



## AmeriCorps in Connecticut 2019-2020

### 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. **Serve Connecticut**, the Connecticut Commission on Community Service, is charged with managing, monitoring and evaluating AmeriCorps\*State programs. There are eight programs in the 2019-2020 AmeriCorps\*State portfolio:

### HEALTHForward

<https://www.health360.org>

HEALTHForward is an AmeriCorps program that tackles health disparities and the impact of social determinants of health in underserved communities in Connecticut. HEALTHForward's 13 AmeriCorps members serve at one of the five centers that comprise the CT AHEC Network and are responsible for the implementation of the Youth Health Service Corps, Collegiate Health Service Corps and Community Based Experiential Training field placements with high school, college and health profession students from underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds. AmeriCorps members engage underrepresented high school, college and health professions students in service learning activities with the goal of increasing student knowledge of health disparities and social determinants of health. 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.

Celia Meyer, AmeriCorps Program Director  
(203) 758-1110; [cmeyer@health360.org](mailto:cmeyer@health360.org)  
Health360, 83 Prospect St., Waterbury, CT 06702



<https://foodcorps.org/apply/where-youll-serve/connecticut/>

Healthy food is an essential building block for a full and productive life, but children across our nation face chronic barriers to eating it. Inequities in our country and shortcomings in our food systems have resulted in far too many children having insufficient opportunities to learn about, access, and enjoy healthy food, with one in three children in the United States overweight or obese (CDC, 2014).

FoodCorps recognizes the need to address obesity and diet-related disease where we can have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable children: schools. Schools are where children spend a third of their day and often eat half their daily calories. FoodCorps AmeriCorps members serve alongside educators and local leaders to support community-driven initiatives to connect kids to healthy food in schools, focusing on three areas of service: hands-on lessons (students grow, cook, and taste new foods, which builds their skills and changes food preferences); healthy school meals (the cafeteria experience steers students towards the healthiest options and gets them excited to try new healthy foods); and a school-wide culture of health (as a whole, the school community and environment—from hallways to classrooms to cafeteria to grounds—celebrates healthy food).

Twenty-two 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, classroom and 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.

Ashley Taylor, Government Partnerships Manager  
(212) 596-7045; [ashley.taylor@foodcorps.org](mailto:ashley.taylor@foodcorps.org)  
FoodCorps, 1140 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 110, Portland, OR 97214

**Jumpstart**

Children first!

<https://www.jstart.org/our-work/locations/connecticut/>

Jumpstart is active in 14 states across the nation and in the District of Columbia, bringing together Corps members and preschool children in low-income neighborhoods to help these children develop the core language and literacy, and social emotional 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, 225 college students from four university partners will serve preschool children across 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 Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, Storrs, Vernon and Willimantic.

Erin Bessette, Director of Corporate Programming  
(857) 413-4620; [erin.bessette@jstart.org](mailto:erin.bessette@jstart.org)  
Jumpstart, 308 Congress St., Boston, MA 02210



<http://nessf.org/ness-sea-ameri-corps-program/>

The NESS SEA (STEM Education Ambassadors) AmeriCorps Program serves students of New London, CT. 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 academic engagement and positively impact students' personal growth in the areas of life skills, self-esteem, self-confidence, and stewardship. 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 stewardship, 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.

Haley Herring-Sylvestre, AmeriCorps Manager  
(860) 237-7490; [hsylvestre@nessf.org](mailto:hsylvestre@nessf.org)  
New England Science & Sailing (NESS), 70 Water St. / PO Box 733, Stonington, CT 06378



<http://www.ryasap.org/prevention-corps/>

The mission of the Prevention Corps program is to provide proactive, community-focused solutions in opioid education, awareness, and stigma reduction. Prevention Corps members deliver trainings to individuals, community health practitioners, and service providers in SBIRT (Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment), deliver trainings to the community-at-large in using Narcan to prevent deaths from opioid overdose, work with pharmacies to distribute information on safe prescription medication storage and disposal, and work with local public, private, and faith-based organizations to deliver community education and/or awareness sessions on opioid use disorder and statistical trends. Members serve with health departments, colleges/universities, Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations, and Local Prevention Councils to combat the opioid crisis across central and western Connecticut.

Austin Terreri, Program Director

(203) 989-0580; [austin@ryasap.org](mailto:austin@ryasap.org)

Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (RYASAP), 2470 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06605



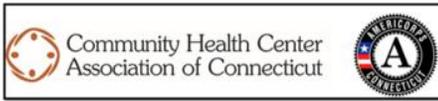
<http://publicallies.org/connecticut/>

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 25 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.

Emily Gallagher, Program Director

(203) 260-5996; [emilyg@publicallies.org](mailto:emilyg@publicallies.org)

Public Allies Connecticut, 2470 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06605



<http://www.chcact.org/about/stich/>

The Community Health Center Association of Connecticut, Inc. (CHCACT) will have 23 AmeriCorps members who will serve through its Service to Improve Community Health (STICH) AmeriCorps program to expand access to primary care and preventative health care for communities in Bridgeport, Cheshire, East Hartford, Hartford, New Haven, Norwalk, Greenwich, Norwich, and Waterbury. The AmeriCorps members will be responsible for increasing the understanding of health insurance literacy and changing the attitude of individuals to feel better equipped to navigate the health care system through health education. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage additional non-AmeriCorps volunteers who will be engaged in service projects that will support efforts to improve health outcomes in the community. CHCACT, a statewide association of federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), exists to enable Connecticut's FQHCs to provide access to the highest quality health care and social services to Connecticut's underserved populations. CHCACT was incorporated as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation in 1989 and has **almost 30** years of experience administering grants and contracts to implement a wide range of grant funded programs that provide training, technical assistance and support to Connecticut's FQHCs.

Maya Severson, Workforce Development Program Manager

(860) 282-4048; [mseverson@chcact.org](mailto:mseverson@chcact.org)

Community Health Center Association of Connecticut, Inc. (CHCACT), 1484 Highland Ave., Suite 2, Cheshire, CT 06410

## **TEACHFORAMERICA**

<https://connecticut.teachforamerica.org/>

In Connecticut, the problem of educational inequity is pervasive. Of the approximately 550,000 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 will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education. Our mission is to find, develop, and support a diverse network of leaders who expand opportunity for children from classrooms, schools, and every sector and field that shape the broader systems in which schools operate. 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. 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, Hartford, and New Haven. These individuals go on to impact change through their leadership and over the course of their careers as alumni.

Elana Price, Manager of Development and AmeriCorps

(203) 786-5498, x42110; [elana.price@teachforamerica.org](mailto:elana.price@teachforamerica.org)

Teach for America – Connecticut, 370 James St., Suite 404, New Haven, CT 06513