



AmeriCorps



TerraCorps



MASSACHUSETTS  
SERVICE ALLIANCE

citysprouts  
Public school gardens for teaching and learning

## TERRACORPS

**TerraCorps** is an AmeriCorps affiliated start-up environmental non-profit preparing and mobilizing emerging leaders to help communities gain access to and conserve land for people and nature. Working at the intersection of the land conservation and urban agriculture movements, our vision is to create a future where land is the foundation of health and well-being for ALL people in EVERY community.

This year's TerraCorps program will support up to 60 full-time AmeriCorps Members across Massachusetts and Rhode Island each serving in one of five positions: Land Stewardship Coordinator (LSC), Land Conservation Coordinator (LCC), Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC), Youth Education Coordinator (YEC), or Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator (SAC). Members will serve in full-time, 11-month terms (August 29th, 2022-July 28, 2023) 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).

CitySprouts will host a Community Engagement Coordinator for the 2022-23 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at <https://terracorps.org/>.

### Community Engagement Coordinator with CitySprouts

#### **CitySprouts**

1035 Cambridge Street, Suite 6

Cambridge, MA 02141

[citysprouts.org](https://citysprouts.org)

The CitySprouts mission is to cultivate curiosity and wonder for all children with hands-on science learning through urban gardening. Our tuition-free programs take place in and around public school gardens, making them familiar and accessible places in the neighborhood where young people live, learn and play. Our two programs reach over 8,000 children from preschool through middle school years in 21 schools in Boston and Cambridge neighborhoods. CitySprouts runs two programs to reach children from the age of 3, when they begin their school journey, until age 14 when they graduate from middle school. During the school day, CitySprouts garden educators provide weekly science education to classrooms from pre-kindergarten (K0) through 5th grade using our Early Start in Science curriculum. Our out-of-school time Young Leaders Program for 6th-8th graders includes both a 5-week summer program and a weekly after school club during the school year.

At CitySprouts, we value an inclusive environment where all team members feel a sense of belonging and are included as partners in realizing our mission. We are an organization committed to science and nature equity, recognizing that gaps in opportunity and access keep children growing up in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods from the knowledge, skills and access to nature that enrich the lives of their more-resourced peers. We are committed to ongoing learning and understanding as we strive to bring CitySprouts' vision to fruition.

**Community Engagement Coordinators (CEC)** build the long-term capacity of their Service Sites by developing and leading culturally inclusive programming, events, and volunteer opportunities that provide broad social and environmental benefits to underrepresented beneficiaries. Member projects address inequities in public health, economic opportunity, education, land accessibility, and environmental sustainability. Through engaging diverse peoples and collaborating with community partners, CECs 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. **CitySprouts has proposed the following potential project(s) for their Community Engagement Coordinator:**

- 1) Creating a campaign in the fall to increase # of school families volunteering to care for CitySprouts school gardens OR to increase # of volunteers caring for our Boston CitySprouts school gardens, either throughout the year and/or summer; for example:
  - Creating media to advertise: flyers, TikTok, social media messages,
  - Tabling at schools with another staff member
  - Organizing simple meet-and-greet events in school gardens at pick up time
  - Writing a blog based on interviews with some of our volunteers
- 2) Another major focus of TerraCorps Member's service is educating or training people in environmental stewardship or environmentally conscious practices; for example:
  - Training for Garden Educators on best compost practices
  - Training for Garden Educators on designing and maintaining plants in a school sensory garden
  - Training summer volunteers in May and June

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

#### Required AmeriCorps Qualifications

- 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

#### Desired Qualifications

- Strong writing and verbal communication skills
- Able to serve both independently and as a member of a team
- Comfort navigating computer software programs (Salesforce CRM in particular)
- Training and experience pertinent to the Community Engagement Coordinator position and projects listed above
- Experience training and educating community members and volunteers
- Willingness to embrace physical work, outside, in a variety of weather conditions as unique and interesting, part of the natural rhythm and seasonal changes
- Proven interpersonal skills with children, families, and peers that reflect cultural sensitivity, respect for differences, deep listening and clear communication
- Reliable access to a car required

For questions about CitySprouts' service positions, contact Therecia Jozefzoon, [tjozefzoon@citysprouts.org](mailto:tjozefzoon@citysprouts.org)

### **AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements**

All Members are expected to serve full-time, commit to serve for the entire 11-month term, and complete at least 1,700 hours of service, including time spent in trainings and several service days with the full TerraCorps cohort. Weekly service averages 38 hours and commonly includes some night and/or weekend activities.

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 up to \$18,500 (pre-tax) over the 11-month term of service, which is \$740 (pre-tax) per 25 biweekly pay periods.
- TerraCorps assists Members in obtaining health insurance coverage. 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 taxable \$6,495 education award that can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See <https://www.americorps.gov/members-volunteers/segal-ameri-corps-education-award> 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**

To apply for this position and to learn more about other TerraCorps Member opportunities, please visit the following page on the TerraCorps website at <https://terracorps.org/member-position-listing/>.

**Note:** A complete Member application includes a resume and two professional or academic references that you will upload as part of your application.

Member applications will be collected by TerraCorps and shared with Service Sites. **Do not send applications directly to a Service Site.**

We strongly encourage interested individuals to apply as soon as possible once applications are posted in May 2022. Position offers and acceptances will be made on a rolling basis. The program aims to fill all positions by mid-July, but Service Sites will continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled. For questions about TerraCorps please email [spollock@terracorps.org](mailto:spollock@terracorps.org).

#### **Additional Information About this Program**

**TerraCorps** seeks 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: <https://terracorps.org/>.

**AmeriCorps** engages more than 75,000 people 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-funded program contingent upon renewal of federal funding from the AmeriCorps federal agency. TerraCorps is also supported in part by the Massachusetts Service Alliance in MA and Serve RI in Rhode Island.