

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 Volunteer Newsletter!

There's so much volunteer activity going on at Boston's Age Strong Commission that we've launched a monthly newsletter to keep you in the know!



Inside, you'll learn more about our Older Adult Property Tax Work-Off Program, volunteer Derek Olivacce, and one of our volunteer partner sites—the West Roxbury branch of the Boston Public Library.

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, 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.

Work-Off volunteers provide support to City of Boston departments, Boston Public Schools, Boston Public Libraries, and Boston Centers for Youth and 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 and Families
- provided front desk support to many City departments
- sold taxi coupons to older adults at Age Strong's senior centers

... and more!

Who is eligible? Participants must:

- be 60 or older by January 1 of each year
- income qualify: (60% AMI determined by 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)

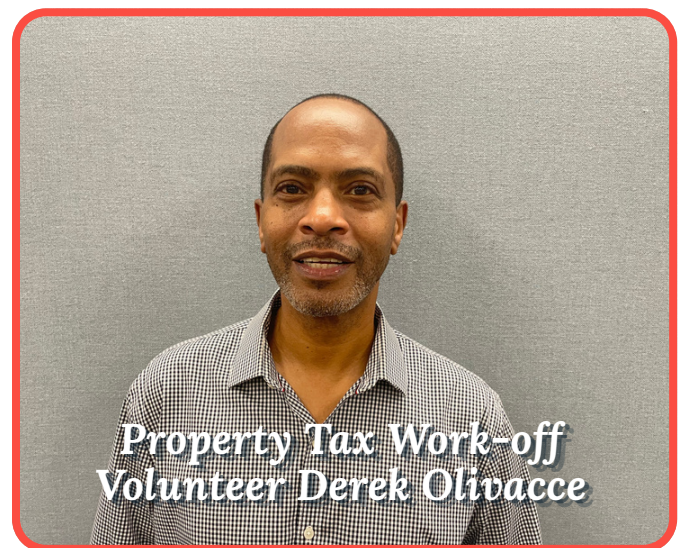
Applications for the 2027-2028 program cycle and updated income eligibility will be available in January 2027!

Interested? Please reach out to Libby Federici, Volunteer Program Coordinator, at 617-635-5741 or elizabeth.federici@boston.gov to join our mailing list.

**MEET PROPERTY TAX
WORK-OFF
VOLUNTEER
DEREK OLIVACCE**

Derek Olivacce lives in Mattapan and is 61. This is his first year volunteering with the Property Tax Work-Off Program. Originally from London, he became a U.S. citizen in 1994. He's lived in Boston since 1998.

Derek graduated from Brockton High School in 1984 and from TCI College of Technology in 1999. He worked at Boston's Colonnade Hotel as the overnight audit supervisor.



According to Derek, he applied to the Property Tax Work-Off Program “to help reduce my property tax bill and overall expenses.”

As a volunteer, Derek has served as a fill-in counselor at the Transitions Treatment Program, run by the Boston Public Health Commission in Mattapan. He completed 133 volunteer hours there. “The amazing staff trained me, making sure I felt confident in doing the work.”

“I helped with program admissions, welcoming new clients before they get assigned to rooms and caseworkers. I assisted with the daily resident attendance census, helped monitor client safety in communal areas, and oversee clients’ outdoor breaks.”

In his spare time, Derek likes “listening to music, playing and watching basketball, and riding my bike throughout the neighborhood.”

He recommends that anyone thinking of volunteering should “give it a try. It's rewarding knowing we can help people in our community.”

LEARN ABOUT AGE STRONG'S VOLUNTEER PARTNER SITE: BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY'S WEST ROXBURY BRANCH



Boston Public Library's mission has always centered on reading and literacy, along with the spaces and programs that support lifelong learning. Beyond books, the library serves as a hub for research, education, and community connection, offering resources like job and career support, digital literacy help, and more.



Their motto, “Free To All,” applies to every aspect of the library’s offerings. Boston Public Libraries are places for all people, regardless of gender, race, or religion.

Founded in 1848, Boston Public Library (BPL) is the first large municipal free library in the United States. What began as a single library soon grew, as demand for access across the city increased. Today there are 26 locations serving hundreds of thousands of residents each year.

BPL’s West Roxbury Branch offers a diverse selection of programming and events, from book discussions to baby lapsits to movie showings, alongside everyday practical services like computer and WiFi access, printing, homework help, and more.



It’s also home to BPL’s very first Age Strong Librarian Isabella De Gregorio, who advocates for the older adults (age 60+) in the community and develops special programming and resources tailored to their interests.

Age Strong volunteers support the inner workings of the West Roxbury branch in a variety of ways, including program preparation, organizing books for easier shelving, and taking on tasks that help librarians manage their busy schedules. Age Strong’s volunteer, Pam, helps organize book carts in the Children’s Room, assists with crafts, and weeds both the adult nonfiction and children’s book collections.

Volunteering with the BPL is a great opportunity for personal growth and a wonderful opportunity to give back to your community.

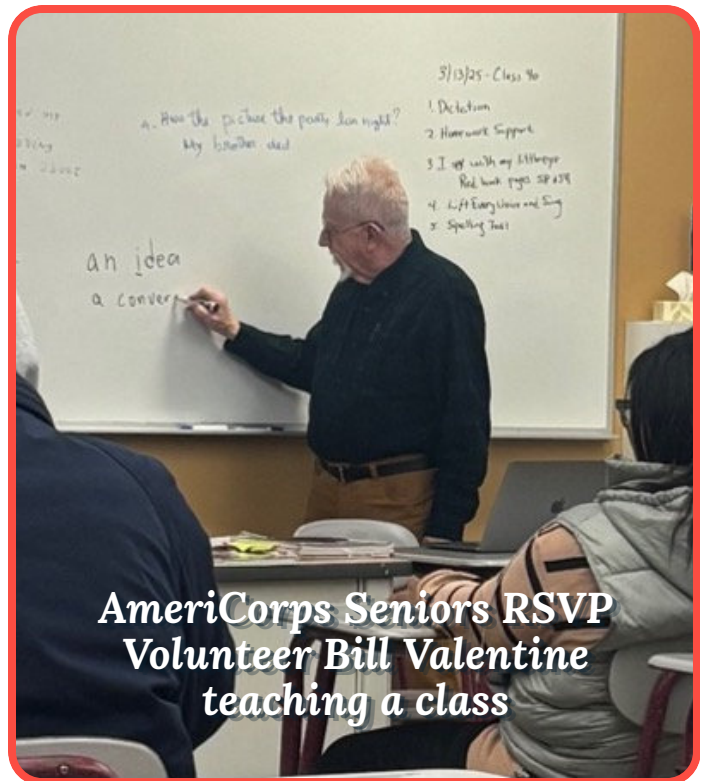
For older adults especially, it's a chance to stay socially engaged, keep a flexible schedule, and put a lifetime of skills and experience to good use in a new way.

Boston Public Library
West Roxbury Branch
961 Centre Street
West Roxbury, MA 02132
(617) 325-3147
bpl.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY CORNER ●●●●●

Age Strong seeks volunteers for our ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) volunteer opportunity with our AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP program.

Service Description: AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Volunteers will be matched with students in one-on-one or small-group settings, leading classes, or serving as class aides, assisting ESL teachers in programs.



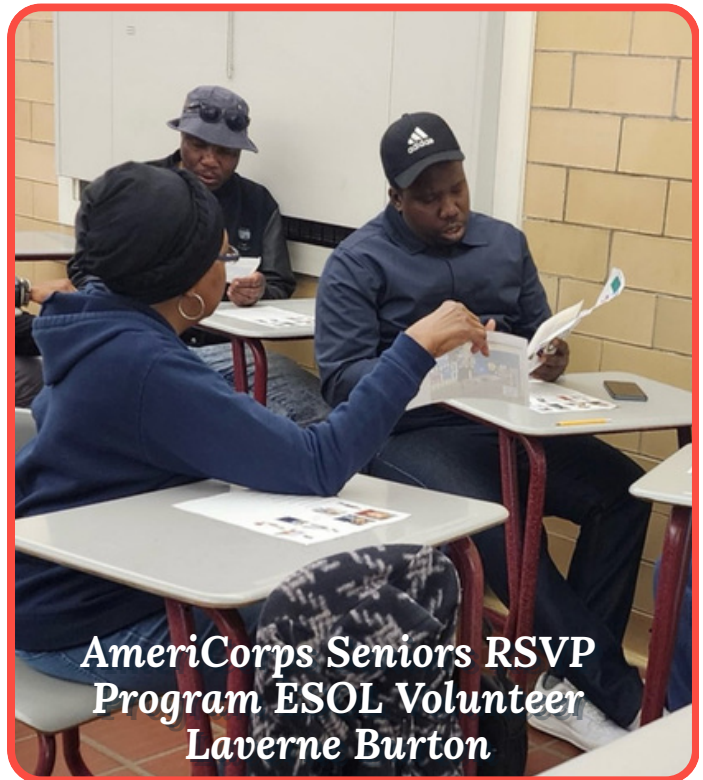
**AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP
Volunteer Bill Valentine
teaching a class**

Volunteer Descriptions

- Classroom Management - help instructors run classes on Zoom: participate in dialogs with instructors, keep attendance, arrange breakouts, call on students/relay questions, ensure students are on/off mute and camera.
- Classroom Tutors - support the instructor by leading group exercises, providing 1:1 support to students, or initiating and guiding conversation groups in Zoom class breakouts.

- Conversation Group Facilitator
- outside of class, lead smaller groups of students practicing English without the instructor. Practice lessons specific to recent content covered in class or lead conversations and encourage participation about current events, hobbies, families, plans, etc.

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



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)