

AGE STRONG COMMISSION'S VOLUNTEER PROGRAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

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Welcome to Age Strong's new monthly 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.

Inside, you'll learn more about our AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP program, our RSVP Volunteer Pat Maguire, and Volunteer Station Jewish Vocational Service (JVS).



Are you interested in assisting in an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classroom, tutoring or leading a conversation group? 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 fellow older adults.

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.

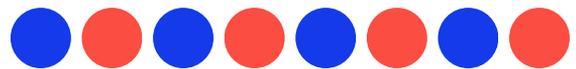


AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers help meet critical unmet community needs through impact-driven opportunities like assembling or distributing food at a pantry or delivering food to homebound older adults. RSVP volunteers make a difference. Volunteers can find opportunities with any of the organizations Age Strong works with that address local, regional, and national challenges.

Why become an RSVP 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. Volunteering keeps you active and engaged within your community and allows you to use your skills and interests to help support older residents of Boston. In return, RSVP 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? RSVP 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**](mailto:jose.ramirez@boston.gov).



MEET RSVP VOLUNTEER PAT MAGUIRE!

The RSVP Program pairs thousands of Americans ages 55+ with organizations making change in communities across the country.

RSVP volunteers choose how, where, and when they want to serve, with commitments ranging from a few hours to 40 hours per week.

The Property Tax Work-Off volunteer opportunity gives qualified homeowners who are aged 60+ the opportunity to work-off up to \$2,000 off their property tax bill by offering volunteer services to various departments in the city.

Boston-born Pat Maguire has served in both Age Strong volunteer programs. “I started by volunteering through the RSVP program,” Pat says. “I had just gotten laid off from my job of 9 years, and I wanted something to do.



While weighing my options, a friend, also an RSVP volunteer, suggested I look into volunteering.” Pat shared that her first RSVP Volunteer placement was as an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) teacher. “I’ve done work with immigrants before, with East Boston’s Ecumenical Community Council, so teaching ESOL was already in my wheelhouse.”

Pat also worked in different capacities of higher education, which helped lead her to her current Property Tax Work-Off volunteer position at Dorchester’s Mather Elementary School. “It’s really great. It feels like an extension of my previous experience. I’m an assistant to the teacher. I’m willing to do whatever she needs from me. The other day I photocopied my heart out! Other days I help students with reading and math.”

Although the 2025 Property Tax Work-Off Program cycle ended in November, Pat continued volunteering at the Mather School, because she built lasting relationships there. “When I came back after the holiday break, as I walked up to the building I started hearing 6th graders calling my name, ‘Mrs. Maguire! You came back!’ They were so excited to see me. It felt really nice.”

Pat joined Age Strong’s Property Tax Work-Off Program in 2025. “I got Age Strong’s email about the opportunity and thought, this is perfect!”



I was able to continue filling my time volunteering, and earned a good amount off my property taxes, which helped a lot.

“Age Strong is a fabulous resource,” Pat says. “I feel really supported by the organization and the Volunteer team. I can always call them with any questions.”

I feel like I’m at my best with others, and volunteering through these programs has allowed me to do just that. I get to spend my time helping and building relationships, and that's what it's all about.”

For more information about Age Strong’s Volunteer opportunities, visit boston.gov/departments/agestrong-commission/volunteeropportunities-older-people or call the commission at (617) 635-4366.

LEARN ABOUT AGE STRONG VOLUNTEER PARTNER SITE: JEWISH VOCATIONAL SERVICE



Age Strong places volunteers at many partner sites across Boston, including community nonprofits, Boston Public Schools, and Age Strong grantees. One partner site is Jewish Vocational Service (JVS), whose mission is to empower individuals from diverse communities to find employment and build careers, while partnering with employers to hire, develop, and retain productive workforces. “Learning, partnership, quality, respect, and social justice are the pillars of our values.”

JVS was founded in 1938 during the Great Depression to assist Jewish immigrants and refugees struggling to enter the American workforce and support their families.

Today, JVS is among the oldest and largest providers of adult education and workforce development services in Greater Boston.

JVS has been an Age Strong AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer site partner since 2024.

Volunteers at JVS support and build program capacity by serving in ESOL classrooms, assisting clients with resume building and job searching, job interview preparation, help navigating computers and applications, and as career “mentors”. Volunteer support helps job seekers feel prepared for the workplace and take meaningful steps toward employment.



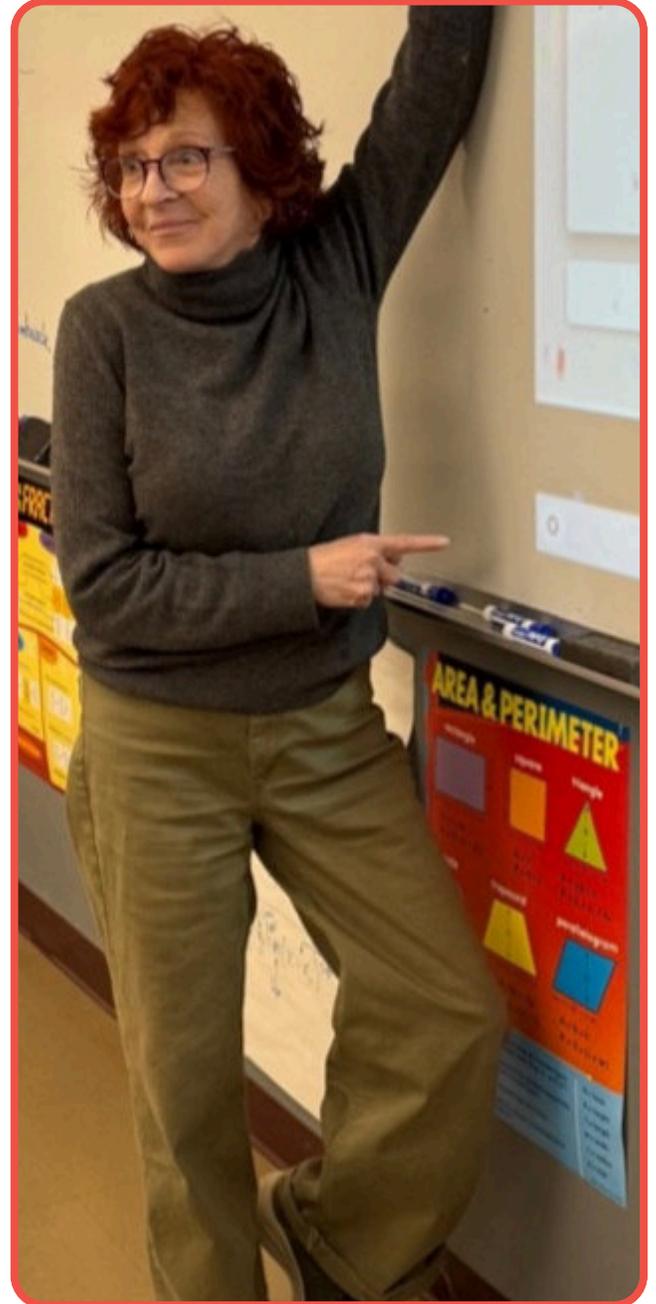
SKILLS . JOBS . CAREERS

JVS located at 75 Federal Street in Downtown Boston can be reached at 617-399-3131 or www.jvs-boston.org.



AGE STRONG VOLUNTEER TEAM IN ACTION

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Volunteer Deirdre Murphy serves with St. Mark Community Education as an ESOL volunteer, assisting a class two nights a week at Boston College High School in Dorchester.



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)