



## 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).

Nuestras Raíces Inc will host a Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator for the 2022-23 service year. Information about all TerraCorps positions is available at <https://terra Corps.org/>.

### Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator with Nuestras Raíces Inc.

#### **Nuestras Raíces Inc.**

329 Main St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
[www.nuestras-raices.org](http://www.nuestras-raices.org)

Nuestras Raíces is a grassroots urban agriculture organization based in Holyoke, MA. Our mission is to create healthy environments, celebrate "agri-culture," harness our collective energy, and to advance our vision of a just and sustainable future. Since 1992, Nuestras Raíces has been at the center of a growing and vibrant urban agriculture network in Holyoke, MA transforming vacant and polluted lots into a flourishing and empowering community spaces. Today, Nuestras Raíces manages 9 urban community gardens supporting over 100 families to produce fresh locally grown food in the Holyoke community as well as owns a 30-acre farm in the Holyoke area. Nuestras Raíces serves the low-income Latino residents of Holyoke and surrounding communities.

Nuestras Raíces Inc. highly recommends that staff and Terra Corps Service Members be fully vaccinated before the start of the Terra Corps service year. The reason we are encouraging vaccination is that this position will require you to spend a significant amount of time serving in person with farmers, staff, and volunteers. Therefore, for you own safety and the safety of others, we suggest that you get vaccinated to reduce the chances of contracting Covid-19.

**Sustainable Agriculture Coordinators (SAC)** build the long-term capacity of their Service Sites by creating networks of volunteers to support hands-on stewardship of community lands. They 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. SACs may create raised beds or community gardens, monitor and maintain urban farmland, establish sustainable food systems, provide new farmer trainings, lead community workshops, etc. 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. SACs spend roughly 60% of their time in the office and 40% in the field.

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. **Nuestras Raices has proposed the following potential project(s) for their Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator:**

1. Coordinate the volunteer program for workdays at the farm, community gardens, and for produce distribution.
2. New farmer support and training project which will include activities such as recruiting new farmers and teaching them how to adopt sustainable farming into their businesses.
3. Conduct research on soil remediation and any other environmentally and agriculturally related issues and use these findings to apply them at the farm.
4. Improve systems for and assist with farm maintenance, tool inventory, and record keeping.
5. Occasional assistance with grant reporting including outlining the types of activities funded by specific grants as well as updating our funders on accomplishments.

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 (Excel Spreadsheet, PowerPoint, Microsoft Outlook, Microsoft Office Products, and Canva.)
- Training and experience pertinent to the Community Engagement Coordinator position and projects listed above
- Experience with promoting and marketing to community members and to volunteers
- Bilingual (English Spanish)
- Experience with farming or gardening
- Knowledge of sustainable farming practices: cover crops, soil biology, low-till crop production, permaculture, growing perennials, utilizing living mulches, composting, soil testing

For questions about Nuestras Raices' service positions, contact Hilda Roque, at [hroque@nuestras-raices.org](mailto:hroque@nuestras-raices.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 <http://www.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 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.