

National Service Impact in Massachusetts

AmeriCorps

The Massachusetts Legal Assistance for Self-Sufficiency AmeriCorps program places 28 college and law school graduates with an interest in public service law at participating legal services organizations in high need areas throughout Massachusetts. Members serve under professional supervision and provide legal assistance to low-income people involved in civil (non-criminal) matters. From 2011 to 2012, 472 individuals were assisted in transitioning to safe, healthy, and affordable housing. Members provided initial screenings for 3,342 cases, counsel and advice or brief service to 2,880 cases, and worked on 800 extended or impact cases in areas such as benefits and family law. Members recruited 349 community volunteers to serve 5,678 hours. Ten members who served during 2011 to 2012 are currently employed in the legal field, five went on to graduate school, and seven members returned for a second year of service.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The Marion Institute is dedicated to identifying, promoting, and incubating sustainability and social justice programs and projects that seek to find a solution for the root causes of local and global issues. These pilot programs are shared during the annual Connecting for Change Conference. Members from AmeriCorps NCCC assist in all phases of planning, organizing, and implementing the Connecting for Change Conference. Through this partnership in 2012, 4,000 adults were educated on sustainability and energy conservation practices, 950 youth were educated on sustainability, 2,500 people participated in a recycling program, and 30 new energy conservation programs were developed.

AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA members serving with Partners for Youth with Disabilities have worked to improve the sustainability of the program by strengthening both its financial and non-financial foundations. Collectively, members have made improvements in the organization's communication processes and increased its social media presence. This success resulted in the first agency-wide E-newsletter. The person who served as the organization's Mentoring and National Center VISTA member helped develop training and recruitment tools to expand the mentoring program and organized the organization's most successful set of Job Shadow days in the last two years. The talented group of AmeriCorps VISTAs serving at the organization builds on the previous members' accomplishments and their work continues to bear fruit through the continuation of donations, sponsorships, and programming.

Senior Corps

The City of Boston RSVP and Senior Companion Program and Boston Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program sent 30 volunteers and staff to assist with flag planting on the Boston Common for Memorial Day. They partnered with the Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund to plant 33,000 flags and marked the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Each flag represented a Massachusetts service member who had lost his or her life defending our country since the Civil War. One of the Foster Grandparents is himself a veteran, so this was quite a meaningful experience. The display raised awareness of the sacrifices and service of veterans and preparations needed to welcome home more than 30,000 troops. Activities like this have led to other Senior Corps service collaborations, such as the 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance letter writing campaign and MLK Day family food bank brown bag project.

Social Innovation Fund

The AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts is implementing the Linking for Access and Retention in Comprehensive Care (LARCC) Project. They were selected by the Social Innovation Fund intermediary AIDS United to receive an initial annual award of \$217,250, which they will match dollar-for-dollar with nonfederal funds. LARCC will improve the health outcomes of HIV-positive women, men who have sex with men, and injection drug users; enhance and expand access and retention in mental health services and self-management support groups; improve the self-sufficiency of people living with HIV/AIDS who are not engaged in care through benefit enrollment, training, education, and employment; and expand the continuum of care for PLWH/A to better support long-term self-sufficiency. The primary goal of the LARCC Project is to improve the health of PLWH/A by providing comprehensive bio/psycho/social support from levels of crisis to stability and self-sufficiency.

Volunteer Generation Fund

The Massachusetts Service Alliance supported 26 organizations during Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and National Volunteer Week and engaged 9,593 volunteers who gave 36,891 hours of service to 345 sites. Projects included repair work at veterans shelters, invasive species removal and trail maintenance, debris removal at local parks, food, clothing and toiletries drives, weatherization of low-income homes, the creation of activity kits for hospitals, and packaging and delivering meals to local food pantries. The Alliance has also maintained its focus on YOU Generate, a statewide volunteer awareness campaign. Emphasis was placed this year on building out the "resources page" of MassVolunteers.org including the addition of six Volunteer Management Resource Tip Sheets created by MSA staff and volunteer connectors to assist nonprofit organizations with creating or improving their volunteer programs.