

THE PEACE CORPS' CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION FISCAL YEAR 2026

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MESSAGE FROM DR. ALLISON GREENE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Peace Corps is pleased to submit a budget request of \$430.5 million for FY 2026. This funding is a cost-effective investment in the agency's community-based people-to-people diplomacy that contributes to peace, opportunity, and progress for global communities while making America safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

By increasing mutual understanding and lasting ties between the people of the United States and other countries, the Peace Corps helps create better trading partners, strengthens relationships with allies, inhibits extremism, and counteracts the growing influence of America's adversaries. Volunteers strengthen U.S. national security through improved relations with host governments and by showcasing America as an international leader. The agency also helps cultivate the next generation of U.S. civic and business leaders. Volunteers return home and, for long after the conclusion of their service, contribute the adaptive leadership and entrepreneurial skills they gained during service to American communities.

The Peace Corps remains committed to recruiting Americans to serve in host-country communities, though, like other service organizations, it faces challenges in attracting and retaining Volunteers. To adapt, the agency has modernized recruitment operations to rely more on interactive technology and platforms and launched two pilot service models and one incentive program to meet the needs of interested applicants. The agency also streamlined the extension process for Volunteers to serve a third year. In FY 2026, the agency plans to build on these initiatives to inspire a new generation of Volunteers to advance the Peace Corps mission.

As the agency looks to the future, the Peace Corps will also work to align its global portfolio and optimize staffing to evolve alongside a world that has transformed dramatically since 1961. With changing global needs, shifting geopolitical dynamics, and constraints on recruitment of Volunteers, the agency will continually assess whether its footprint aligns with areas of greatest need, the potential for Volunteer impact, Administration priorities, and strategic return on investment to the U.S. This analysis will inform decisions about the agency's country portfolio, staffing levels, and programmatic sectors to remain adaptive, efficient, and accountable in a dynamic global landscape. This funding request will also allow the Peace Corps to continue making mission-critical investments in systems, support infrastructure, processes, and policies, including improvements in cybersecurity and informational technology resources across the agency's entire global digital network.

For over 64 years, the Peace Corps has played a vital role in our nation's lasting global impact with more than 240,000 Volunteers representing the best of the U.S. in 144 host countries. The growing global demand for Peace Corps Volunteers from world leaders further underscores the value of the agency and the importance of Volunteer presence, partnership, and approach to build long-term goodwill and trusted connections between Volunteers and community members in some of the world's most remote regions. For these people, the Peace Corps is the face of America. As Americans come together to celebrate our 250 years of history, it is imperative to look to the future and the kind of world we want to help build. This FY 2026 budget request invests in shaping that future and reflects the agency's enduring and transformative contribution to that vision.

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REQUESTED PEACE CORPS APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

PEACE CORPS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), including the purchase of not to exceed five passenger motor vehicles for administrative purposes for use outside of the United States, \$430,500,000, of which \$7,300,000 is for the Office of Inspector General, to remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That the Director of the Peace Corps may transfer to the Foreign Currency Fluctuations Account, as authorized by section 16 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2515), an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000: Provided further, That funds transferred pursuant to the previous proviso may not be derived from amounts made available for Peace Corps overseas operations: Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not to exceed \$104,000 may be available for representation expenses, of which not to exceed \$4,000 may be made available for entertainment expenses: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be used to pay for abortions: Provided further, That notwithstanding the previous proviso, section 614 of division E of Public Law 113–76 shall apply to funds appropriated under this heading.

PEACE CORPS FY 2026 BUDGET REQUEST

The Peace Corps is committed to aligning its global portfolio with Administration priorities and optimizing staffing levels appropriately. The Peace Corps will look to reflect a footprint that meets the greatest need, potential for Volunteer impact, Administration priorities, and strategic return on investment to the U.S. Funding will focus on prioritizing recruiting and advertising, providing incentives for new Volunteers, and allowing for increases to Volunteer readjustment allowances. It will also allow the Peace Corps to make much-needed investments for invitees and (current and returned) Volunteers' medical clearance and treatment, which will streamline and maximize placement of Volunteers. Lastly, these adjustments will allow the Peace Corps to address increases due to inflation and cost distribution changes to International Cooperative Administrative Support Services (ICASS) and implement reforms and cost-saving measures.

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PEACE CORPS BUDGET REQUEST BY PROGRAM OPERATIONS

FY 2026 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET (in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2024 Actuals	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request
Total funds available	\$491,300	\$476,000	\$451,900
Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	\$34,700	\$18,700	\$6,400
Recoveries of prior year obligations	\$19,700	\$16,000	\$12,000
Spending authority from offsetting collections	\$6,400	\$10,800	\$3,000
FY 2026 Request	\$430,500	\$430,500	\$430,500
New budget authority (Agency)	\$422,700	\$422,700	\$422,700
New budget authority (Office of Inspector General)	\$7,800	\$7,800	\$7,800
Total direct obligations	\$472,600	\$469,600	\$440,500
DIRECT VOLUNTEER OPERATIONS	\$317,700	\$320,800	\$314,700
Overseas Operations	\$205,300	\$196,400	\$179,300
Africa	\$80,800	\$72,300	\$62,300
Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia	\$54,600	\$56,100	\$52,700
Inter-America and the Pacific	\$69,900	\$68,000	\$64,300
Overseas Operational Support	\$129,100	\$135,700	\$146,700
Overseas Operational Support Offices	\$83,300	\$84,100	\$76,100
Volunteer Readjustment Allowance	\$12,900	\$18,000	\$34,000
Federal Employees' Compensation Act	\$9,900	\$9,900	\$9,900
Reimbursements to Department of State (ICASS)	\$23,000	\$23,700	\$26,700
Foreign Currency Centralization & External Funds Offsets	-\$16,700	-\$11,300	-\$11,300
AGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES	\$140,800	\$136,000	\$117,000
Agency Support Services Offices	\$130,500	\$125,700	\$106,700
Rental Payments to General Services Administration	\$10,300	\$10,300	\$10,300
Inspector General Direct Obligations	\$7,800	\$7,800	\$7,800
Reimbursable Programs Direct Obligations	\$6,300	\$5,000	\$1,000
Unobligated balance carried forward, end of year (Total funds available less total direct obligations)	\$18,700	\$6,400	\$11,400

DIRECT VOLUNTEER OPERATIONS

Direct Volunteer Operations include components related to overseas post management, and management of recruitment and placement of applicants, and Volunteer training and support.

OVERSEAS OPERATIONS AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT OFFICES

Overseas operations are organized and administered through Peace Corps/Washington support offices and include Volunteer costs including training, travel, and a monthly allowance to cover housing, utilities, household supplies, food, clothing, and transportation.

VOLUNTEER READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCE

A readjustment allowance is provided to Volunteers upon the completion of service to support them when they return to the United States.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ACT

Under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, the Peace Corps reimburses the U.S. Department of Labor for disability payments and medical costs for returned Volunteers and staff who experience service-related injuries or sickness. Most of these costs relate to Volunteers' claims; staff claims are minimal.

REIMBURSEMENTS TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

These are payments the Peace Corps makes to the U.S. Department of State for International Cooperative Administrative Support Services (ICASS). Some financial management support is also included through these payments, although the Peace Corps has directly provided financial management support to its overseas posts since the end of FY 1998.

FOREIGN CURRENCY CENTRALIZATION

Gains or losses realized from the fluctuation of foreign currency, as well as offsets to expenses provided under external funds agreements.

AGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES

Agency Support Services include administrative offices to support the agency in its mission as well as current and returned Volunteers in helping achieve the Peace Corps mission and three goals.

AGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES OFFICES

These Peace Corps/Washington offices support Peace Corps operations. This category also includes centrally managed resources for agency-wide expenses.

RENTAL PAYMENTS TO U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) rent for Peace Corps headquarters.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) provides independent oversight in accordance with Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. Through audits, evaluations, and investigations, OIG prevents and detects waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement; and promotes efficiency, effectiveness, and economy in agency programs and operations.

THE VOLUNTEERS

The Peace Corps sends U.S. citizens from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories as Volunteers to countries at the invitation of the host country government to partner with local communities in meeting their development priorities (see p. 8 for a table of Volunteers by state/territory). Since the agency's establishment in 1961, more than 240,000 Volunteers have served with the Peace Corps, the vast majority of them in traditional two-year assignments.

TWO-YEAR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

Two-year Volunteers (PCVs) live and work side-byside with community members on locally prioritized projects to partner in one of the Peace Corps' six programmatic sectors: Agriculture, Community Economic Development, Education, Environment, Health, and Youth in Development. The Peace Corps provides rigorous technical training and in-depth intercultural and language instruction to Volunteers while in service to prepare them for their assignments in the agency's three regions of operation: Africa (AF); Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia (EMA); and Inter-America and the Pacific (IAP).

As of September 30, 2024, 3,337 Volunteers were living and working side by side with community members and host country partners to advance shared development priorities in 61 countries, supported by 57 posts. During FY 2024, 1,772 Volunteers entered on duty and the total number of Volunteers who served during FY 2024 was 4,068. Demand for Volunteers continues to outstrip supply—on top of current Volunteer requests from existing host country partners, the agency has received invitations from 12 additional countries to open or re-open country programs.

PEACE CORPS RESPONSE

Peace Corps Response (PCR) is a specialized program within the agency that works to meet host country needs for advanced skills and experience. PCR Volunteers work with communities around the world at the request of host countries on short-term, high-impact service assignments. They serve from six to 12 months on locally prioritized projects that focus on transferring skills, offering technical expertise, and building the capacity of government and non-governmental organization partners. The assignments usually require at least a four-year undergraduate degree and two to five years of professional experience. Some typical PCR assignments include co-creating new educational curricula, providing guidance and training for monitoring and evaluation and health systems strengthening activities, and implementing disaster risk reduction strategies.

As of September 30, 2024, 141 PCR Volunteers were serving in 31 countries. Nearly 40 current Peace Corps countries requested 340 PCR Volunteers for FY 2025.

Virtual Service Pilot

The agency launched a Virtual Service Pilot (VSP) in October 2020 as an innovative way to continue delivering on the Peace Corps' mission following the global evacuation of in-person Volunteers. Since the VSP began, private U.S. citizens have donated their services as Virtual Service Pilot Participants (known by the acronym VSPPs) supporting host country partners for a total of 1,002 virtual service engagements as of September 30, 2024. Demand for VSPPs' highly technical support remains high with the agency continuing to receive a steady level of requests from host country partners.

VSP has proven to be a useful tool with highly skilled individuals to complement the work of in-person Volunteers, and in preparing host communities and organizations to receive their first or additional two-year or PCR Volunteers. In certain situations where Volunteers cannot serve in person for security or medical reasons, the VSP is a means for Americans to serve and for the Peace Corps to continue supporting host country partners and communities by providing assistance and maintaining relationships in anticipation of the future return of Volunteers. It is important to note that VSPPs are not Peace Corps Volunteers; they are private U.S. citizens who have chosen to donate their voluntary services in accordance with the agency's existing gift acceptance authority.

PEACE CORPS APPLICATION PROCESS

The length of the process from submitting an application and being invited to join the Peace Corps to departing for the country of service is typically six to 12 months. The Peace Corps advertises quarterly application deadlines, "Apply-By" dates, and "Know-By" dates as well as "Departure" dates that help applicants plan and make decisions based on their schedules and needs. All applicants are notified in advance of their departure date-about whether they are conditionally invited to serve, subject to any applicable clearances pending. Prior to an interview request, and again at the time of invitation, applicants receive access to country-specific information, including information related to safety, security, and health risks in-country. In accordance with the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018, applicants have the option to decline their country of consideration and identify a different country if they have concerns after reviewing provided health or safety data.

RECRUITMENT PILOTS

In mid-2024, a decline in applications and Volunteer numbers highlighted the need for urgent action. Market research conducted on behalf of the Peace Corps found three main obstacles to Peace Corps service: 1) many considered a 27-month service too long to put off careers or graduate school; 2) some stated that financial burdens, including student loan debt, eliminate Peace Corps service as an option for them; and 3) others felt that 27 months was too long to be away from friends and family. In response, the agency designed three recruitment pilots to address each of these challenges. They identified posts with some of the lowest global fill rates to participate in the pilots and the Peace Corps launched the pilots in August 2024. The pilots and participating countries are as follows:

15-Month Service Model

This pilot will test whether an option for a shorterterm assignment for generalists will result in significant increases in direct applications, invitations accepted, and the number of individuals that enter on duty (EOD) in: Cameroon, Eswatini, Mozambique,¹ and The Gambia.

Increased Readjustment Allowance Rates

This pilot will assess whether a meaningful increase (set at double the current rate) in the readjustment allowance rate will: 1) draw increased interest in Peace Corps service at the following posts with low fill rates; and 2) have any impact on resignation rates during service in: Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda, and Togo.

Special Leave During the First and Second Years of Service

This pilot will assess if the additional benefit of a return trip to Volunteers' homes of record that is paid for by the Peace Corps will meaningfully increase the number of Volunteers who accept and complete service in: Benin, Guinea, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, and Uganda.

¹ Volunteers were later evacuated, and Peace Corps/Mozambique is scheduled to close by CY 2025.

HOME STATES OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

State /Territory	Currently Serving ¹	Total Since 1961 ²
ALABAMA	22	1,206
ALASKA	7	1,084
AMERICAN SAMOA	0	10
ARIZONA	71	4,198
ARKANSAS	15	869
CALIFORNIA	361	31,049
COLORADO	122	7,522
CONNECTICUT	56	3,830
DELAWARE	6	545
DISTRICT OF COLOMBIA	25	2,900
FLORIDA	171	8,833
GEORGIA	117	4,085
GUAM	1	81
HAWAII	15	1,536
IDAHO	31	1,479
ILLINOIS	104	8,894
INDIANA	54	3,461
IOWA	22	2,615
KANSAS	20	1,962
KENTUCKY	33	1,705
LOUISIANA	17	1,224
MAINE	22	2,001
MARYLAND	121	6,747
MASSACHUSETTS	102	8,653
MICHIGAN	82	7,341
MINNESOTA	68	6,929
MISSISSIPPI	7	517
MISSOURI	55	3,471
MONTANA	12	1,574
NEBRASKA	16	1,401

State /Territory	Currently Serving ¹	Total Since 1961²
NEVADA	29	1,149
NEW HAMPSHIRE	31	1,855
NEW JERSEY	82	5,112
NEW MEXICO	22	2,300
NEW YORK	177	13,461
NORTH CAROLINA	121	4,949
NORTH DAKOTA	1	523
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	1	39
OHIO	115	7,385
OKLAHOMA	18	1,325
OREGON	90	6,606
PENNSYLVANIA	117	8,335
PUERTO RICO	8	457
RHODE ISLAND	18	1,116
SOUTH CAROLINA	39	1,804
SOUTH DAKOTA	6	623
TENNESSEE	47	2,096
TEXAS	181	8,724
UTAH	24	1,204
VERMONT	24	1,674
VIRGINIA	172	8,636
VIRGIN ISLANDS	0	94
WASHINGTON	115	10,084
WEST VIRGINIA	5	688
WISCONSIN	91	6,167
WYOMING	6	544

(1) 'Currently Serving' represents FY 2024 onboard strength, the number of Volunteers and Trainees in the field on September 30, 2024.

(2) Total Since 1961' is the number of Volunteers and Trainees who have served from each state/territory through September 30, 2024, since Volunteers were first sent to the field; individuals who served more than once are counted for each service. Not included in this table are Volunteers who do not have an address on file or have an overseas home address.

PHASES OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE

PEACE CORPS TRAINEE

Pre-Service Training

Upon arrival in their country of service, Trainees undergo up to three months of pre-service training in language, technical and intercultural skills, health, and personal safety and security. After successful completion of training and testing, Trainees recite the oath of office to become Peace Corps Volunteers.

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER

Volunteer Assignment

Volunteers are each assigned to a project that is designed by Peace Corps staff to help meet development priorities of the host country articulated to the agency.

Site Selection

Peace Corps in-country staff ensures that Volunteers have suitable assignments and adequate and safe living arrangements that are in accordance with Peace Corps policy.

Living Allowance

The Peace Corps provides Volunteers with a monthly allowance specifically tailored to their country of service and covers expenses related to housing, utilities, household supplies, food, clothing, and transportation.

Health

Peace Corps in-country medical officers provide Volunteers with health information, medical treatment, immunizations, and periodic medical exams, and coordinate the care provided to them by in country medical providers at one of the Peace Corps' regional medical hubs are also available to Volunteers.

Service Extension

The Peace Corps permits a limited number of Volunteers who have unique skills and outstanding records of service to extend that service for an additional year.

RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER

Readjustment Allowance at Close of Service

At the end of their service, Volunteers receive \$400 per month served (\$500 per month for twoyear and PCR Volunteers who completed a third year of service) to help finance their transition to careers or further education. Two-year Volunteers participating in the Increased Readjustment Allowance Rate Pilot will receive double the amount, \$800 per month served.

Health Insurance

The Peace Corps provides short-term, transitional health insurance for Volunteers for their first month after service, and Volunteers have the option to extend that coverage at their own expense for up to two additional months.

Returned Volunteer Services

The agency provides career, educational, and transitional assistance to Volunteers when they complete their Peace Corps service. Some states offer reduced or in-state tuition to Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs). RPCVs can also apply to become a Paul D. Coverdell Fellow, a graduate school benefit program with financial assistance (see pp. 13-18 for more information on Peace Corps' education engagements). Volunteers who have successfully completed two years of service can access "non-competitive eligibility" for positions across the Federal government and all RPCVs, upon application can also access "Peace Corps Eligibility" for Peace Corps staff positions.

OVERSEAS OPERATIONS BY REGION

AFRICA REGION

More than 80,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in the Africa Region (AF) since the Peace Corps was established in 1961. As of the end of FY 2024, 1,044 Trainees and Volunteers were serving in AF across 22 posts, which accounts for approximately 31 percent of total Volunteers.

Programs in AF have traditionally focused on some of the continent's most pressing development challenges and engage youth across all six of the agency's program sectors. Together with partners, the Peace Corps is implementing over 50 projects, with every post conducting activities in the Education or Health sector, or both. Historically, AF has also played a unique role as an implementing partner in whole-of-U.S. Government initiatives including the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI).

EUROPE, MEDITERRANEAN, AND ASIA REGION

Since the Peace Corps was established in 1961, over 65,700 Volunteers have served in the Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia (EMA) Region and contributed to diverse community needs. EMA is characterized by its vastness and complexity, and Volunteers there collaborate with local communities to address specific requests and challenges. As of the end of FY 2024, EMA is supporting 20 countries and 18 posts with 986 Volunteers and Trainees serving, approximately 30 percent of the agency's onboard strength.

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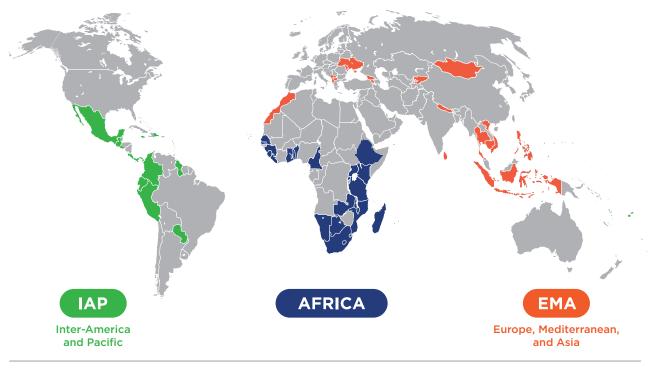
Volunteers in the EMA Region serve in all of the agency's six program sectors. Many Volunteers incorporate activities focused on volunteerism, HIV/AIDS technology for development, and people with disabilities into their work with communities, schools, clinics, businesses, local non-governmental organizations, municipal governments, and universities. At the request of host countries, Volunteers in EMA also integrate adaptation activities into their service to support community resilience to environmental trends and hazards.

INTER-AMERICA AND THE PACIFIC REGION

More than 90,000 Volunteers have served in the Inter-America and the Pacific (IAP) Region since the founding of the Peace Corps in 1961. IAP is the agency's largest region, with 39 percent of the onboard strength as of the end of FY 2024, IAP had 1,307 Volunteers and Trainees serving in 18 posts across 21 countries. In 2024, IAP successfully returned Volunteers to El Salvador and Vanuatu.

Volunteers in IAP serve in 42 different projects across all six Peace Corps' sectors. Within these projects, there are two major cross-cutting areas of focus, both in response to host country priorities: youth empowerment and environmental resilience. In response to the requests of host country governments, posts have prioritized integrating environmental adaptation strategies into all projects, regardless of the sector. The Pacific posts—Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu have been deeply engaged with the Blue Pacific Youth Initiative, an initiative led by the agency, which is a constellation of activities empowering young Pacific leaders to drive change in their communities.

PEACE CORPS COUNTRIES AND POSTS MAP



Caribbean

Dominican Republic Dominica¹ Grenada^{1*} Jamaica^{*} St. Lucia¹ St. Vincent and the Grenadines¹

Central and South America

Belize* Colombia* Costa Rica* Ecuador* El Salvador Guatemala* Guyana* Mexico* Panama* Paraguay Peru*

Africa

Benin* Botswana* Cameroon* Eswatini* Ethiopia2* Ghana Guinea Kenya* Lesotho Liberia* Madagascar Malawi Mozambique^{2*} Namibia* Rwanda Senegal Sierra Leone South Africa* Tanzania The Gambia Togo* Uganda Zambia

North Africa and the Middle East Morocco

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Albania^{3*} Montenegro^{3*} Armenia Georgia^{*} Kosovo Kyrgyz Republic^{*} Moldova^{*} North Macedonia^{*} Ukraine^{4*}

Asia

Cambodia Indonesia* Mongolia* Nepal* Philippines* Sri Lanka Thailand Timor-Leste Viet Nam

Pacific Islands

Fiji* Palau⁵ Samoa Tonga Vanuatu*

* Indicates a Peace Corps country participating in the Virtual Service Pilot.

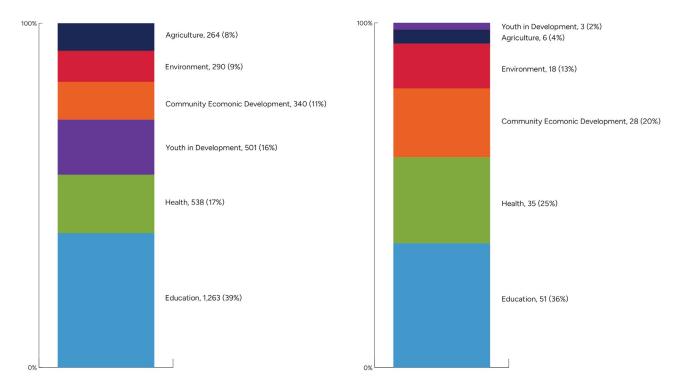
- 1 Peace Corps/Eastern Caribbean operates as one post across four countries: Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- 2 Peace Corps/Ethiopia and Peace Corps/Mozambique are scheduled to close by end of CY 2025. There are no Volunteers serving in either country.
- 3 Peace Corps/Albania & Montenegro operate as one post across the two countries.
- 4 Peace Corps/Ukraine is managed by Peace Corps/Moldova. Volunteer placements in Ukraine are paused due to security considerations.
- 5 Peace Corps/Palau is supported by Peace Corps/Philippines and the EMA Region. Volunteers are expected to enter on duty in CY 2026.

VOLUNTEER WORK TO MEET HOST COUNTRY PRIORITIES

The Peace Corps meets host country and host community priorities through Volunteers' work across the agency's six programmatic sectors (Agriculture, Community Economic Development, Education, Environment, Health, Youth in Development), with a particular focus on engaging youth. Approximately 90 percent of youth between the ages of 15 and 24 live in low-income countries where Volunteers support their educational, job readiness, and leadership skills development.² In addition to serving as an implementing agency for several global and regional initiatives, the Peace Corps enhances the impact and reach of the agency and Volunteers' work through the Peace Corps Small Grants Program and strategic and intergovernmental partnerships with signed memoranda of understanding. Activities under these partnerships are in alignment with all presidential actions.

Peace Corps Response Volunteers by Sector

VOLUNTEER WORK BY SECTOR



Two-Year Peace Corps Volunteers by Sector

Counts of Peace Corps Volunteers, Trainees, and Peace Corps Response Volunteers by region and sector from all funding sources serving as of September 30, 2024. Total number of Volunteers onboard on that day: 3,337. Data current as December 15, 2024.

² https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/youth

APPENDIX A

THE PEACE CORPS' EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS IN THE U.S.

The Peace Corps engages with hundreds of colleges and universities through four programs:

- Paul D. Coverdell Fellows: A graduate school benefit program that offers Returned Peace Corps Volunteers financial assistance and professional internships in underserved communities while they pursue their graduate degrees.
- Peace Corps Prep: An interdisciplinary certificate program that combines coursework with community service to prepare undergraduate students for intercultural fieldwork such as Peace Corps service.
- Strategic Campus Recruiters: A Peace Corps' contract with universities to hire part-time, campusbased recruiters. Currently, there are strategic campus recruiters at 26 colleges and universities.
- Campus Ambassadors: An internship-like opportunity for undergraduate students to serve as peer-to-peer brand ambassadors, extending the reach of Peace Corps recruiters to those who may have less awareness of opportunities to serve.

STATE/ TERRITORY	PAUL D. COVERDELL FELLOWS PROGRAM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES	PEACE CORPS PREP COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
Alabama	University of Alabama - Birmingham	Alabama A&M University Troy University Tuskegee University The University of Alabama - Birmingham
Arizona	Arizona State University Northern Arizona University University of Arizona	Arizona State University Northern Arizona University University of Arizona
Arkansas	University of Arkansas - Fayetteville	Hendrix College Southern Arkansas University University of Arkansas - Fayetteville University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff

STATE/ TERRITORY

PAUL D. COVERDELL FELLOWS PROGRAM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

PEACE CORPS PREP

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

	COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES	COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
California	California State University - Fullerton California State University - Long Beach Loma Linda University Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey Pacifica Graduate Institute University of San Diego University of San Francisco University of Southern California	California State University - Channel Islands California State University - Sacramento Cal Poly Humboldt State San Diego State University University of California, Education Abroad Program (All UC Undergraduate Campuses) University of California, Berkeley University of California, Berkeley University of California, Irvine University of California, Irvine University of California, Los Angeles University of California, Merced University of California, Riverside University of California, Santa Barbara University of California, Santa Barbara University of California, Santa Cruz University of La Verne University of Redlands University of San Francisco Whittier College
Colorado	Colorado State University Regis University University of Colorado - Denver University of Denver Western Colorado University	Colorado College Colorado School of Mines University of Colorado - Boulder Western Colorado University
Connecticut	Yale University	Fairfield University
Delaware	University of Delaware	
District of Columbia	American University The George Washington University Georgetown University	American University Gallaudet University
Florida	Florida Institute of Technology Florida State University University of Central Florida University of Miami University of South Florida	Eckerd College Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Florida Gulf Coast University Florida International University Stetson University University of Florida University of North Florida University of South Florida University of West Florida

STATE/ TERRITORY	PAUL D. COVERDELL FELLOWS PROGRAM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES	PEACE CORPS PREP COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
Georgia	Emory University Georgia College & State University Georgia State University Kennesaw State University	Fort Valley State University Georgia Gwinnett College Kennesaw State University Mercer University Savannah State University University of Georgia University of North Georgia
Guam		University of Guam
Hawaii		University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Idaho		Boise State University Idaho State University
Illinois	Chicago School of Professional Psychology DePaul University Illinois State University Loyola University - Chicago Western Illinois University	Aurora University Illinois State University Knox College Monmouth College Northeastern Illinois University Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville Western Illinois University
Indiana	Indiana University - Bloomington University of Notre Dame	Earlham College Indiana University - Bloomington Purdue University
lowa	Iowa State University	Iowa State University St. Ambrose University
Kentucky		Murray State University Transylvania University University of Kentucky
Louisiana	Tulane University Xavier University of Louisiana	Louisiana State University Tulane University
Maine	University of Maine – Orono	
Maryland	Norte Dame of Maryland University The Johns Hopkins University University of Maryland - Baltimore University of Maryland - Baltimore County University of Maryland - College Park	Morgan State University University of Maryland - Baltimore County University of Maryland - College Park
Massachusetts	Boston University Brandeis University Clark University Mount Holyoke College Springfield College Suffolk University University of Massachusetts - Boston	Clark University University of Massachusetts - Boston Westfield State University

STATE/ TERRITORY	PAUL D. COVERDELL FELLOWS PROGRAM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES	PEACE CORPS PREP COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
Michigan	Eastern Michigan University Michigan Technological University University of Michigan - Ann Arbor	Michigan State University Michigan Technological University University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Minnesota	St. Catherine University University of Minnesota	St. Catherine University
Mississippi		Mississippi Valley State University
Missouri	University of Missouri - Columbia Washington University in St. Louis	Fontbonne University Missouri State University - Springfield Truman State University University of Central Missouri
Montana	University of Montana	Montana State University - Bozeman University of Montana
Nebraska		University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Nevada	University of Nevada – Reno	
New Hampshire	Antioch University (including Los Angeles, CA campus) University of New Hampshire	Antioch University New England University of New Hampshire
New Jersey	The College of New Jersey Monmouth University Rutgers University – Camden Seton Hall University	Monmouth University William Patterson University
New Mexico	New Mexico State University	University of New Mexico
New York	Bard College Columbia University Cornell University Fordham University Manhattanville College New York University The New School University at Albany - SUNY	College of Staten Island - CUNY Hartwick College Rochester Institute of Technology St. Lawrence University Stony Brook University - SUNY University at Albany – SUNY
North Carolina	Duke University Elon University Wake Forest University	Appalachian State University Elon University Fayetteville State University North Carolina Central University University of North Carolina at Pembroke University of North Carolina at Wilmington
North Dakota		University of North Dakota

STATE/ TERRITORY	PAUL D. COVERDELL FELLOWS PROGRAM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES	PEACE CORPS PREP COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
Ohio	Bowling Green State University Case Western Reserve University University of Cincinnati	Antioch University Bowling Green State University College of Wooster Hiram College Kenyon College Walsh University Wilmington College Wittenberg University
Oklahoma		The University of Oklahoma
Oregon	University of Oregon Willamette University	University of Oregon
Pennsylvania	Carnegie Mellon University Chatham University Drexel University Duquesne University Seton Hill University Shippensburg University The Pennsylvania State University University of Pennsylvania University of Pittsburg Villanova University	Arcadia University Cheyney University of Pennsylvania Moravian College Shippensburg University Ursinus College
Puerto Rico		Universidad del Sagrado Corazón
Rhode Island		The University of Rhode Island
South Carolina	University of South Carolina	University of South Carolina University of South Carolina Upstate
Tennessee	East Tennessee State University The University of Tennessee - Knoxville	East Tennessee State University The University of Tennessee – Knoxville
Texas	Texas A&M University - College Station Texas State University University of North Texas	Austin College Prairie View A&M University Texas State University Texas Tech University University of Houston University of North Texas University of Texas at Austin University of Texas at Dallas
Utah		Brigham Young University Utah State University
Vermont	SIT Graduate Institute Saint Michael's College University of Vermont	Saint Michael's College University of Vermont

STATE/ TERRITORY	PAUL D. COVERDELL FELLOWS PROGRAM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES	PEACE CORPS PREP COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
Virginia	College of William and Mary Eastern Mennonite University	George Mason University James Madison University University of Mary Washington University of Virginia Virginia Commonwealth University Virginia State University Virginia Tech
Washington	University of Washington - Seattle	Pacific Lutheran University University of Puget Sound Washington State University
West Virginia	Future Generations University	West Virginia University
Wisconsin	Marquette University University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee	University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire University of Wisconsin - La Crosse University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
Wyoming	University of Wyoming	University of Wyoming

APPENDIX B

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

22 USC Sec. 2515, TITLE 22—FOREIGN RELATIONS AND INTERCOURSE, CHAPTER 34 THE PEACE CORPS, Sec. 2515. Foreign Currency Fluctuations Account (h) Reports: Each year the Director of the Peace Corps shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, a report on funds transferred under this section. In FY 2024 the Peace Corps did not transfer funds to the Foreign Currency Fluctuations Account from the operating expenses account.

APPENDIX C

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OBLIGATIONS OF FUNDS FROM OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES BY THE PEACE CORPS

	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Reimbursable	\$3,415,398	\$4,907,295
Total PEPFAR	\$24,146,221	\$28,554,146

APPENDIX D

AGENCY EVIDENCE SUBMISSION

Pursuant to the *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act)* and additional guidance provided in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circular A-11, s. 51.9 "Evidence and Evaluation" section, the Peace Corps is complying with the Evidence Submission required of all agencies that administer foreign assistance as follows:

The Peace Corps adopted its first formal *Evaluation Policy (MS 325 Agency Evaluation Policy)* in December 2023. While agency evaluators have always had informal processes and procedures defined for conducting, monitoring, and evaluation, MS 325 constructs a formal framework for the agency's approach to evaluation, including outlining the creation and maintenance of the *Peace Corps Agency Evaluation Plan*. The policy supports the guidelines listed in OMB Memorandum M-18-04 ('Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines for Federal Departments and Agencies that Administer United States Foreign Assistance'), defines key terms, and incorporates monitoring and evaluation best practices identified by OMB. It also describes the roles and responsibilities of leadership and staff in agency-level evaluations and provides clarity on evaluation dissemination.

The Peace Corps has published its first *Agency Evaluation Plan* to align with MS 325, outlining agencywide evaluations in plans to initiate in FY 2025 and FY 2026 if resources allow. In addition, in an effort to meet the needs of the agency, the Peace Corps relaunched a monthly Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Working Group targeted at building cross-post and cross-office community, sharing best practices, and providing a forum for discussion about monitoring and evaluation at the Peace Corps.

Publicly available evaluations from the Peace Corps can be found on the agency's Open Government webpage at: <u>https://www.peacecorps.gov/about/open-government/</u>.

APPENDIX E

GOOD ACCOUNTING OBLIGATION IN GOVERNMENT ACT REPORT

The Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act (GAO-IG Act) was signed into law on January 4, 2019. The GAO-IG Act requires that a report accompany agency congressional budget justifications, which includes information on the status of Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Office of Inspector General (OIG) open recommendations greater than one year old. These recommendations can be found in the table below and in the accompanying links to the reports. At this time, there are no open GAO recommendations for the Peace Corps.

Project Code	Fiscal Year	Project Name	Recommendation	Implementation Status
IG-18-01-SR	FY 18	MAR: Volunteer Drug Use	1. That the Director of the Peace Corps provide country directors with additional support to resolve allegations of drug involvement under manual section 204, 3.5.1 and specifically consider the efficacy of reasonable suspicion drug testing as a means of doing so.	Expected to be submitted by September 2025
IG-18-01-SR	FY 18	MAR: Volunteer Drug Use	2. That the Office of General Counsel review the evidentiary standard required to administratively separate a Volunteer suspected of involvement with drugs to determine whether the standard, and its application, is consistent with promoting the integrity of the program and continues to serve the policy interest of the Peace Corps.	Expected to be submitted by September 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	3. That the Chief Human Capital Officer issue retroactive locality payments to the three underpaid individuals for approximately \$4,383.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	4. That the Chief Human Capital Officer and Office of Chief Financial Officer establish a process to review and reconcile retroactive adjustments to ensure that the correct amounts are reflected in the payroll transactions.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	6. That the Chief Human Capital Officer ensures that the standard operating procedures for Position Management System Online are updated to include the review of duty station codes when employees are promoted.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	9. That the Senior Policy Committee and Office of Chief Financial Officer update the waiver process to allow for increased transparency in the approval process timeline, require that waiver justifications have accurate waiver amounts, and document how the bill was ultimately resolved.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025

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Project Code	Fiscal Year	Project Name	Recommendation	Implementation Status
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	10. That Office of Chief Financial Officer develop a report to track payroll bills, collections, and waivers to properly account for improper payments for payroll transactions.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	12. That the Chief Human Capital Officer ensure employees receive appropriate retroactive compensation for delayed within grade increases totaling approximately \$13,011.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	13. That the Chief Human Capital Officer ensure that the employee is billed, or a Chief Financial Officer approved waiver is processed for the within grade salary overpayments totaling approximately \$3,880.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	17. That Office of Chief Financial Officer develop reports using data received from payroll files to assist with resolving discrepancies such as employee's names, social security numbers, pay period covered dates, and individual transaction amounts.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	18. That Office of Chief Financial Officer ensure journal vouchers are timely processed to be included in the monthly reconciliation process.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	19. That Office of Chief Financial Officer establish and implement a process to review, reconcile, and resolve discrepancies identified during the three-way reconciliation process between National Finance Center reports, Treasury, and the general ledger.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	20. That Office of Chief Financial Officer document the monitoring process in a standard operating procedure that records the process and assigns accountability for reconciling, recording and correcting errors during the monthly reconciliation.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	21. That Office of Chief Financial Officer and Chief Human Capital Officer develop and implement a process to track all unresolved errors, investigate, and record corrective actions.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	22. That Chief Human Capital Officer and Office of Chief Financial Officer reconcile charges totaling approximately \$135,612 with National Finance Center to determine if the two payments (\$97,780 and \$37,832) were allowable and request a correction if they are unallowable.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025

Project Code	Fiscal Year	Project Name	Recommendation	Implementation Status
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	23. That the Office of Chief Financial Officer develop and implement a process to reconcile variances in employees' payroll to detect unusual transactions.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	24. That Chief Human Capital Officer and Office of Chief Financial Officer bill, request CFO approval to waive, or collect the unallowable payments hazard pay totaling \$710 and health benefits paid by the agency for \$569.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	26. That the Chief Human Capital Officer ensure the incorrect retirement categories are changed and retroactively adjusted for 35 employees.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	27. That the Chief Human Capital Officer ensure approximately \$48,501 in salary overpayments for retirement are resolved by issuing Administrative Billing and Collection bills and/ or requesting waiver approvals from the Chief Financial Officer.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	28. That the Chief Human Capital Officer ensure employees that were over charged approximately \$153,738 in retirement deductions receive refunds.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	29. That the Chief Human Capital Officer review the accuracy of the refunds already issued to employees and make necessary corrections.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-01-A	FY 23	The Peace Corps' Management of Payroll and Benefits for U.S. Direct Hires	30. That the Chief Human Capital Officer and Office of Chief Financial Officer ensure agency contribution rates were accurately adjusted to reflect retroactive corrections for approximately \$79,473 in underpayments and \$33,217 in overpayments.	Expected to be submitted by October 2025
IG-23-02-A	FY 23	Audit of The Peace Corps' Volunteer Payments and Collections at the End of Service	Recommendation 3: The Office of Chief Financial Officer develops an automated process to calculate evacuation allowance payments.	The Peace Corps did not concur with this recommendation. The agency already has a successful system for issuing evacuation allowance payments and does not agree to automate the

process.

Project Code	Fiscal Year	Project Name	Recommendation	Implementation Status
IG-23-08-E	FY 23	Evaluation of Human Resources Management for Overseas Contract Staff	Recommendation 1: The agency assigns a key role in the organizational structure that has the overall responsibility to manage human resources for overseas Personal Services Contractors.	Expected to be submitted by November 2025
IG-23-08-E	FY 23	Evaluation of Human Resources Management for Overseas Contract Staff	Recommendation 3: The agency conducts a comprehensive review of human resources management for overseas Personal Services Contractors to improve performance outcomes and operational effectiveness.	Expected to be submitted by September 2025
IG-23-08-E	FY 23	Evaluation of Human Resources Management for Overseas Contract Staff	Recommendation 4: The agency develops a plan to implement improvements identified in the comprehensive review of human resources management for overseas Personal Services Contractors.	Expected to be submitted by September 2025
IG-23-08-E	FY 23	Evaluation of Human Resources Management for Overseas Contract Staff	Recommendation 5: The agency ensures that each post establishes a hiring process that includes a standard timeline for hiring and clarifies the responsibilities of staff that have a role in the process.	Expected to be submitted by June 2025
IG-23-08-E	FY 23	Evaluation of Human Resources Management for Overseas Contract Staff	Recommendation 6: The agency establishes grievance policies and procedures for overseas Personal Services Contractors that includes guidance about how grievances are raised and resolved.	Expected to be submitted by September 2025
IG-23-08-E	FY 23	Evaluation of Human Resources Management for Overseas Contract Staff	Recommendation 9: The agency develops and implements a plan to train US Direct Hire and local staff for their human resources management responsibilities.	Expected to be submitted by November 2025
IG-24-01-SR	FY 24	MAR: Cybersecurity Breaches	Recommendation 7: Office of the Chief Information Officer ensures that the Peace Corps network is continuously monitored to mitigate the risk of cyber threats.	Expected to be submitted by January 2026
IG-24-01-E	FY 24	PC/Cambodia Re-Entry Health and Safety Review	Recommendation 2: The Office of Health Services and the Country Director either identify a local backup medical provider or renew the post's agreement with the State Department.	Expected to be submitted by December 2025

Note: The above information is accurate as of May 16, 2025.

APPENDIX F

PEACE CORPS AUTHORIZATIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS FY 1962 – FY 2026 (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

Fiscal Year	Authorized	Budget Request ^{a/}	Appropriated ^{a/}	Trainee Input	Volunteers and Trainees On Board ^{b/}
1962	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$30,000	3,699	N/A
1963	63,750	63,750	59,000 ^{c/}	4,969	N/A
1964	102,000	108,000	95,964 ^{c/}	7,720	N/A
1965	115,000	115,000	104,100 ^{c/}	7,876	N/A
1966	115,000	125,200	114,000	9,216	N/A
1967	110,000	110,500	110,000	7,565	N/A
1968	115,700	124,400	107,500	7,391	N/A
1969	112,800	112,800	102,000	6,243	N/A
1970	98,450	109,800	98,450	4,637	N/A
1971	94,500	98,800	90,000	4,686	N/A
1972	77,200	71,200	72,500	3,997	6,632
1973	88,027	88,027	81,000	4,821	6,194
1974	77,000	77,000	77,000	4,886	6,489
1975	82,256	82,256	77,687	3,296	6,652
1976	88,468	80,826	81,266	3,291	5,825
Transition Qtr.	27,887	25,729	24,190	—	_
1977	81,000	67,155	80,000	4,180 ^{d/}	5,590
1978	87,544	74,800	86,234	3,715	6,017
1979	112,424	95,135	99,179	3,327	5,723
1980	105,000	105,404	99,924	3,108	5,097
1981	118,531	118,800	105,531	2,729	4,863
1982	105,000	121,900	105,000	2,862	4,559
1983	105,000	97,500	109,000	2,988	4,668
1984	115,000	108,500	115,000	2,781	4,779
1984/5 Supp	2,000	2,000	2,000	—	—
1985	128,600	115,000	128,600	3,430	4,828
1986	130,000	124,400	124,410 ^{e/}	2,597	5,162
1987	137,200	126,200	130,760	2,774	4,771
1987/8 Supp	7,200	_	7,200		_
1988	146,200	130,682	146,200	3,360	4,611
1989	153,500	150,000	153,500	3,218	5,214
1990	165,649	163,614	165,649 ^{f/}	3,092	5,241
1991	186,000	181,061	186,000	3,076	4,691
1992	_	200,000	197,044	3,309	4,927

PEACE CORPS AUTHORIZATIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS FY 1962 – FY 2026 (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS) Continued

Fiscal Year	Authorized	Budget Request ^{a/}	Appropriated ^{a/}	Trainee Input	Volunteers and Trainees On Board ^{b/}
1993	218,146	218,146	218,146	3,590	5,414
1994	219,745 ^{g/}	219,745	219,745 ^{h/}	3,451	5,644
1995	234,000	226,000	219,745 ^{i/j/}	3,954	5,884
1996		234000	205,000 ^{k/m}	3280	6086
1997		220,0001/	208,000 ^{n/}	3,607	5,858
1998		222,000	222,000°/	3,551	5,757
1999	—	270,335	240,000 ^{p/}	3,835	5,729
2000	270,000 ^{q/}	270000	245,000r/	3919	7164
2001	298,000	275,000	267,007 ^{s/t/}	3,191	6,643
2002		275,000	278,700 ^{u/v/}	4,047 ^{w/}	6,636
2003	—	317,000	297,000×/	4,411	7,533
2004	—	359,000	310,000 ^{y/}	3,812	7,733
2005	—	401,000	320,000 ^{z/}	4,006	7,810
2006	—	345,000	322,000 ^{aa/ab/}	4,015	7,628
2007	—	336,642	319,700 ^{ac/}	3,964	7,875
2008	—	333,500	333,500 ^{ad/}	3,821	7,622
2009		343,500	340,000	3,496	7,332
2010		373,440	400,000	4,429	8,256
2011	—	446,150	375,000 ^{ae/}	3,813	5,460
2012		439,600	375,000	3,177	7,315
2013		374,500	356,015	2,861	6,400
2014		378,800	379,000	3,108	6,010
2015	—	380,000	379,500	3,140	6,099
2016		410,000	410,000	3,790	6,377
2017		410,000	410,000	3,429	6,591
2018		398,221	410,000	3,595	6,629
2019	—	396,200	410,500	3,426	6,648
2020		396,200	410,500	1,000	af/
2020 Supp			88,000	_	—
2021	—	401,200	410,500 ^{ag/}	ah/	ah/
2022	—	410,500	410,500 ^{ai/}	677	702
2023		430,500ªj	430,500ªk/	1,910	2,290
2024		495,000	430,500	2,180	3,620
2025		479,000	430,500	1,999	3,750
2026	_	430,000	TBD ^{al/}	2,114	4,140

NOTES

- a/ Starting in FY 1992, funds to remain available for two years.
- b/ For FY 1972 through FY 1999, this is the average number of Volunteers through the year. For FY 2000 through the fiscal year of the President's budget, this is the number of Trainees and Volunteers on board on September 30 of the fiscal year, including Peace Corps Response Volunteers, funded through the Peace Corps' appropriation.
- c/ Includes reappropriated funds in 1963 (\$3.864 million), 1964 (\$17 million) and 1965 (\$12.1 million).
- d/ Includes Trainee input from transition quarter.
- e/ Excludes \$5.59 million sequestered under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (P.L. 99–177).
- f/ Excludes \$2.24 million sequestered under the *Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-*177) and a \$725,000 reduction related to the *Drug Initiative (P.L. 101-167)*.
- g/ Authorization included report language of a \$15 million transfer to the Peace Corps from assistance funds for the Newly Independent States (NIS).
- h/ In addition, the Peace Corps received a transfer of \$12.5 million for assistance to the NIS.
- i/ In addition, the Peace Corps received a transfer of \$11.6 million for assistance to the NIS.
- j/ Appropriation of \$219,745,000 was later reduced by a rescission of \$721,000.
- k/ In addition, the Peace Corps received a transfer of \$13 million for assistance to the NIS. An additional \$1 million of NIS funds, intended for FY 1996, was received in FY 1997.
- I/ In addition, the President requested a transfer of \$5 million for assistance to the NIS.
- m/ Appropriation of \$205 million was later reduced by a rescission of \$296,000.
- n/ In addition, the Peace Corps received a transfer of \$12 million for assistance to the NIS. An additional \$1 million of NIS funds, originally intended for FY 1996 in addition to the \$13 million received that year, was received in FY 1997.
- o/ In addition, the Peace Corps received a base transfer of \$3,581,000 from the U.S. Department of State for the Peace Corps' participation in International Cooperative Administrative Support Services.
- p/ Appropriation of \$240 million was later reduced by a rescission of \$594,000. In addition, the Peace Corps received a transfer of \$1,269,000 from Economic Support Funds for security; \$7.5 million from the FY 1999 *Emergency Appropriations Act* (\$7 million for security and \$500,000 related to the Kosovo conflict); \$6 million from the Central American and Caribbean Disaster Recovery Fund; and \$1,554,000 from the Business Continuity and Contingency Planning Fund for Y2K preparedness.
- q/ Four-year authorization bill by Congress, FY 2000 of \$270 million, FY 2001 of \$298 million, FY 2002 of \$327 million, and FY 2003 of \$365 million.
- r/ Appropriation of \$245 million was reduced by a rescission of 31,000.
- s/ Appropriation of \$265 million was reduced by a rescission of \$583,000.
- t/ The Peace Corps received a transfer of \$2.59 million of Emergency Response Fund monies in support of program evacuations in four countries and the relocation of the New York City regional recruiting office.

- u/ The Peace Corps received a transfer of \$3.9 million of Emergency Response Fund monies in support of potential future evacuations.
- v/ Appropriation of \$275 million was reduced by a rescission of \$200,000.
- w/ Due to the September 11th events, the departure of 417 trainees was delayed from late FY 2001 to early FY 2002.
- x/ Appropriation of \$297 million was reduced by a rescission of \$1,930,500. OMB later reallocated \$1.2 million in Emergency Response Fund monies from the Peace Corps to another U.S. Government agency.
- y/ Appropriation of \$310 million was reduced by a rescission of \$1,829,000.
- z/ Appropriation of \$320 million was reduced by a rescission of \$2.56 million.
- aa/ Appropriation of \$322 million was reduced by a rescission of \$3.22 million.
- ab/ In addition, Peace Corps received \$1.1 million supplemental for Avian Flu Preparedness.
- ac/ Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (H.J. Res. 20).
- ad/ Appropriation of \$333.5 million was reduced by a rescission of \$2,701,000.
- ae/ Appropriation of \$375 million was reduced by a rescission of \$750,000.
- af/ No Volunteers were on board on September 30, 2020, because of worldwide Volunteer evacuations due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Nearly 7,000 Volunteers were evacuated at the time.
- ag/ Appropriation was reduced by a rescission of \$30,000,000.
- ah/ The Peace Corps is continuously evaluating the potential for returning Volunteers to the field in FY2022 and will do so once host countries meet agency health and safety criteria.
- ai/ Appropriation was reduced by a rescission of \$70,000,000.
- aj/ Proposed rescission of \$15 million in FY2023.
- ak/ FY 2023 enacted appropriation did not include rescissions proposed by the Senate, House, and President's Budget.
- al/ Appropriation was not enacted at the time of submission.

APPENDIX G

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL BUDGET REQUEST



Office of Inspector General's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request

The Inspector General Reform Act (Pub. L. 110-409) was signed by the President on October 14, 2008. Section 6(f)(1) of the Inspector General Act of 1978, 5 U.S.C. app. 3, was amended to require certain specifications concerning Office of Inspector General (OIG) budget submissions each fiscal year.

Each Inspector General (IG) is required to transmit a budget request to the head of the establishment or designated Federal entity to which the IG reports specifying the:

- aggregate amount of funds requested for the operations of the OIG,
- the portion of this amount that is requested for all OIG training needs, including a certification from the IG that the amount requested satisfies all OIG training requirements for that fiscal year, and
- the portion of this amount that is necessary to support the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE).

The head of each establishment or designated Federal entity, in transmitting a proposed budget to the President for approval, shall include:

- an aggregate request for the OIG,
- the portion of this amount for OIG training,
- the portion of this amount for support of the CIGIE, and
- any comments of the affected IG with respect to the proposal.

The President shall include in each budget of the U.S. Government submitted to Congress:

- a separate statement of the budget estimate (aggregate funds requested) submitted by each IG,
- the amount requested by the President for each IG,
- the amount requested by the President for training of OIGs,
- the amount requested by the President for support of the CIGIE, and
- any comments of the affected IG with respect to the proposal if the IG concludes that the budget submitted by the President would substantially inhibit the IG from performance of the OIG's duties.

Following the requirements as specified above, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the Peace Corps submits the following information relating to the OIG's requested budget for fiscal year 2026:

the aggregate budget request for the operations of the OIG is \$ 7,800,000 the portion of this amount needed for OIG training is \$ 80,228 and the portion of this amount needed to support the CIGIE is \$ 31,200 (.40% of \$7,800,000).

I certify as the IG of the Peace Corps that the amount I have requested for training satisfies all OIG training needs for fiscal year 2026.

baquin Jenao

Joaquin E. Ferrao Acting Inspector General

August 26, 2024 Date

Peace Corps Office of Inspector General

Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Headquarters 1275 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20526 202.692.2900 OIG@peacecorpsoig.gov

APPENDIX H

PEACE CORPS' EVALUATION PLAN

FISCAL YEARS 2025 AND 2026

INTRODUCTION

The Peace Corps recognizes the importance of using evaluations to improve the effectiveness of agency operations and achievement of its mission. To support evaluation planning, each year the Peace Corps establishes an Annual Evaluation Plan (AEP) in alignment with requirements from the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016 (FATAA). The AEP identifies the evaluation questions that the agency plans to answer during the next fiscal year; this initial AEP outlines evaluations planned for both FY 2025 and FY 2026.

New evaluations are selected annually with direction from Peace Corps senior leadership and in consultation with office management and evaluation teams. The evaluations are designed to build a suite of evidence to inform decision-making.

Agency program evaluations follow Federal evaluation practices. They may include a broad range of evaluation types, from evaluability assessments to impact evaluations, each selected to best answer the questions posed. To ensure actionable results, Peace Corps evaluations follow the principles of ethics, independence, rigor, relevance, and transparency. These principles are further described in the *Peace Corps Manual*.

After the Peace Corps completes an evaluation, the agency conducts a pre-dissemination review with stakeholders including senior leadership, programmatic offices, and general counsel. This review includes discussing potential actions to help programs transform processes and activities, including the creation of recommended action plans, where appropriate. To promote transparency, the Peace Corps shares its evaluations internally and publishes them externally on the <u>Peace Corps</u> <u>Reports and Documents</u> webpage.

The following sections provide an overview of the Peace Corps' programmatic aspects to be evaluated in FY 2025 and FY2026, as resources and agency priorities allow. Each section includes a brief overview, evaluation questions, data sources, methodology, anticipated challenges, and a use case.

PROGRAM EVALUATION: VIRTUAL SERVICE PILOT

Overview. In March 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Peace Corps took the unprecedented step of evacuating all Volunteers from posts and suspending all overseas Volunteer activities and placement. During this period, the agency examined possible alternative models of service to achieve the Peace Corps goals and launched the Virtual Service Pilot (VSP) in late 2020. The VSP was initially limited only to returned Peace Corps Volunteers, who could donate their voluntary services as private citizens in accordance with the agency's existing gift acceptance as Virtual Service Pilot Participants (VSPPs) in a small number of participating host countries.

Evaluation Questions. The Peace Corps seeks to answer the following evaluation questions in this study:

- Does virtual service respond to the evolving needs of partners and U.S. citizens' interests in different ways to serve the mission of the Peace Corps?
- 2. What trends are occurring in the VSP?

- 3. Comparatively, how does VSP engagement compare to in-person volunteer service?
- 4. Are VSPPs transitioning into Peace Corps Volunteer positions and are Peace Corps Volunteers transitioning into VSPPs?
- 5. Did VSP enable individuals who could not serve in person for family, medical, financial, or other reasons to contribute to the mission of the Peace Corps?

Data. Existing administrative records on VSPP data and Volunteer applicant data. Qualitative information regarding service processes will be gathered from detailed discussions with agency staff.

Methods. An in-depth process evaluation will be carried out through both a quantitative and qualitative lens. This includes aspects of implementation, Volunteer satisfaction, and other service model considerations. After the processes are evaluated an assessment of satisfaction will be undertaken. The core Peace Corps service model will be used as the baseline for effectiveness as it relates to Peace Corps goals.

Anticipated Challenges. The VSP is a test of a service model with unique data considerations. Data is not yet available in some instances nor is it easily available for connection to other Peace Corps data sources. This is because VSPPs are not Volunteers, but rather private citizen donors, so are not tracked through the same systems as Volunteers. This challenge necessitates close cooperation with agency staff facilitating the pilot in terms of new data creation and manipulation.

Evidence Use and Dissemination. This evaluation presents an opportunity to assist in the evaluation of VSP and potentially provide recommendations on programmatic efficiency or effectiveness.

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PROGRAM EVALUATION: RECRUITMENT PILOT PROGRAMS

Overview. Since the return of in-person service beginning in 2022 following the global evacuation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Peace Corps has faced a challenge in the recruitment of new Volunteers. Although the Peace Corps has continued to increase the number of Volunteers in service, overall Volunteer levels and placement distribution have not returned to pre-pandemic figures. Several Peace Corps host countries have not received the expected number of Volunteers to maintain pre-pandemic operational levels. To increase applicants, and thus increase Volunteers in service, the agency is piloting several strategies to enhance recruitment efforts and increase access to service.

Evaluation Questions. The Peace Corps seeks to answer the following evaluation questions in this study:

- Are the recruitment pilots in progress achieving their intended goals regarding increased applicants and number of Volunteers in service?
- 2. Which of the recruitment pilot strategies are the most effective at increasing recruitment?
- 3. What effects do the recruitment pilots have on Peace Corps service outside of recruitment, such as Volunteer retention?
- 4. Can lessons be learned from comparing the two-year Volunteer service model to a shortened service model?

Data. Qualitative information provided from detailed discussions with the Office of Global Operations. Existing administrative records on performance metrics regarding ongoing recruitment cycle, and pilot initiatives. Programmatic data from posts and Volunteers participating in the pilot programs.

Methods. Prior to analysis, key quantitative variables will be determined and benchmarked to capture recruitment processes. These will be used in a comparative, mixed methods analysis to form an overall impression of success with the current Volunteer recruitment model as a baseline. If enough information can be collected on the programmatic impacts of the service model changes (e.g. 15-month service pilot), a structured comparative analysis will be undertaken.

Anticipated Challenges. The Peace Corps lacks significant longitudinal institutional knowledge due to the Five-Year Rule time-limiting agency employment; this will prevent insight into past experimental recruitment interventions unless documentation is extensive. Additionally, the Peace Corps has unique goals for its programs and sufficient data for comparative analysis across the Volunteer service models may be difficult to establish.

Evidence Use and Dissemination. This evaluation presents an opportunity to evaluate new, innovative processes in the critical Peace Corps function of Volunteer recruitment. Lessons learned from this analysis can provide insights that could be used in future standard operating procedure adjustments.

PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT: POST RECRUITABILITY INDEX USING COHORT ANALYSIS

Overview. To better understand and strategically address the varying levels of success and challenge in placing Peace Corps Volunteers across different host countries, the agency will develop a quantitative Post Recruitability Index. This index aims to provide a standardized measure of relative recruitment performance, incorporating applicant preferences, conversion efficiencies, and known selection effects. The core of this initiative is a comparative, replicable cohort analysis using existing administrative data to generate robust inputs for the index, offering a nuanced view beyond simple application counts or enter-on-duty (EOD) figures. *Evaluation Questions.* This study seeks to answer the following key questions related to post recruitability:

- How do Peace Corps posts compare in terms of attracting applicants and converting them through the invitation, acceptance, and EOD stages?
- 2. What are the primary drivers of high or low performance for specific posts (e.g., initial applicant interest, invitation acceptance rates, post-acceptance yield)?
- How robust are these performance indicators when different cohort definitions (application-date based vs. EOD-date based) are used?
- 4. Can an aggregated index, adjusted for factors like medical accommodation availability, provide a fair and actionable measure of relative recruitability for each post?

Data. Existing administrative records on applicant journeys from the Peace Corps' primary data system (e.g., Database of Volunteer Experience [DOVE]), including application submission dates, country preferences, invitation details, acceptance status, and EOD dates.

Methods. A quantitative cohort analysis will be conducted using two distinct cohort definitions to ensure robustness. Key metrics—invitation acceptance rate, EOD yield rate, and initial application distribution—will be calculated for each post within each cohort. These metrics will be standardized using Z-scores. A final Post Recruitability Index will be constructed, likely as a weighted average of these Z-scores. Interpretation will involve analyzing the index scores, diagnosing drivers using underlying metrics and scatterplot visualizations, and contextualizing with demand data.

Anticipated Challenges. The specific weighting of components of the Post Recruitability Index will involve subjective judgment based on strategic priorities. Distinguishing the impact of medical accommodation availability from inherent country-

specific medical clearance challenges requires careful interpretation. Data quality and consistency in administrative records across the full applicant lifecycle are crucial.

Evidence Use and Dissemination. This analysis will produce a Post Recruitability Index and diagnostic insights to inform strategic resource allocation, targeted recruitment efforts, and placement strategies. It can help identify posts excelling in certain areas (to model best practices for both Peace Corps/Washington and overseas staff) and those facing significant challenges requiring specific interventions. The methodology provides a template for ongoing monitoring of post recruitability.

PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT: COUNTRY PORTFOLIO REVIEW

Overview. Mandated by the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-57), the Peace Corps conducts Country Portfolio Reviews (CPRs) to evaluate the allocation and delivery of resources across the countries it serves or is considering for service. The primary goal of this CPR is to provide agency leadership with a standardized, data-driven assessment of each post's performance and strategic alignment. This is achieved by evaluating posts across key strategic categories, informed by the requirements in the Kate Puzey Act for program goals, metrics, and performance plans. The CPR aims to support decisions regarding post-resourcing by offering a comprehensive view of post operations and effectiveness.

Assessment Questions. This CPR seeks to answer the following key questions, aligning with the Kate Puzey Act's emphasis on program effectiveness and resource evaluation:

 How do Peace Corps posts perform and rank relative to each other within each of the strategic categories (country partnership, country need, safety and security, post cost, and post management),

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which encapsulate the core operational and programmatic aspects relevant to the act's intent?

- 2. What are the specific underlying indicator scores driving a post's performance within these categories, allowing for a granular understanding of strengths and weaknesses?
- 3. What is the overall composite performance score and rank for each Peace Corps post when the strategic category scores are aggregated, providing a holistic view of post standing?
- 4. Are there discernible regional patterns, significant outliers, or systemic trends in performance across the categories or in the overall CPR score that require strategic attention?
- 5. How can the CPR results guide decisions on resource allocation and Volunteer levels, identify posts requiring targeted support or those demonstrating best practices, and inform ongoing strategic adjustments across the agency?

Data. The CPR utilizes existing administrative records from various Peace Corps data systems (e.g., DOVE for applicant and Volunteer data, financial systems, security incident databases, annual Volunteer surveys as mandated by the Kate Puzey Act, and staff surveys like Annual Volunteer Survey/Host Country Staff Survey). External data, such as Millenium Challenge Corporation Scorecards (which use public, thirdparty governance data), are also incorporated. These data sources will populate approximately 40-50 quantitative and qualitative sub-category indicators, which are then grouped into the five strategic categories.

Methods. A quantitative methodology complemented by contextual information is employed. For each sub-category indicator, raw data is transformed into a normalized score. These normalized indicator scores are aggregated to produce a score for each of the five main strategic

categories for every post. An overall CPR score is then calculated by combining these five category scores, using a weighting scheme that allows for an iterative review of trade-offs and explicitly balances competing strategic views (e.g., country need vs. recruitment feasibility). Visualizations (e.g., heatmaps, bar charts, quadrant analyses) will be used to compare post performance and diagnose drivers.

Anticipated Challenges. Ensuring consistent data quality and definitions across all posts for numerous diverse indicators remains a challenge. The normalization of varied indicator types requires careful consideration. The assignment of weights—both for indicators within categories and for categories within the overall CPR score involves subjective judgment reflecting strategic priorities and can significantly influence final rankings. Balancing competing views and strategic goals (e.g., serving high-need countries versus maximizing Volunteer EODs in high-conversion posts) within the weighting and interpretation process is complex.

Evidence Use and Dissemination. The CPR produces a comprehensive set of scores and rankings for each post, providing critical input for decisions regarding Volunteer levels and resource allocation, in line with the Kate Puzey Act's mandate for resource evaluation. It will be used by agency leadership for strategic oversight and portfolio management. Regional directors will use the findings for intra-regional comparison, identifying posts for targeted support or those demonstrating best practices. Individual post dashboards will help country directors understand their specific performance drivers. The CPR is designed as a repeatable assessment to track performance and inform future strategic adjustments, but it will not make explicit countrylevel cutoffs or specific Volunteer allocation decisions itself.

This report is available at <u>peacecorps.gov/reports</u>.

Comments or questions on this plan may be sent to OSIRP@peacecorps.gov.

