



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).

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

Community Engagement/ Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator with The Food Bank Farm

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts

97 North Hatfield Road
PO Box 160
Hatfield, MA 01038
www.foodbankwma.org

Since 1982, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts has been feeding our neighbors in need and leading the community to end hunger. We provide food to our member agencies in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties. These independent pantries, meal sites and shelters are on the front lines of emergency food assistance in our region, providing sustenance to individuals, families, seniors, children and people with disabilities (including veterans) to lead healthy and meaningful lives. In addition to distributing food through our member agencies, the Food Bank also distributes food directly through 26 Mobile Food Bank sites and 51 Brown Bag: Food for Elders distribution sites located at senior centers throughout the four counties. On average, The Food Bank serves more than 100,000 individuals experiencing food insecurity every month. More than one-third of the food distributed are fresh vegetables, and more than one million pounds derived from farms in the Pioneer Valley, including The Food Bank's own first 34-tillable-acre organic Food Bank Farm in Hadley. Our farm is APR protected and is operated in partnership with Mountain View Farm CSA.

Through a partnership with the Kestrel Land Trust, The Food Bank purchased a second Farm in 2020, also placed under APR protection. The Food Bank contracts organic farmers to operate this 50-tillable-acre organic farm to grow fresh vegetables for distribution through our network, and to feed children in high-poverty school districts. In lieu of cash rent, these farmers provide The Food Bank with a share of

the harvest for distribution through the emergency food network. The goal is for at least half of the farmers' share to be sold to high-poverty school districts to feed at-risk youth.

The Food Bank operates its own 3-acre model no-till parcel to engage volunteers and youth from local schools to learn about sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and hunger issues. Under this labor-intensive model of farming, thousands of students from area schools as well as the University of Massachusetts will have the opportunity to volunteer and participate in no-till farming. They will gain valuable hands-on farming experience. In addition, they will learn about soil science, nutrition, and hunger from the farm supervisor, volunteer experts, and Food Bank staff respectively. Faculty from the schools will incorporate learning on the farm in their course curricula.

The service Member at The Food Bank Farm will be serving in a hybrid coordinator role, with 50% of time spent in a Community Engagement role, and 50% in a Sustainable Agriculture role.

Community Engagement (CEC) / Sustainable Agriculture Coordinators (SAC) build the long-term capacity of their Service Sites by developing culturally inclusive systems, programming, partnerships, and events. CEC/SACs may organize, train, and collaborate with municipal boards, neighborhood and civic associations, community members, youth groups, and schools to care for, improve access to, and support the long-term resiliency and sustainable use of community lands. By collaborating with community groups, CEC/SACs demonstrate how the sustainable use and management of land can help address community needs related to education, public health, economic development, neighborhood revitalization, homelessness, poverty, hunger, and cultural decline. By providing training and organizing collaborative land-focused projects, they increase resources for communities, demonstrate responsible land management, help individuals build skills, and nurture an inclusive sense of public ownership in the local landscape.

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. The Food Bank Farm has proposed the following potential project(s) for their Community Engagement/Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator:

- 1) Partner with marginalized people and communities to grow vegetables for personal use
- 2) Plan and implement sustainable techniques, such as low/no-till farming to improve soil fertility, harvest yields, and sequester carbon
- 3) Engage the general public (including local public school and university students) in volunteering on the farm and education about organic farming, land conservation, local food system and food security issues

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 (Galaxy Digital, and Microsoft Suite – Word, Excel, Outlook)
- Training and experience pertinent to the Community Engagement Coordinator position and projects outlined above
- Experience training and/or educating community members and volunteers
- Strong interest in community organizing and partnering working with diverse community groups, schools, landowners, and municipalities
- Able to be active outside in a range of weather conditions, and navigate uneven terrain
- Experience with service-learning programs, preferably with farming or gardening focus

For questions about The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts' service positions, contact Amanda Reynolds, amandar@foodbankwma.org, 413-203-6316

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://americorps.gov/members-volunteers/segal-americorps-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 service Member opportunities, please visit the following page on the TerraCorps website at <https://terra Corps.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@terra Corps.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://terra Corps.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.