



AMERICORPS IN CONNECTICUT 2016-2017

AMERICORPS*STATE PROGRAMS

Most federal AmeriCorps grant funding provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to Connecticut goes to the Governor-appointed **Connecticut Commission on Community Service**, which in turn awards grants to nonprofits to respond to critical local needs. **ServeCT**, the Connecticut Commission on Community Service, is charged with managing, monitoring and evaluating AmeriCorps*State programs.



AARP Experience Corps – Greater New Haven

Hamden, New Haven, East Haven

As an intergenerational literacy tutoring program, AARP Experience Corps - Greater New Haven specifically addresses two regional priorities: the achievement gap among school-aged children and the need for older adults to remain engaged with the community as fully contributing members. Experience Corps recruits, trains and places trained older adults (age 50+) as AmeriCorps literacy tutors in participating Hamden, New Haven and East Haven elementary schools and an after-school literacy tutoring program to help K-3 students. Bringing with them a wealth of life experience, compassion, and a love of learning and reading, Experience Corps AmeriCorps tutors form bonds with their students that foster learning and confidence. Beyond the classrooms, Experience Corps' AmeriCorps tutors promote a love of reading and learning at community events by helping children choose just the right (gently used) children's book to take home. AARP Experience Corps – Greater New Haven is a program of the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut.

www.aosccc.org/experiencecorps

www.facebook.com/AgencyonAgingofSouthCentralCT

Sheila Greenstein, *Program Manager*

(203) 752-3059, x2900; sgreenstein@aosccc.org

Agency on Aging of South Central CT, One Long Wharf Dr., Suite 1L, New Haven, CT 06511



CT Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

Waterbury, Shelton, Willimantic, New London, Hartford

The Connecticut Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Network AmeriCorps program engages middle and high school students in the Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) and college students in the Collegiate Health Service Corps (CHSC), which lead students in service learning projects that address pressing community health issues. The AmeriCorps members aim to improve academic engagement of economically disadvantaged students through participation in the YHSC and CHSC service learning programs, as well as through health workshops. The four regional centers of the Connecticut AHEC Network host full-time AmeriCorps members impacting communities across the entire state of Connecticut. The program increases AmeriCorps members' educational and professional status by providing a vast amount of experience working with schools, non-profits, health care agencies and other community partners.

www.health360.org/ctahec-ac.html

Celia Meyer, *AmeriCorps Program Director*

(203) 758-1110; cmeyer@health360.org

Health360, 83 Prospect St., Waterbury, CT 06702



FoodCorps Connecticut

Bridgeport, East Hartford, Hartford, New Britain, Meriden, Mystic, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Norwich, Vernon, Waterbury, Westport, Willimantic, Woodbridge

One in four U.S. children struggle with hunger, while one in three is obese or overweight. Yet the root cause is the same: lack of access to healthy food. Schools are poised to be the front lines in our nation's response to childhood obesity, with more than 30 million kids relying on schools for lunch and/or breakfast. Schools can help shape a child's relationship with food — and the eating habits they will carry for their whole lives.

FoodCorps AmeriCorps members collaborate with communities to make schools healthier places for kids to eat, learn, and grow. Every day, FoodCorps members drive on-the-ground impact by fostering school food environments that increase knowledge (children understand what healthy food is and where it comes from), improve attitudes (children try new foods and prefer to eat foods that are good for them), and enable new behaviors (children have reliable access to healthy food in school and regularly consumer it). This last measure — children eating a healthy diet in school — represents our bottom line: a nutritious diet will prevent disease, support academic and professional achievement, and improve lifelong health and wellbeing.

Twenty FoodCorps AmeriCorps members will serve in some of the highest-need school districts in Connecticut. In order to carry out their terms of service, members acquire training in experiential nutrition and gardening education, building classroom management, volunteer management, community engagement, and safe food preparation. We are continually measuring the impact of our work — from children's eating patterns to our ability to transform schools into oases of health — to ensure we are making a difference.

www.foodcorps.org

www.facebook.com/foodcorps

www.facebook.com/FoodCorpsConnecticut

<http://connecticut.blog.foodcorps.org>

www.twitter.com/#!/foodcorps

www.instagram.com/foodcorps/

www.pinterest.com/foodcorps/ext

Ashley Taylor, *Government Partnerships Manager*

(212) 596-7045; ashley.taylor@foodcorps.org

FoodCorps, 2544 NW Upshur St., Portland, OR 97227



The Governor's Prevention Partnership (The Partnership) equips, empowers, and connects organizations, communities and families to prevent substance abuse, underage drinking and violence among youth and promotes positive outcomes for all young people in Connecticut. The Partnership's EdCorpsCT will recruit 10 AmeriCorps members who will mentor and support 90 chronically tardy, absent, and behaviorally-referred third-eighth grade students at the Simpson-Waverly School in Hartford, CT in improving their school attendance and engagement. Chronic absenteeism, or missing more at least 10% of the school year, whether excused or unexcused, is a leading cause of low achievement and a powerful predictor of which students will eventually drop out of school. EdCorpsCT members will each be matched with nine students, and will work with school faculty and staff to support those students through daily engagement, home outreach, and referrals to wrap-around services as required. Mentoring serves as a powerful evidence-based strategy to reduce chronic absenteeism and promote positive youth outcomes.

www.PreventionWorksCT.org

<https://www.facebook.com/GPPCT>

<https://twitter.com/preventionnews>

Aristede Hill, *EdCorpsCT Program Supervisor*

(860) 523-8042; aristede.hill@preventionworksct.org

Governor's Partnership to Protect Connecticut's Workforce, 30 Jordan Lane, Wethersfield, CT 06109



Jumpstart is active in 14 states across the nation, bringing together Corps members and preschool children in low-income neighborhoods to help these children develop the language and literacy skills they need to be successful in school, setting them on a path to close the achievement gap before it is too late. This school year, 184 college students from four university partners will serve 475 preschool children in Connecticut. Jumpstart Connecticut will recruit AmeriCorps members to provide in-classroom literacy programming to low-income children in public school Pre-K and community-based early education programs in New Britain, New Haven, Storrs, Vernon and Willimantic.

- www.jstart.org
- <https://www.facebook.com/Jumpstartkids>
- www.twitter.com/Jumpstartkids
- www.pinterest.com/jumpstartkids/

Lauren Brodsky, Program Director
(212) 868-2526 x622; lauren.brodsky@jstart.org
Jumpstart, 505 Eighth Ave., Suite 1100, New York, NY 10018



LEAP Literacy Corps
New Haven

The Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership, Inc. program, LEAP Literacy Corps recruits 50 AmeriCorps members to provide summer classroom, community, and family-based literacy instruction to 500 children ages 7-12 in five low-income neighborhoods in New Haven, CT. Literacy Corps will reduce the literacy achievement gap for these children by overcoming literacy loss associated with summer months spent out of school, i.e., "summer slide." This will be achieved using three interrelated and mutually supportive components: classroom literacy activities, building a home library, and a home and community reading program.

- www.leapforkids.org
- <https://www.facebook.com/Leapinc/>
- <https://twitter.com/LEAPforkids>

Julissa S. Collado, AmeriCorps Director
(203) 733-0770, x117; jcollado@leapforkids.org
Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership, Inc., (LEAP) 31 Jefferson St., New Haven, CT 06511



NESS SEA AmeriCorps Program

New London, Stonington

The NESS SEA (STEM Education Ambassadors) AmeriCorps Program serves students of the New London Public School System. The community is challenged with serious social issues including poverty, illiteracy, homelessness, mental/physical illness, and a lack of access to resources. The NESS SEA AmeriCorps Program aims to improve school attendance and positively impact students' personal growth in the areas of life skills, self-esteem, self-confidence, and citizenship. Through STEM-based adventure education, classroom sessions complement field experiences including sailing, kayaking, snorkeling, and exploring local tide pool, marsh, and beach areas. The NESS SEA Program takes students out of their comfort zones to increase self-confidence, life skills, and citizenship, as well as out of the traditional classroom to make learning relevant and exciting. AmeriCorps members are trained and certified in lifeguarding, safe powerboating, sailing and kayaking. In addition, members receive training in positive youth development, classroom management, and US Sailing REACH curricula among others.

www.nessf.org/programs/ameriCorps

www.facebook.com/NESSSEAmeriCorps/

www.twitter.com/ness_sea

www.instagram.com/ness_sea/

Kelley Stephens, *AmeriCorps Manager*

(860) 237-7490; kstephens@nessf.org

New England Science & Sailing (NESS), 70 Water St. /

PO Box 733, Stonington, CT 06378



Public Allies Connecticut

Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven

The mission of Public Allies is to create a just and equitable society and the diverse leadership to sustain it. Public Allies Connecticut (PACT), one of 24 Public Allies sites around the country, meets the emerging needs of the nonprofit sector in Greater New Haven, Bridgeport and Hartford by: 1) creating a pipeline of leaders from diverse backgrounds (race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, education, professional experience, etc.) for the nonprofit sector; 2) increasing the capacity of nonprofit organizations in a cost-effective manner; and 3) strengthening civic participation by promoting service opportunities. PACT's vision is to change the face and practice of leadership in communities across Connecticut by demonstrating our conviction that everyone can lead, and that lasting social change results when citizens of all backgrounds step up, take responsibility, and work together.

Connecticut Commission on Community Service

AmeriCorps*State Program Director Manual

2016-2017

www.publicalliesct.org/connecticut
www.facebook.com/publicalliesct
www.twitter.com/@publicalliesct

www.enjoygram.com/@publicalliesct
www.youtube.com/user/publicalliesct

Emily Gallagher, *Program Director*
(203) 260-5996; emilyg@publicallies.org
RYASAP, 2470 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06605
71 Orange St., New Haven, CT 06511



Teach For America – Connecticut

Bridgeport, Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, Stamford, and Windham

In Connecticut, the problem of educational inequity is pervasive. Of the approximately 545,000 students attending Connecticut’s public schools, one-third live in low-income households and are overwhelmingly students of color. We are building individual and collective leadership in partnership with students, families and communities so that, one day all students in low-income and historically oppressed communities will grow to attain a wide-range of self-determined opportunities in life: opportunities not limited by systemic injustices, but reflecting children’s fulfilled potential. Our mission is to enlist, develop and mobilize as many as possible of our nation’s most promising leaders to grow and strengthen the movement for educational equity and excellence. Since 2006, Teach For America – Connecticut has worked across the state, in partnership with many others, to eliminate disparities in access to opportunity and educational outcomes between students growing up in poverty and their more affluent peers. We do so by recruiting and developing a diverse corps of outstanding individuals who commit to teaching for at least two years in high-need schools in our

local communities of Bridgeport, New Haven, Hartford, and Windham. These individuals go on to impact change through their leadership and over the course of their careers as alumni.

www.tfaconnecticut.org
www.facebook.com/TFAConnecticut

www.twitter.com/tfaconnecticut
www.instagram.com/teachforamerica

Morgan St. John, *Manager, Institutional Advancement*
(203) 786-5498, x42122; morgan.st.john@teachforamerica.org
Teach for America – CT, 370 James St., Suite 404, New Haven, CT 06513