



TERRACORPS

Formerly MassLIFT-AmeriCorps

2017 Community Engagement Coordinator Position Opening **with Grow Food Northampton**

TerraCorps, formerly MassLIFT-AmeriCorps, is an innovative national service program helping communities conserve and secure land for the health and well-being of people and nature. Using the AmeriCorps national service model, TerraCorps prepares and mobilizes emerging leaders to help strengthen community-based nonprofits working to meet these goals.

This year's TerraCorps program will support thirty-six full-time AmeriCorps members, serving in one of four positions: Land Stewardship Coordinator (LSC), Regional Conservation Coordinator (RCC), Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC), and Youth Education Coordinator (YEC). Members will serve in full-time, eleven-month positions (August 28th, 2017- July 27, 2018) in which they complete at least 1,700 hours of service with one of our partner organizations. Members receive a living allowance, education award, and additional AmeriCorps benefits (see full list at end of announcement).

Grow Food Northampton will host a Community Engagement Coordinator for the 2017-18 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at terracorps.org.

Grow Food Northampton

221 Pine St., Suite 349

Florence, MA 01062

GrowFoodNorthampton.com

Grow Food Northampton's mission is to promote food security by advancing sustainable agriculture in the Northampton, Massachusetts area. Founded in 2010 in response to a development threat to the largest buildable prime farmland parcels in Northampton, Grow Food Northampton moved from a small group of advocates to a vibrant, community-driven non-profit organization. We now own the largest community farm in Massachusetts, which is largely leased out to private farmers, helping to address land access and tenure challenges. We also manage a 270-plot community garden and a Giving Garden project where volunteers grow many thousands of pounds of vegetables for donation to soup kitchens and food pantries. We operate educational programs on the farm and in classrooms, fund and manage several food access programs that ensure that everyone in our community can afford to eat local produce, and manage a vibrant local farmers' market. All of our programs celebrate local food as a way to build a stronger, more sustainable, and more inclusive community.

Community Engagement Coordinators (CEC) build the long-term capacity of their host sites by developing culturally inclusive systems, programming, partnerships, and events. By collaborating with community groups, CEC's demonstrate how the sustainable use and conservation of land can help address community needs related to education, public health, economic development, neighborhood revitalization, homelessness, poverty, hunger, and cultural decline. By helping a broader cross-section of people experience the benefits of open space, CECs build connections between land and people that increase public support for land access, revitalization, and conservation initiatives.

CECs may partner with homeless shelters or food pantries to build community gardens; hospitals to build wellness gardens and walking paths, neighborhood groups to revitalize urban parks and greenways; farmers markets to increase community access to locally grown food; disability groups to create wheelchair accessible outings; youth and adult groups to inspire artistic expression; public health programs to support recovery; and any underrepresented community groups who want to provide access to the outdoors for recreational and entertainment purposes. By engaging with diverse peoples and collaborating with community partners, CEC's build bridges that reinforce the connection between land and a sustainable social, economic, and environmental future for all people.

TerraCorps members engage with their supervisors to develop and carry out three or more capacity building projects over the course of the service year. Some of these projects will involve recruiting, training, and/or managing community volunteers. Grow Food Northampton has proposed the following potential project for their Community Engagement Coordinator:

- 1) Develop our portfolio of public educational and engagement events and refine and implement our overall communications plan to reach potential program participants (target audiences include low-income households in need of food access, farmers' market shoppers, community gardeners, aspiring farmers), event attendees, and general audiences. In the process, adopt numerous principles and best practices of communication; master several popular social media, email, and web systems; and engage directly with a diversity of community members, including program participants, volunteers, and event attendees.
- 2) The CEC will also assist with program evaluation and re-design. This project addresses a need for effective communication to ensure that those who could benefit from our programs and events, and the conserved land that we steward, are aware of the opportunities to do so and able to influence both our outreach methods and program design over time to increase the effectiveness of our work. Our goals are to increase the reach of our communications across many platforms while both unifying our core "brand" identity and improving our targeting of specific messages to specific audiences, all with an ultimate goal of increasing the level and value of our interactions with target populations.

Development of these and other projects will occur during the first two months of service and consider the member's interests and skills.

Essential Qualifications:

- A strong interest in serving diverse program participants, volunteers, and audiences
- Comfort presenting in front of groups

- Strong writing, communication, and networking skills
- Well organized and able to balance multiple tasks
- Able to serve both independently and as a member of a team
- Familiarity with and ability to quickly learn a variety of computer systems

Desired Qualifications:

- Experience in community needs assessment and/or program evaluation
- Experience with diversity and inclusion issues
- Experience training and managing volunteers
- Experience developing public information materials, marketing materials, and/or press releases
- Technical skills relating to developing and maintaining web, print, email, and social media content
- Familiarity with land conservation, agriculture, and/or food access

For questions about Grow Food Northampton’s service positions, contact Clem Clay at clem@growfoodnorthampton.com.

AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements

This year’s TerraCorps program will run from August 28, 2017 through July 27, 2018. All members are expected to serve full-time, commit to serve for the entire eleven-month term, and complete at least 1,700 hours of service, including time spent in trainings and service with the full TerraCorps team. Weekly service averages 35 hours and commonly includes some night and/or weekend activities.

As a program of AmeriCorps, TerraCorps applicants must also meet the following AmeriCorps requirements:

- A US citizen, US national, or Lawful Permanent Resident Alien of the U.S.
- At least 18 years old
- A minimum of a high school diploma or GED
- No more than three previous terms as an AmeriCorps member
- Pass a criminal history background check, including an FBI check

AmeriCorps programs provide equal opportunities. TerraCorps will recruit and select persons in all positions to ensure a diverse and inclusive climate without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, color, political affiliation, creed, national origin, marital status, or any other status as protected by federal, state, and local laws. We encourage applications from individuals with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations for interviews and service upon request.

Member Compensation and Benefits

- TerraCorps members will receive a living allowance of \$12,530 (pre-tax) over the 11-month term of service, which is \$522.08 per 24 biweekly pay periods.
- TerraCorps assists members in obtaining health insurance coverage through healthcare.gov. Reimbursement of costs may be available.
- Childcare assistance may be provided in cases of financial need.

- Upon successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps members receive a \$5,815 education award that can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See nationalservice.gov/resources/edaward for info and restrictions.
- TerraCorps members are eligible for forbearance of most federally-guaranteed student loans, as well as payment of interest accrued during service.
- TerraCorps members will receive mentorship, training, and career development opportunities while serving directly with community-based nonprofits.
- TerraCorps members experience the personal rewards of national service and community engagement.

Note: TerraCorps members are responsible for their own housing and must have access to reliable transportation.

How to Apply

2017-2018 Host Site organizations, service positions, and application procedures are described at terracorps.org. A complete member application includes a 1-page cover letter, a resume, three references, and an application form. Member application and detailed instructions can be found at terracorps.org.

Member applications will be available for viewing by all our host sites. Do not send applications directly to a host site.

We strongly encourage application submissions before interviews begin in mid-April. Position offers and acceptances will begin shortly thereafter. The program aims to fill all positions by early June, but host sites will continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled. For questions about TerraCorps, contact Hanna Mogensen, who manages TerraCorps' recruitment process, at Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. Email admin@masslift.org or call 978-248-2043.

Additional Information About this Program

TerraCorps We seek to create change by achieving a broader, more authentic engagement of the diverse peoples living in our communities. When we do this, resources will grow, access to land will increase, the pace of land conservation will accelerate, and whole communities will achieve more resilient futures. To learn more about TerraCorps, visit: terracorps.org.

AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 men and women in intensive service each year through more than 15,000 nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. AmeriCorps members help communities tackle pressing problems and also leverage their service by mobilizing volunteers to help address community needs for environmental stewardship, health, education, economic opportunity, disaster services, and support to veterans and military families. To learn more about AmeriCorps, visit americorps.gov.

TerraCorps is a grant program contingent upon renewal of federal funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS grants to AmeriCorps programs in Massachusetts are administered by the Massachusetts Service Alliance.

The Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA, mass-service.org) is a private, nonprofit organization that serves as the state commission on community service and volunteerism. MSA's mission is

to catalyze the innovation and growth of service and volunteerism by creating partnerships that maximize resources, expertise, capacity, and impact. TerraCorps is one of 23 AmeriCorps programs for which MSA currently administers funding and supports program implementation.