

# GREEN CITY FORCE

Green City Force (GCF) is an AmeriCorps program that engages young residents of public housing in visible and impactful service towards sustainability, while building skills and experience on a path to careers.



GCF partners with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the nation's largest Public Housing Agency, housing nearly half a million New York City residents.

**A member of The Corps Network, GCF's approach is scalable and a model** for service corps partnerships with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

GCF engages young residents of public housing, ages 18-24 years old who have high school diplomas or equivalency, in six or 10 months of full-time, innovative national service related to energy efficiency, urban agriculture, and sustainability.

Our service corps creates positive opportunities for young adult residents of NYCHA through a highly structured program that provides a ladder to gainful employment or college and enables young adults to earn money, be mobile and have a positive purpose inside and outside of their neighborhoods.

Since 2009, **GCF has engaged over 400 young adults drawn from 125 of the 328 NYCHA developments** throughout the five

boroughs of New York City. Eighty percent of our members have graduated, and eighty percent of graduates successfully transitioned to employment or college. GCF continues to support graduates over time to ensure that they progress along their career pathways.

### LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

The primary service activity of the GCF Energy Corps is the Love Where You Live Challenge, developed and launched by GCF with NYCHA in 2012. The Challenge involves swapping out inefficient light bulbs and providing education about energy conservation to public housing residents in their homes.

Love Where You Live has been recognized as a national model, combining energy conservation education, workforce development and resident education through service in public housing, and is aligned with the goals of HUD's STEM,

### GCF OUTCOMES FROM OUR FIRST SEVEN YEARS:

400+

un- or underemployed young adults from public housing in NYC engaged

80%

graduation rate

80%

of graduates successfully transitioned to employment or college

10,000+

apartments received energy & water education & conservation measures through the Love Where You Live Challenge

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Urban farms constructed and maintained at public housing developments. More farms are coming soon.

Energy, Economic Development (SEED) initiative. Love Where You Live **was featured at the national Greenbuild conference in 2015, and in a US Department of Energy webinar** for public housing authorities across the country in 2014 in partnership with The Corps Network.

GCF's Energy Corps is supported by the New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and the Corporation for National and Community Service's Partnerships Challenge, with additional support from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and private partners.

GCF is currently targeting recruitment and service for the Energy Corps to the 15 neighborhoods in NYCHA that account for 20% of violent crime, bringing alternatives and positivity into these NYCHA communities.



## CAREER PATHWAYS

GCF graduates are employed in expanding sectors like **urban agriculture, multi-family energy efficiency, solar, and composting**, and bring their green skills and knowledge to more traditional employment in building maintenance and operations.

## TESTIMONIAL: TERRELL FULWOOD

A resident of NYCHA's Marcy Houses in Brooklyn, Terrell demonstrated his work ethic at the NYCHA Farm and discovered an interest in building science through Green City Academy, the classroom training component of the program. Reflecting on his experience as a Corps Member, Terrell remarked, **"Green City Force was not only a way to sustain my family and me financially, but it also helped me engage my passion. I like helping others."** Upon graduating from GCF in August 2013, Terrell secured a full-time position as a Field Technician at the Association for Energy Affordability, performing energy audits and outreach as part of Con Edison's Green Team—skills he learned during his GCF service term.

## FARMS AT NYCHA

Green City Force is the backbone partner for Farms at NYCHA, part of Building Healthy Communities (BHC), a citywide partnership devised to improve health outcomes in 12 neighborhoods in New York City. Through the initiative GCF works with NYCHA, The Fund for Public Health in New York, the Mayor's Office of Strategic Partnerships and local CBO partners to expand healthy food access, provide youth workforce and leadership development and promote sustainable and connected public housing communities.

## RECOGNITION

Since our inception, GCF has been honored as a White House Youth Jobs + Champion of Change and recognized as NYC's Most Innovative Nonprofit. We've been selected as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2 Environmental Champion, and received a proclamation for outstanding commitment and contributions to environmental stewardship from the New York City Council. GCF's work is featured in the Next Generation NYCHA Sustainability Agenda and GCF was selected as a member of the Citi Foundation's Community Progress Makers Fund for making impactful change in the communities we serve.



**"Green City Force's work amplifies NYCHA's vision of safe, clean and connected communities for our residents and all New Yorkers. Our goal is to transform the Authority, creating sustainable homes and communities that our residents can be proud of, and through our collaboration with GCF, I'm confident we can accomplish this." - NYCHA Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye**

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