BOSTON'S 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 Boston's Age Strong Commission's November Volunteer Newsletter!

There's so much volunteer activity going on at the Age Strong Commission, so we've launched a monthly newsletter to keep you informed.



AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers at Age Strong's Volunteer Recognition Celebration

Inside, you'll learn more about our Older Adult Property Tax Work-Off Program, Volunteer Stephen Landrigan, and one of our Volunteer Program Coordinators, Libby Federici.

Are you interested in saving up to $2,000 on your property taxes each year? Join Age Strong's Older Adult Property Tax Work-Off Program!

Thanks for reading,

Joseph Goncalves
Director of Volunteer Programs
Boston's Age Strong Commission

LEARN ABOUT AGE STRONG'S OLDER ADULT PROPERTY TAX WORK-OFF PROGRAM

Boston's Age Strong Commission runs a variety of volunteer programs where Boston's older adults can share their time and skills to support their community.

The Older Adult Property Tax Work-Off Program gives qualified participants age 60+ the opportunity to volunteer up to 133.5 hours in exchange for a property tax reduction of up to $2,000 per year.



AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers at the AmeriCorps Seniors Nationwide Celebration

Work-Off volunteers provide support to City of Boston departments, Boston Public Schools, Boston Public Libraries, and Boston Centers for Youth & Families in a variety of assignments. Some volunteers have:

- assisted the registry department with greeting/directing visitors for weddings at City Hall
- supported arrival/dismissal at Boston Public Schools
- provided after-school help at Boston Centers for Youth & Families
- provided front desk support to many City departments
- sold taxi coupons to older adults at Age Strong's senior centers

... and more!

Why become a Work-Off Volunteer? Volunteering in this program helps lower your annual expenses, keeps you active and engaged in your community, and allows you to use your skills and interests to support both your fellow residents and the City of Boston.

Who is eligible? Participants must:

- be 60 or older by January 1 of each year
- income qualify: $72,000 if single and $82,320 if married (60% AMI *determined by HUD*)
  - *What to Know about Area Median Income (AMI) | Mass.gov*
  - *HUD Home | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*
- have owned and occupied a residential property in Boston for at least three years, and
- own and occupy your property as your principal residence. If the property is subject to a trust, you must have legal title (you need to be one of the trustees and a beneficiary)

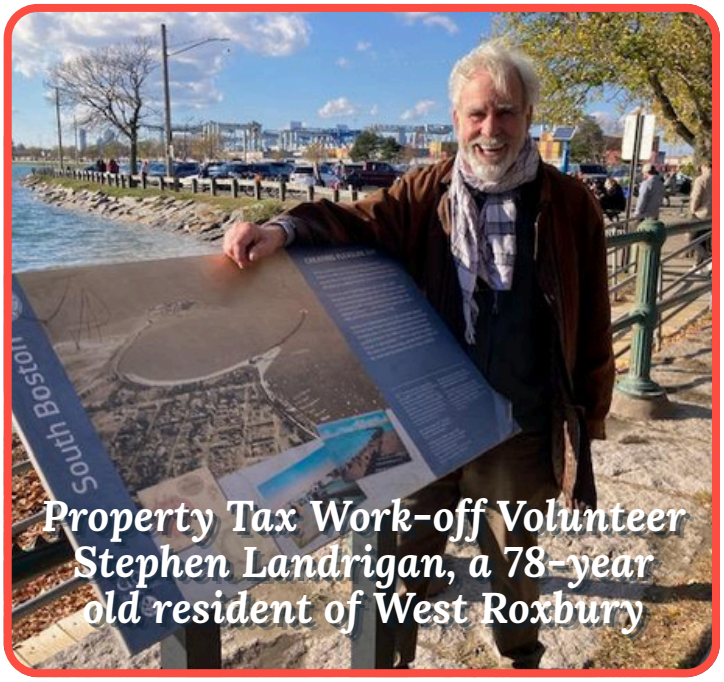
Applications for the 2027-2028 program cycle will be available in January 2027!

Interested? Please contact Libby Federici, Volunteer Program Coordinator, at 617-635-5741 or elizabeth.federici@boston.gov to add your name to our mailing list.



Annual Age Strong Volunteer Recognition Celebration

MEET PROPERTY TAX WORK-OFF VOLUNTEER STEPHEN LANDRIGAN



Property Tax Work-off Volunteer Stephen Landrigan, a 78-year old resident of West Roxbury

Originally from West Roxbury, Stephen has lived most of his professional life in Washington D.C. or overseas. “Despite having lived in many places, I always came back to Boston for holidays and family events.”

Stephen attended the Boston Latin School (class of 1966), and Boston College, “where I majored in English and psychology. Both served me well in my career as a journalist.”

“As a journalist, I worked for small newspapers in Pennsylvania and New York state,” he says. “Then I moved to London becoming an editor at the Washington Post’s London bureau. In my spare time, I edited a community newspaper, the Afro-Caribbean Post. Later I came back to Washington as a correspondent and producer for the BBC Radio London, focusing on African and Caribbean stories.”

While in D.C., he transitioned to the U.S. Agency for International Development chronicling projects overseas. “I spent 10 years in Eastern Europe after the fall of Communism, then lived in Afghanistan for six years after 9/11,” Stephen says. “Even after I returned to the U.S. in 2010, I continued marketing Afghan hand-made carpet worldwide through 2021.”

Stephen spent much time and money helping Afghan friends to safety. “That wiped out my savings and I fell behind on my property taxes,” he shares. “So becoming a Property Tax Work-off Volunteer seemed a perfect fit for me. My schedule can be flexible, while I save money on property taxes.”

“I’m glad to lend my writing skills to the Hyde Park Historical Society as they reconstruct their website,” Stephen says. “The best part of volunteering is getting to know folks at the Society, all very dedicated volunteers, donating their time and knowledge.”

In addition to volunteering with Age Strong, Stephen also supports the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Patrons Action Network, the Friends of the Boston Harborwalk, and is writing a travel book on Bulgaria for a London publisher.

MEET VOLUNTEER PROGRAM COORDINATOR LIBBY FEDERICI

Libby serves as Age Strong’s volunteer coordinator for both the City Hall Greeters Program and the Older Adult Property Tax Work-Off Program. “A typical day starts with saying hello to our Greeters on my way into city hall, and answering any questions they may have to assist visitors,” she shares. “Throughout the day, I connect with our Property Tax Work-off participants on how their volunteer placement is going.



I also reach out to our volunteer site partners to see how our volunteers are doing in their placement. We're always seeking new potential partner sites, so I attend various site meetings and sometimes give presentations to help spread the word on our volunteer programs."

Older adults age 60+ may want to become an Age Strong volunteer to "combat social isolation when entering a new chapter of life," Libby says. "Our 60+ Bostonians are the most experienced people in our city; we'd love to connect with you and learn about your skills! Our volunteer programs are unique as they can put money back in your pocket with benefits like property tax reductions and transportation reimbursements."

"It's never too late to try something new," Libby says. "Many of our volunteers serve more hours than required, simply because they've found a great placement. We want volunteers to have an enriching experience that's beneficial to our city–creating lasting connections between seniors and their community, all while saving homeowners money."

"Unlike many workplaces," Libby explains, "my days aren't overwhelmed with virtual meetings and emails. I spend lots of time talking with older adults on the phone and taking in-person meetings at City Hall or in the community. I enjoy hearing life stories, and learning about their relationship to Boston."

In her spare time, Libby, who lives the South End, enjoys bike riding and reading fiction. "I'm currently training for my sixth half marathon," she shares.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY CORNER



Age Strong seeks volunteers for our AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program, matching Boston residents 55+ with other older adults (one-on-one) to provide friendship and assistance with daily living tasks such as grocery shopping or opening and reading mail.

Volunteers are needed to serve 5-20 hours weekly and must be able to travel within the City of Boston. Volunteers may be eligible for some out-of-pocket expenses reimbursement and a tax-free stipend.

Interested? Reach out to Quanda Smith, Volunteer Program Coordinator, by calling 617-635-1794 or emailing quanda.smith@boston.gov.

THANK YOU!

Age Strong thanks all of our amazing volunteers for all you do to make the City of Boston better. We appreciate you!







*This material is based upon work supported by AmeriCorps. Opinions or points of view expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of, or a position that is endorsed by, AmeriCorps.

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

CITY of BOSTON | AGE+ | Age Strong Commission | AmeriCorps Seniors

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

ABCD FUEL ASSISTANCE

FOR HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS



We can help you and your family stay safe and warm by covering a portion of your heating bills — oil, gas, electric and others.

This federally funded program serves income eligible, elderly and disabled residents in thousands of households every year.

- If you qualify, we may pay up to **$600** of your fuel bill this winter.
- If you are **NOT** living in state or federally subsidized housing, you may be eligible for assistance not only with heating bills but also with rent if heat is included.
- Check the chart to see if your yearly income falls at or below the level indicated.
- If you qualify for ABCD fuel assistance, we help pay your winter heating bill by working directly with vendors, and you can take advantage of many other services that are absolutely free.
- **IMPORTANT:** If you applied for Fuel Assistance last winter, you must return the application mailed to you to receive assistance this year.

FUEL ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES: 2026 - 2027	
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	TOTAL GROSS YEARLY INCOME
1	$53,585
2	$70,073
3	$86,561
4	$103,049
5	$119,536
6	$136,024
7	$139,116
8	$142,207
OVER 8*	*CONTACT ABCD FUEL ASSISTANCE STAFF

APPLY TODAY!

Residents of Boston, Brookline, and Newton
can reach ABCD Fuel Assistance at:
178 Tremont Street, Boston, MA.
Call us at 617.357.6012
TTY: 617.423.9215

Residents of Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Stoneham, Winchester, and Woburn
can reach ABCD Fuel Assistance at:
2 Florence Street, 4th floor, Malden MA.
Call us at 781.322.6284

Or make an appointment at your nearest ABCD intake site listed on the back



AGE STRONG COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR

PART-TIME | 10 HOURS/WEEK | BOSTON RESIDENTS AGE 55+

WE ARE HIRING!

Мы нанимаем сотрудников!

Chúng tôi đang tuyển dụng

Nap Rekrite!

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Are you 55+ & passionate about supporting your community?

Become an Age Strong Commission **Russian, Vietnamese, Haitian, Chinese, Cape Verdean, Caribbean, or West African Community Ambassador!**

Use your life experience & local knowledge to connect older adults in your neighborhood to valuable resources & programs.

WHY APPLY?

- ☑ Make a difference in your neighborhood; help older adults access services, feel heard & supported
- ☑ Flexible work schedule
- ☑ Share your strengths; use your language, culture & community connections

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

- ☑ Meet older adults, listen to their needs & build trusted relationships
- ☑ Share about Age Strong's programs & services
- ☑ Represent Age Strong at local meetings & events

YOU'RE A GREAT FIT IF YOU ARE:

- ☑ 55 years or older
- ☑ Are a City of Boston resident
- ☑ Friendly & community-focused
- ☑ Bilingual
- ☑ Comfortable using basic computer programs

THREE WAYS TO APPLY:

- ☑ Visit Age Strong Community Ambassador webpage to submit an application
- ☑ Scan the QR code to fill out an application now!
- ☑ Or Email your resume to ageambassador@boston.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

AGEAMBASSADOR@BOSTON.GOV

617-635-2451

AGE+ | Age Strong Commission