



Frequently Asked Questions

APPLICATION PROCESS

Do I need to have experience working with youth in order to be considered?

No! While many organizations appreciate previous experience in youth settings – we understand that someone without direct experience in the field can still make a significant positive contribution to the lives of young people and the organizations that serve them. Training and supportive supervision are embedded in the program model to ensure Fellows are ready to support their young people.

Who can I use for my references?

We ask that you provide us with three professional references, which can be anyone who has supervised you in a professional setting (i.e. manager, professor, supervisor, etc.). Please refrain from using family members or friends as your reference.

Can I apply to more than one host site at a time?

The Massachusetts Promise Fellowship is a state program with 40 different service positions located across Massachusetts. You may select up to five preferred host sites when completing the application. If you are deciding between a couple of sites, we encourage you to learn more by researching the site of interest, the location, the community, and the cost of living. Should you move past the first round interview with MPF staff, you will be able to interview with up to 3 host sites.

Will I get my first pick?

Having learned a lot over the past decade, we understand what makes for a balanced hostship and service experience. We take into consideration a candidates' first pick, but we do not guarantee that they will receive their first choice. When matching begins, we are looking at host site culture and support, candidate interest and experience, along with a candidate's commitment to not only their placement site but to MPF programming. Most candidates are placed at one of their top sites. When choosing a site, it is recommended that you choose a site where you would be most comfortable serving.

If I am not offered an AmeriCorps member position, can I reapply for the next deadline?

Unfortunately, you cannot reapply during the same year, even to another site. You are welcome to reapply the following year. We encourage applicants who were not admitted to continue serving their community and strongly suggest that they explore other AmeriCorps or service programs in their local area or preferred region.

SERVICE

When do Fellows start service?

The term of service for Fellows begins in mid-August of each year.

How is MPF related to AmeriCorps?

The Massachusetts Promise Fellowship is a member of the AmeriCorps network. AmeriCorps is a federally funded network of national service programs that engages Americans in service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health and the environment.

What are some of the general challenges during your service year? How do you cope?

Mass Promise Fellows typically work a full-time schedule of 8 hours each day and 40 hours a week, while balancing data and evaluation requirements, and attending professional development meetings. Some days will be rough and during those moments it is important to lean on the support of fellow corps members and to end each day on a positive note. During your year of service, you will be coached on how to troubleshoot and be solution oriented whether it's about life-work balance, meeting a deadline, or host site challenges. It's also important to remember to utilize your weekends to relax and reflect.

How do Fellows connect throughout the program year?

Every month, Mass Promise Fellows are required to attend professional development opportunities that are hosted by the Massachusetts Promise Fellowship leadership team at Northeastern University. Twice per year, in the fall and spring, Fellows participate in team building overnight retreats for additional training and community building. As an added level of support and connection, every Fellow is assigned a Senior Fellow (a person doing a second year of service and that serves as a senior leader in the program). Each advising group led by a Senior Fellow consists of 5-8 other corps members.

How do you know you've made a difference in the life of a student?

The Massachusetts Promise Fellowship collects quantitative and qualitative data that reflects the effectiveness of the service AmeriCorps members are doing on a daily basis. Using surveys, we track student attitudes towards school, their feedback on programming, and receive updates on student progress from Fellows via monthly reporting. On a personal level, Fellows are consistently building trust and healthy relationships with the students they are serving.

Is it possible to work and attend school while serving as a MPF AmeriCorps member?

Serving as an AmeriCorps member is a full-time position Monday through Friday. It is possible to work an additional job or attend school during the evenings or weekends, but it is expected that all Fellows prioritize their MPF service.

BENEFITS

What will I be paid?

The living stipend for the year of service is \$20,000.

As a Fellow you receive a bi-weekly living stipend with access to health insurance, member assistance program (MAP), monthly travel/work allowance and more. Read more on our [benefits and resources page](#).

What is required to complete the program and receive the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award?

To receive the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, an AmeriCorps member must complete 1,700 hours of service, all MPF-related requirements, and serve through the program's graduation date.

What colleges and universities augment or match the Segal Education Award?

For a list of colleges and universities that augment or match the education award, visit the [AmeriCorps website](#).

Can my student loans be put in forbearance while I am serving with MPF?

Yes, in most cases. For specific information, please see the [AmeriCorps website benefits page](#).

Will I receive vacation, holidays and sick days?

Yes, You will receive 9 federal holidays off (except Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) as well as your birthday. You also receive flexible time off for vacation/personal time or due to illness throughout the year as long as you remain on track to complete 1,700 hours of service within the program's term.

Does MPF provide housing?

MPF does not provide housing for its AmeriCorps members. However, when you are admitted, one of the first things you will do is join an online community, which is typically a Basecamp group. Here you will have the opportunity to connect with your fellow incoming AmeriCorps members and start a dialogue to find housing together.