**Overview: AmeriCorps**


AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country.

Since the program’s founding in 1994, more than 900,000 AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1.2 billion hours in service across America while tackling pressing problems and mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.

**AmeriCorps – Massachusetts**

[http://www.mass-service.org/service_volunteerism/our_programs/americorps_state](http://www.mass-service.org/service_volunteerism/our_programs/americorps_state)

Through a competitive grant process, MSA selects and supports a portfolio of programs that are addressing the unmet critical needs of the state. Currently MSA funds 23 AmeriCorps programs serving in all counties across the state. Members serve in a variety of capacities such as tutoring during and after school, providing legal services, renovating low-income housing, and completing environmental service projects along the shoreline and throughout state parks.

**2014-2015 Massachusetts AmeriCorps State Programs**

- Barnstable County
- Citizen Schools
- City of Boston/BPE
- City Year
- DIAL/SELF Youth & Community Services
- FoodCorps Massachusetts
- Jumpstart for Young Children
- Just A Start Corporation
- Justice AmeriCorps Massachusetts Program (JAM)
- Mass Mentoring Partnership
- Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants
- Massachusetts Promise Fellowship
- Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust
- Phoenix Charter Academy
- Playworks Massachusetts
- Social Capital, Inc.
- South Coastal Counties Legal Services
- Springfield College
- Springfield College School Turnaround
- Student Conservation Association
- Tenacity
- United Teen Equality Center
- United Way of Massachusetts Bay
Overview: Commonwealth Corps

http://www.massservice.org/service_volunteerism/our_programs/commonwealth_corps

The mission of the Commonwealth Corps is to engage Massachusetts residents of all ages and backgrounds in direct service to rebuild communities and address unmet community needs. The Commonwealth Corps provides opportunities for skill building, leadership development and encourages and enhances a lifelong civic vocation for Corps members. Corps members provide direct service, build capacity, and recruit, organize and mobilize additional volunteers, thus building a grassroots movement of volunteers dedicated to service.

The Commonwealth Corps, a state-funded program administered by the Massachusetts Service Alliance, was established in 2007 by Governor Deval Patrick and his partners in the state legislature. Since its inception, nearly 850 Commonwealth Corps members have served in the program, providing over 440,000 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 500,000 individuals. No other state in the country has a service corps program focused solely on state residents.

2014-2015 Commonwealth Corps Host Sites and Members

This year, the Commonwealth Corps has 35 full-time and half-time members serving with 15 host site partners across the state. All members and host sites are focusing on building capacity within their organizations, and member service also falls into three of our focus areas (see below). Proving impact in Barnstable, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester Counties, our 2014-2015 Host Site Partners are:

- **Economic Opportunity/Workforce Development**
  - Lutheran Community Services, Inc.
  - More Than Words

- **Education**
  - 826 Boston
  - African Community Education Program, Inc.
  - Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell
  - Boys & Girls Clubs of Middlesex County
  - Buzzards Bay Coalition
  - City of Cambridge, Agenda for Children OST Initiative
  - Housing Families, Inc.
  - Northfield Mount Hermon School Upward Bound
  - Raising a Reader Massachusetts
  - School on Wheels of Massachusetts
  - Veritas Preparatory Charter School

- **Youth Development/Youth Violence Prevention**
  - Family Services of the Merrimack Valley

Overview: AmeriCorps VISTA

http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps/americorps-vista

Did you know that President John F. Kennedy came up with the idea for VISTA? Or that many of the best-known anti-poverty programs, including Head Start and Upward Bound, were created by VISTA members? VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 45 years. AmeriCorps VISTA members are passionate and committed to their mission to bring individuals and communities out of poverty. Members make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve on a specific project at a nonprofit organization or public agency. They focus their efforts to build the organizational, administrative, and financial capacity of organizations that fight illiteracy, improve health services, foster economic development, and otherwise assist low-income communities. A number of members serve in the summer months through the AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate program. The program offers members the opportunity to become engaged in community service through an existing AmeriCorps VISTA project for eight to 10 weeks during the summer. AmeriCorps VISTA is open to all U.S. citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent resident aliens age 18 and older. Members and Summer Associates receive a modest living allowance. Members who serve for a year also receive health coverage, childcare, if needed, and other benefits. After successful completion of a term of service, members can choose to receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award or post-service stipend. Learn more on the What VISTA Members Do page.