



Community Engagement Coordinator

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. Just Roots has proposed the following potential project for their Community Engagement Coordinator:

Increasing food access in our low income communities through understanding and addressing barriers: There are three major low income housing communities in Greenfield, located within three miles from the Greenfield Community Farm (APR farm land). These three low-income housing communities are not unlike similar communities in other regions – they exist like islands, disconnected from the greater community and excluded from the local food economy. This project's goal will be to work with relevant Community Partners and Resident Service Coordinators to build relationships and engage residents in a series of focus groups and surveys. The outcome of these efforts will be a deeper understanding of the barriers preventing healthy, local food access by residents within these communities and the design of solutions modeled through intervention programming that will help build

the health of the residents, build the connection between residents and their community farm and engage residents in the local food economy. The model interventions will be applied to our CSA farm share season. Evaluation will take place affording evidenced-based research on the impact of each intervention on the CSA success rate of members. Partners will include Just Roots and the Greenfield Community Farm, Leyden Woods Apartments, Greenfield Gardens, the Greenfield Housing Authority, the Community Health Center of Franklin County, Franklin Community Co-op and the Food Bank of Western MA.

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:

- high school diploma and relevant experience
- a strong interest in serving with diverse community (groups, partners and members), landowners, and municipalities
- comfortable presenting in front of groups
- strong writing, communication, and networking skills
- able to serve both independently and as a member of a team
- familiarity with Microsoft Office programs

Desired Qualifications:

- associates degree or higher and/or certificate, training, or internship in a field related to environmental and social justice, environmental education, environmental policy and civic advocacy, social marketing and communication, or other social science related fields.
- experience in community needs assessment
- experience with diversity and inclusion issues
- experience training and managing volunteers
- experience in local government, or civic organizations
- marketing experience or experience developing public information materials
- familiarity with land conservation in Massachusetts
- experience with service learning programs
- knowledge of healthy eating, nutrition, providing food/cooking demonstration
- understanding/awareness of SNAP

For questions about the Just Roots service position, contact 413-325-8969 or email info@justroots.org.

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 up to \$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.

More about TerraCorps

TerraCorps, formerly MassLIFT-AmeriCorps (Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow), 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).

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

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.

More About Just Roots

Just Roots is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that began as an effort to locate community garden space on municipal land. We, in cooperation with Mount Grace Land Trust, the State of MA and the city of Greenfield helped designate this 60+ acre property as APR land. Just Roots received a long-term lease on the land from the city and was awarded the opportunity to develop a community farm. A public forum process was held in 2009 at which 300 members of our community showed up. The outcome of that forum was four fold, we would build a community farm and we would focus on food, education and community. Just Roots established our mission, “increasing access to healthy, local food by connecting people, land, resources and know-how”, and we work to uphold the three pillars designated by our community: food, education and community.

Just Roots operates the Greenfield Community Farm, where we grow produce using organic methods and connect this food with our community through many traditional methods: farmer’s markets, donations to pantries and wholesale to stores and restaurants. What makes Just Roots different from other farms, is our innovative approach to CSA farm shares and our intentional work to redefine and restructure the CSA as a health intervention made accessible to all people. Our CSA has been redefined to address many of the barriers that have traditionally prevented low income citizens from participating. In 2017 we are running a 225 member CSA with 70% of our members living on low income. The years ahead will mark an exciting time for Just Roots as we study the health impacts of CSA participation through our research study, and influence a decision by health insurers to fund a wellness benefit leading to an inclusive local food economy. We will be working to understand and test the impact of wellness interventions and as we begin to understand how to support local farms in becoming inclusive of low and middle income customers. In addition to our CSA, we offer a fall Healthy Snack Market in our elementary schools and manage a 66 plot Community Garden at the Greenfield Community Farm. We also offer an array of community workshops on a number of agricultural topics.