

AGE STRONG COMMISSION'S VOLUNTEER PROGRAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Michelle Wu, Mayor of Boston | **Emily Shea**, Age Strong Commissioner
Joseph Goncalves, Director of Volunteer Programs

617-635-4366 ● boston.gov/age-strong ● 1 City Hall Plaza, Room 271, Boston, MA 02201

Welcome to Age Strong's Volunteer Newsletter!

Since there's so much volunteer activity going on at Boston's Age Strong Commission, we've decided to launch a monthly newsletter to keep you informed.



AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP
Volunteer Yukyen Chin & Volunteer
Program Coordinator Jose Ramirez

Inside, you'll learn more about our AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP program, our AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer Andrea Sargent, and Volunteer partner ABCD South End Neighborhood Service Center.

Are you interested in assisting at a local food pantry by assembling and distributing food? Join the AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP program to uplift, inspire, and lend a hand to your community.

Thanks for reading,

Joseph Goncalves

*Director of Volunteer Programs
Boston's Age Strong
Commission*

LEARN ABOUT OUR AMERICORPS SENIORS RSVP PROGRAM

Boston’s Age Strong Commission runs a variety of volunteer programs where older adults age 55+ can share their time and skills to help their community.

We currently seek volunteers for our AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Program, which matches people 55+ with impact-driven volunteer opportunities designed to keep older adults actively engaged and living independently within their communities.



AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers help meet critical unmet community needs through impact-driven opportunities like assembling or distributing food at a pantry or preparing simple taxes. AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers can find opportunities with any of the organizations Age Strong works with that address local, regional, and national challenges.

Why become an AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer? AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers who serve in our RSVP program choose how, where, and when they want to serve, with commitments ranging from a few hours–to up to 40 hours per week.



AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Volunteer Kristina Hals facilitating an Opioid Education workshop

Volunteering keeps you active and engaged within your community and allows you to use your skills and interests to help support residents of Boston. In return, AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers receive the training and support they need to make a difference. Volunteers may receive reimbursement for some out-of-pocket expenses, an invitation to our annual Volunteer Recognition luncheon and connection to free events sponsored by the City of Boston.

Who is eligible? AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers must be 55+, pass a background check, and serve in the City of Boston.

Interested? Reach out to Jose Ramirez, Volunteer Program Coordinator, by calling 617-635-4374 or emailing jose.ramirez@boston.gov.

MEET AMERICORPS SENIORS VOLUNTEER ANDREA SARGENT



Where are you originally from?

Boston

How long have you lived in Boston?

Born and raised in Boston

Which neighborhood do you live in?

Roslindale



*AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP
Volunteer Andrea Sargent*

What did you do for a living?
Andrea works full time in the marketing department of an independent publisher based in New York. Andrea also works for the City as a poll worker (elections inspector) on election days. She said it's another great way for retirees and others to get involved in their communities.

Where did you go to school (high school or college or both)? **Andrea attended Brookline High School & Amherst College.**



*AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP
 Volunteer Andrea Sargent*

Where do you volunteer?
Andrea volunteers with The Centre Food Hub in Jamaica Plain.

What do you do as your service at the site?

We provide healthy food from the food pantry to underserved neighborhoods who do not have access to healthy foods. We also conduct food justice outreach.

What do you get out of volunteering? **Food insecurity is the greatest volunteer work and I am proud to be part of it.**

What would you say to someone considering volunteering?
Absolutely do it! It is rewarding and gives you structure and socialization.

Aside from volunteering, what do you like to do in your spare time or for joy/fun? **I love to travel and be with family and friends.**

LEARN ABOUT AGE STRONG'S VOLUNTEER PARTNER SITE: ABCD SOUTH END NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTER



ABCD South End Neighborhood Service Center team members

554 Columbus Avenue

Boston, MA 02118

Tel: 617-267-7400

bostonabcd.org/location/southend-nsc/

ABCD South End has been a partner since 2024.

Mission of ABCD:

ABCD Mission Statement: ABCD builds pathways out of poverty in partnership with families and communities so that everyone can thrive.

How long has ABCD been in business?

ABCD was founded in 1962. ABCD has served communities for more than 60 years.

What do volunteers do at ABCD South End? A.K.A South End Neighborhood Service Center (SENSC) is a neighborhood site of ABCD, serving the South End and surrounding communities for decades.

- Assist with food access center (pantry) operations
- Help organize and distribute food
- Assist staff with daily neighborhood center operations
- Volunteer as a VITA tax preparer

Why should older adults want to volunteer with ABCD?

- Stay active, social, and engaged in the community
- Share valuable life experience and skills
- Build meaningful relationships and reduce isolation
- Help improve the lives of local families and seniors
- Gain a sense of purpose while giving back

- **What services are offered?**
 - Food access and food pantry programs
 - Utility bill and housing advocacy
 - SNAP and benefits assistance
 - Tax preparation assistance
 - Employment and resume support
 - Youth and senior programs
 - Immigration and citizenship services
 - Wellness classes and case management
 - Alternative High Schools
 - Health services and trainings
 - Seasonal programs



VOLUNTEER TEAM IN ACTION ●●●●●●●●

Age Strong's Volunteer Coordinators gave a presentation on our Volunteer Programs to Older Adults at Symphony Plaza East and West.



Age Strong Volunteer Program Coordinator Libby Federici & residents of Symphony Plaza East/West.

AGE STRONG SEEKS NEW VOLUNTEERS!

The Age Strong Commission offers four different volunteer programs to help older residents live their best lives, while aging in place.

AMERICORPS SENIORS RSVP PROGRAM

We match volunteers age 55+ with partner sites, including senior centers & food pantries, or train you to help residents learn English as a second language, prepare tax returns or facilitate opioid & scam prevention workshops.



BOSTON CITY HALL GREETERS

City Hall Greeters provide friendly assistance to residents visiting City Hall. Each volunteer has access to an iPad equipped with maps and other information to assist visitors.



PROPERTY TAX WORK-OFF PROGRAM

Boston homeowners age 60+ may "work off" up to \$2,000 from their property taxes by volunteering their skills & knowledge to one of the City's offices, community centers, or public schools.



AMERICORPS SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

Senior Companion volunteers age 55+ help older adults with everyday tasks like getting to appointments & shopping, as well as providing respite care to care partners. Some volunteers may qualify for a tax-free stipend.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL 617-635-4366 OR VISIT [BOSTON.GOV/AGE-STRONG](https://boston.gov/age-strong)