebaworks.com
Education Focus Area Host Sites				
826 Boston	3035 Washington St., Roxbury, MA 02119	617-442-5400	Jessica Drench	jessica@826boston.org
African Community Education Program	24 Chatham St Worcester, MA 01609	508-799-3653	Amy Connery	aconnery@acechildren.org
Boston Debate League	225 Friend St, #401 Boston, MA 02114	857-350-4274	Sarah Amaral	sarah@bostondebate.org
Breakthrough Greater Boston	P.O. Box 381486 Cambridge, MA 02238	617-349-6647	Amee Naik	anaik@btgbbmail.org
Buzzards Bay Coalition	114 Front St. New Bedford, MA 02740	508-999-6363	Robert Hancock	hancock@savebuzzardsbay.org
Coaching 4 Change	75 Amory St Boston, MA 02119	508-838-6545	Marquis Taylor	marquis@c4cinc.org
Housing Families	354 Cross Street Malden, MA 02148	781 322 9119	Siobhan Malady	smalady@housingfamilies.org
Northfield Mount Hermon Upward Bound	1 Lamplighter Way, Mount Hermon, MA 01354	413-498-3233	Gesile Litalien	glitalien@mass.edu
Westport River Watershed Alliance	1151 Main Road Westport, MA 02790	508-636-3016	Shelli Costa	wep@wrwa.com
YMCA Southcoast Fall River	199 North Main Street Fall River, MA 02720	508-675-7841	Anmarie Sawyer	asawyer@ymcasouthcoast.org
Health & Nutrition Focus Area Host Site				
Community Healthlink	72 Jaques Ave Worcester, MA 01610	508-860-1000	Lindsay Gemmell	lgemmell@communityhealthlink.org
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
Sociedad Latina	1530 Tremont Street Boston, MA 02120	617-442-4299	Juan Maldonado	juan@sociedadlatina.org



100 North Washington St., 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02114
P. 617-542-2544
F. 617-542-0240
www.mass-service.org

The **Massachusetts Service Alliance** (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.