

IPS 1-21 Grant of Two Additional Years of Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE) for Peace Corps Staff Positions to Volunteers and Peace Corps Response Volunteers Granted Close of Service (COS) Status From January 1 2020 due to the COVID -19 Pandemic

Effective Date: March 12, 2021

Responsible Offices: Office of Global Operations; Office of Human Resources; Office of Volunteer Recruitment and Selection; Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services

Interim Policy Statement

Issuance Memo (3/12/2021)

1.0 Purpose

This Interim Policy Statement (IPS) 1-21 *Grant of Two Additional Years of Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE) for Peace Corps Staff Positions to Volunteers and Peace Corps Response Volunteers Granted Close of Service (COS) Status from January 1, 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic* establishes Peace Corps policy regarding NCE at the agency for all Volunteers and Peace Corps Response Volunteers granted COS status from January 1, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic (for the purposes of this IPS, Volunteers). The Agency has decided, in accordance with its authority under the Peace Corps Act, to extend the period of NCE provided to such Volunteers for employment at the Peace Corps for an additional two years immediately beyond the one year of NCE status previously provided.

2.0 Applicability

This IPS applies to Volunteers who were granted COS status from January 1, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The provisions of MS 285 *Volunteer Description of Service*, as amended by IPS 4-20, MS 601 *Administration of the Peace Corps Direct Hire System* and all other provisions of the Peace Corps Manual are applicable to Volunteers covered by this IPS.

3.0 Policy

Due to the highly unusual circumstances and need for assistance caused by the ongoing economic difficulties and medical challenges that Volunteers faced and continue to face during the COVID-19 pandemic, the agency wishes to provide additional NCE benefits for Peace Corps positions to all Volunteers granted COS status from January 1, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, such Volunteers are eligible for an additional two years of NCE status for Peace Corps positions, commencing immediately after the one-year NCE period previously granted to these Volunteers. As a result, such Volunteers will have a total of three years of NCE eligibility for Peace Corps staff positions from the date upon which they were granted COS status due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. For the purposes of this IPS 1-21, MS 601 will be implemented so as to ensure compliance with the provisions of this IPS.

4.0 Effective Date Agency Review

- (a) The effective date of this IPS is the date of issuance.
- (b) This IPS will be reviewed by the Senior Policy Committee within 12 months of its date of issuance to assess the need for any revisions to the policy and the time-frame for continued applicability.