



## Peace Corps

Paul D. Coverdell  
Peace Corps Headquarters  
1111 20th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20526

[peacecorps.gov](http://peacecorps.gov)

855.855.1961 TOLL-FREE

Learn more about the Peace Corps Volunteer experience through Peace Corps' [Passport blog](#) and [Media Library](#).

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Pinterest](#), [Tumblr](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

## OVERVIEW

The Peace Corps sends the best and brightest Americans abroad on behalf of the United States to tackle the most pressing needs of people around the world. Volunteers work at the grassroots level to develop sustainable solutions that address challenges in agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health, and youth development. Through their service, Volunteers gain a unique cultural understanding and a life-long commitment to service that positions them to succeed in today's global economy.

The agency traces its roots to 1960, when then-Sen. John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country by living and working in some of the most remote corners of the world. He ignited a movement among young Americans that inspired the nation and led to the founding of the Peace Corps. In an ever-changing world, the agency has become a dynamic, forward-leaning champion for international service defined by its innovation and compassion—yet, its original mission remains the same:

1. To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
2. To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
3. To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

## HISTORY

Officially established:	March 1, 1961
Americans who have served:	220,000
Host countries served to date:	141

## PEACE CORPS TODAY

Peace Corps Director:	Carrie Hessler-Radelet (Western Samoa, 1981-83)
Host countries:	63
Volunteers and trainees:	6,919
Gender:	63% female, 37% male
Marital status:	94% single, 6% married
Minorities:	28% of Volunteers*
Average age:	28
Volunteers over 50:	7% of Volunteers

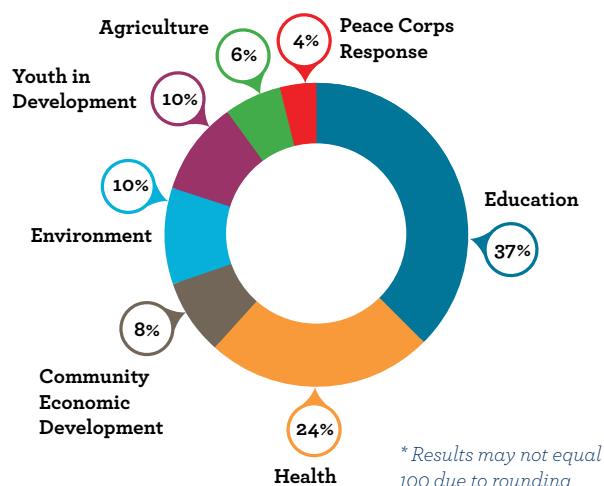
\* Volunteer percentage excludes non-responders.



## PEACE CORPS SERVICE

Peace Corps Volunteers live and work alongside the people they serve. They collaborate with local governments, schools, communities, small businesses, and entrepreneurs to create sustainable, community-based projects that address changing and complex needs across six sectors.

### *Peace Corps Program Sectors*



## BUDGET

Fiscal Year 2014	\$379 million
Fiscal Year 2015	\$379.5 million

## TO BE A VOLUNTEER

- Volunteers typically serve for two years following in-country training.
- The Peace Corps provides Volunteers with housing and a living stipend to cover food and incidentals—allowing them to live similarly to the people in their community.
- The minimum age for Peace Corps service is 18; there is no upper age limit. Volunteers must be U.S. citizens.
- Volunteers' health, safety, and security are the Peace Corps' highest priorities. The agency is committed to providing Volunteers with the training, guidance, and support they need to stay healthy, safe, and productive throughout their service.

## WHERE VOLUNTEERS SERVE

The Peace Corps provides technical assistance to countries that request it, while strategically targeting resources and country presence to achieve the greatest impact.

### *Percentage of total Volunteers serving, by geographic region, in 2015*

<b>Africa:</b>	45%
<b>Latin America:</b>	22%
<b>Eastern Europe/Central Asia:</b>	10%
<b>Asia:</b>	13%
<b>The Caribbean:</b>	4%
<b>North Africa/Middle East:</b>	3%
<b>Pacific Islands:</b>	3%

## DID YOU KNOW?

- In March 2015, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, along with the Peace Corps and other federal agencies, launched Let Girls Learn, a collaboration to promote education and empowerment for girls worldwide. In the first nine months, the effort had already inspired 105 projects by Peace Corps Volunteers in 32 countries, from building libraries to hosting technology camps, and enabled new training for 700 Volunteers to date.
- In 2015, more than 23,000 people applied to be Peace Corps Volunteers—a 40-year high. The record came a year after the agency implemented historic application and recruitment reforms, including the option to choose your country of service and program area, and shortening the application so it can be completed in under an hour.
- The Peace Corps Prep program, which prepares college students for international development work, now boasts 39 college and university partners. Founded in 2007, the Peace Corps Prep curriculum combines undergraduate coursework, foreign language study, and community engagement.
- In 2015, the Peace Corps expanded the innovative Global Health Service Partnership to four countries, working in conjunction with partners Seed Global Health and PEPFAR, to increase training for doctors and nurses abroad.