



Commonwealth Corps Service Internship Position Description



Regional Environmental Council Inc.
School Gardens
Commonwealth Corps
School Garden Specialist

The mission of the Commonwealth Corps service internship program is to engage Massachusetts residents of all ages, backgrounds, and identities in direct service to strengthen communities, address critical needs, and increase volunteerism. Through hands-on experience, Commonwealth Corps members gain professional skills and valuable knowledge while positively impacting diverse communities in our state.

The Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA) is a private, nonprofit agency that oversees the program and supports host site partners and members to find success throughout the program year. The two Commonwealth Corps members with Regional Environmental Council will serve 10 months in a half-time capacity. They will join a diverse corps of members across Massachusetts who share a common desire to explore their passions and expand their network in service to their communities and the Commonwealth. The 2026-2027 program year will support 8 unique host sites and 17 CC members with the opportunity to share, support, and collaborate with the group.

The Regional Environmental Council, Inc. (REC) is a grassroots, nonprofit, environmental and food justice organization with a 50-year history working for environmental sustainability and social justice in Central Massachusetts. REC is seeking one half-time Commonwealth Corps member to support developing and implementing classroom and garden-based curriculum at 34 school garden partner sites in Worcester as well as piloting and improving volunteer recruitment, training, and support systems for garden maintenance and care. In addition, the School Garden Specialist will collaborate with the YouthGROW Specialist to engage 10-15 members of the REC youth development program (YouthGROW) as peer garden educators.

What You'll Do:

Essential Responsibilities:

- Complete a minimum of 750 hours of service, serving August 17, 2026 through June 19, 2027.
- Attend a minimum of 6 Commonwealth Corps trainings and events held by MSA, generally 1-2 times per month.
- Participate in a minimum of 30 minutes of MSA-related activities each week. This include filling out timesheets, completing a bi-monthly reflection or check-in, or other MSA-related tasks or activities.
- Co-develop and implement garden based educational programs at school garden locations including to outdoor and classroom workshops during the school day and after school programs.
- Recruit and support volunteers to assist with school garden sites (including groups of 10-15 for school garden builds and 1-2 volunteers for schools who have identified they need summer maintenance support.) Members can expect to co-develop and implement programming with Massachusetts Master Gardener volunteers, as well as develop recruitment and training materials to support increased parent volunteer engagement at garden sites.
- Provide direct support to school gardens serving K-6 including general maintenance, watering, and harvesting as well as developing plans in partnership with the site for sustainable long-term maintenance.
- Collaborate with the YouthGROW Specialist to support members of the YouthGROW program (REC's youth development program) to hands on garden and periodic program support for after-school activities at K-12 School Garden sites.

Marginal Responsibilities:

- Deliver garden-based curriculum and youth development support for members of the YouthGROW program, in partnership with the YouthGROW Specialist and YouthGROW Program Coordinator.
- Be a part of the greater Commonwealth Corps community, including participating in cross-site learning

groups, writing a short profile for the CC newsletter, connecting with other members on our online platforms, and attending optional social/service events.

Who You Are:

You must be:

- A Massachusetts resident ([see guidelines here](#)) with legal authorization to work in the U.S.
- 18 years of age at minimum (member age range is 18 – 70+ years old)
- Excited to give back to your community and interested in developing your skills and gaining new professional experiences
- Committed to 10 months of service and **able to balance service internship commitments with personal commitments in a sustainable way**
- Self-motivated, detail oriented, highly organized and reliable
- Able to travel independently to sites via personal or public transportation
- Have strong people and communication skills, both written and verbal

It would also be great if you:

- Are familiar/have experience with the Worcester community
- Have previous experience collaboratively working or volunteering with people of diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds
- Speak a language other than English -- multilingual candidates encouraged to apply
- Have experience growing food
- Have experience working with youth in a formal or informal setting
- Are comfortable with online collaboration tools, e.g., shared calendars, email, shared folders/files (Dropbox, Google Drive, Google Apps)

What You'll Get:

- **Stipend** of \$625 semi-monthly while in service, up to \$13,125, minus taxes and withholdings;
- **Member assistance program**, including unlimited, confidential, 24/7, phone counseling services and up to three free, in-person counseling sessions, plus a lot more;
- **Completion award** of up to \$2000 upon successful completion of service, minus taxes and withholdings;
- **Reimbursement for outside training** or professional development opportunities relevant to member's service and/or goals (Up to \$100; Dependent on approval from MSA) and up to \$200; dependent on approval from REC
- **Extensive training from MSA with a diversity, equity and inclusion focus and other professional development** opportunities;
- **Limited reimbursement for travel** to Corps-wide MSA-sponsored activities;
- **Internet reimbursement** up to \$50/month while required to complete some service from home if required by site;
- **80\$ monthly produce stipend through REC Mobile Market**
- Limited travel reimbursement from their host site for certain service-related travel away from their usual service location, according to that agency's policies;
- **Mental Health/Personal Day** (1 day = 4 hrs)
- The opportunity for at least 5 (part-time) days of planned absences (may include holidays, does not count towards hours requirement);

Please note that receipt of these stipends/benefits may impact an individual's eligibility for certain public benefits.

Term of Service:

- **Position Start Date:** August 17, 2026
- **Position End Date:** June 19, 2027
- Service commitment will average 18-20 hours per week with a minimum of two full service days (9-5) and approximately two evenings per month and up to two weekends per month during the months of September, October, April and May, with advance notice. Service schedule/days will be agreed upon at the

start of the service term and any changes or additions, including night or weekend hours, will be made with advanced notice.

How to Apply:

- To apply, email a cover letter and resume to Eliza Lawrence at eliza@recworchester.org. Early applications are encouraged as applications will be accepted on rolling basis. Questions about this position can be directed to Eliza Lawrence, School Gardens Coordinator.
- For questions related to the Commonwealth Corps program contact ccquestions@mass-service.org

Accepted members will be required to undergo a criminal history check.

The Regional Environmental Council will recruit and select persons in all positions to ensure a diverse and inclusive climate without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender, 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. The Regional Environmental Council welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities and will make reasonable accommodations for interviews and for service upon request.