

New England Farm Workers' Council Inc. VISTA Host Sites 2012-13

New England Farm Workers' Council AmeriCorps*VISTA Program

New England Farm Workers' Council (NEFWC) is the sponsoring organization which operates the AmeriCorps* VISTA Program that places volunteers in local nonprofits that address poverty through increasing educational access, improving healthier outcomes, and promoting the advancement of economic opportunities.

NEFWC Farm Worker's Program - MA, NH, CT, & RI

NEFWC's WIA 167 Farmworker Program provides agricultural workers, landscapers, and nursery workers with supportive services such as English as a Second Language (ESL), job readiness and searching, life skills, basic computer and math classes, career counseling, referrals, job placement assistance, and occupational training enrollments. NEFWC also provides supplemental services such as tuition, books, housing, childcare, transportation, and paid learning stipends. Retention services are also a critical component that is built in the programming in order to ensure the creation of long-term employment outcomes.

URL: <http://www.partnersforcommunity.org/default/index.cfm/about-pfc/affiliates-programs/nefwc/>

New England Farm Workers Council Workforce Investment (WIA) Youth Program

NEFWC WIA 167's Youth Program is a workforce development program for youth that is funded through the Regional Employment Board of Hampden County (REB). NEFWC WIA Youth Program focuses on positive youth development, high expectations, and incorporates a holistic approach to provide its targeted population, consisting of disengaged and disadvantaged youth, with the best possible program. The program's pledge to youth is that they are important, in a safe environment, able to make informed choices, and that they make a difference. The NEFWC WIA Youth Program is an excellent alternative for the targeted population of underserved youth because it sets high expectations and requires youth to take ownership of their lives through education and work readiness.

Career Point

CareerPoint is a One-Stop Career Center that offers career preparation services and a wide variety of other assistance that is targeted at strengthening the low-income work force and community members since its founding, 15 years ago. The walk-in counselors and workshop trainers provide one on one, group career counseling, and job matching assistance for youth, adults, and mature workers throughout and beyond Western Massachusetts.

URL: <http://www.careerpointma.org/>

Enlace de Familias / Holyoke Family Network Inc.

Enlace de Familias (Holyoke Family Network) serves the poorest families and individuals in Holyoke; with over 99% of their participants having received public assistance such as Mass Health, TANF, SNAP and/or fuel assistance. The mission of Enlace de Familias is to promote a community where all families have the opportunity to improve the quality of their life. Enlace advances its mission through the work of its Family Center, information & referral services, parenting programs, leadership development programs, civic engagement, and through the development of sustainable solutions to address the issues surrounding poverty in Holyoke. URL: <http://www.enlacedefamilias.org/>

Holyoke Food & Fitness Policy Council (HFFPC)

The Holyoke Food & Fitness Policy Council (HFFPC) is a vibrant community coalition that aims to create local change by mobilizing volunteers, empowering the community, and engaging youth leaders to work together towards promoting policy and system change that improves healthy eating, lifestyles, and active living outcomes for low income residents of Holyoke. HFFPC is coordinated through a partnership between Holyoke Health Center, the Holyoke YMCA, and Nuestras Raices. Each of these agencies supports core objectives of the council. URL: <http://holyokefoodandfitness.org/>

Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts (MIFA)

The Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts (MIFA) Theatre project is a comprehensive community development and education program in downtown Holyoke, Massachusetts. The project involves the restoration and reopening of the historic Victory Theatre and the expansion of a successful education and outreach program to include on the job training programs that are targeted for youth ages 14-20 in all aspects of the operation of the theatre in conjunction with the city's high schools and Holyoke Community College. URL: <http://www.mifafestival.org/>

Nehemiah Ministries – Pulse Arts Space (PAS)

The Pulse Arts Space (PAS) is an initiative of Nehemiah Ministries (NMI) that has established an influential presence of imagination, creativity, and art in Springfield, MA. The PAS is a multipurpose community arts venue that builds community across social divides for the nourishment of personal and social revitalization. The PAS facilitates artistic interaction by providing a central gathering place in the community for collaboration, creation, and showcasing of contemporary art. The PAS also makes artistic education, exploration, and expression more accessible to Springfield's diverse population. This is accomplished through the development of a community gallery space for emerging artists in addition to providing affordable art classes. URL: <http://www.nehemiah-ministries.com/activities.html>

Partners for a Healthier Community (PHC)

Partners for a Healthier Community (PHC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a measurably healthier Springfield through civic leadership, collaborative partnerships, and advocacy. PHC is chaired by the leadership of diverse organizations such as Baystate Medical Center, Mercy Medical Center, the City of Springfield, community nonprofit minority based enterprise (MBE) organizations, business, and academia to ensure accountability for its work. Exemplifying its capacity to organize and effect sustainable change in Springfield, PHC currently convenes a community-wide initiative entitled *Live Well Springfield: Eat Smart. Stay Fit (LWS)*. LWS serves as an umbrella coalition addressing access to healthy eating and access to physical activity for all those who live in Springfield. PHC also operates other programs that promote healthier living through raising community awareness to environmental issues and providing access to health education in addition to its installation of low income dental clinics located inside schools through its partnership with the Springfield Public School System.
URL: <http://www.partnersforahealthiercommunity.org>

Providence Ministries (PMN)

Providence Ministries for the Needy (PMN) is a non-profit organization founded by the sisters of Providence in 1980 which is located in Holyoke, MA. PMN's mission is to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and clothe the needy. This is accomplished through the many programs that they operate such as Broderick House, Kate's Kitchen, Loreto House, Margaret's Pantry, St. Jude's Clothing Center, Mother Mary's, Cinderelli's Consignment Boutique, and the newly developed Holyoke Career Closet in partnership with Holyoke Community College.
<http://www.provministries.com/>