



## **Annual Conference Report FY 2019**

The Peace Corps was established by President John F. Kennedy by executive order on March 1, 1961, and formally authorized by Congress with the passage of the Peace Corps Act, shortly thereafter. The Peace Corps is an independent agency in the executive branch of the U.S. government. The agency was founded with the mission of promoting world peace and friendship by fostering relationships between the people of the United States and the people in countries where Volunteers serve. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, the Peace Corps had 7,334 Volunteers serving in 61 countries, administered by 58 overseas posts. At the end of FY 2019, administrative support to Volunteers included 926 U.S. direct hires and 2,862 host country staff.

Domestic and overseas conferences are a critical mechanism for the delivery of essential training and the sharing and collaboration with staff regarding agency programs, operations, and procedures. The Peace Corps recognizes that conferences improve performance and increase the competencies of its staff. Nevertheless, the Peace Corps has a responsibility to act as a careful steward of taxpayer dollars, ensuring that funds are used for purposes that are appropriate, cost effective, and important to the agency's core mission. The Peace Corps must exercise discretion and judgment in ensuring that conference expenses are appropriate, necessary, and managed in a manner that minimizes expense.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued Memorandum M-17-08, amending M-12-12 Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations, and directing agencies to report conference expenses that exceed \$100,000, for the previous fiscal year on their public website by January 31 of each year. This report lists all conferences that were sponsored by the agency during FY 2019 that meet the reporting threshold. Conference expenses were tracked by the sponsoring office and obligation number; conference costs include participant travel costs, lodging, and pier-diem, in addition to food, audio-visual and supplies, and venue expenses.

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Name of Conference	Conference Description/Purpose	Start Date	End Date	Event Location	Attendee Count	Conference Cost	Contracting Procedure
DPT Conference - AF	The DPT Conference brings together the Directors of Programming and Training (DPTs) and Programming and Training Managers from the Africa Region (AF) to collaborate and discuss topics for improving post management practices and addressing key Programming and Training issues and initiatives, including: improving Volunteer site assignments and management, staff training and development, and enhancing language learning through service, fostering a diverse and inclusive culture of Volunteer support, and sharing best practices and innovative solutions.	04/07/19	04/13/19	Senegal	43	\$ 104,398	Competitive Basis
DMO Conference - AF	The DMO Conference brings together Africa Region's (AF) Directors of Management and Operations (DMOs) and Host Country National Overseas Contracting Officers to collaborate and discuss topics of regional importance, including the operations planning for FY2020, management of Personal Service Contractors, impacts resulting from increased warrant authority, cashier supervision, staff capacity building, general policy standardization, and other administrative topics of interest to the agency.	04/26/19	05/04/19	Lesotho	56	\$ 163,445	Competitive Basis
CD Conference - EMA	The CD Conference brings together the Country Directors (CDs) from the Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia Region (EMA) and selected headquarters staff to collaborate and discuss topics of regional importance, including efficient and effective management practices, support for Volunteers, and agency initiatives.	04/27/19	05/03/19	Morocco	39	\$ 152,565	Competitive Basis
GRS Sustainability Workshop	The GRS Sustainability Workshop trains Peace Corps staff to become Grassroots Soccer (GRS) master coaches and trainers, in order for posts to be able to train PCVs to GRS themselves making the intervention sustainable and cost effective.	04/29/19	05/10/19	South Africa	36	\$ 101,598	Competitive Basis
DPT Conference - IAP	The DPT Conference brings together the Directors of Programming and Training (DPTs) and Programming and Training Managers from the Inter-America and Pacific Region (IAP) to collaborate and discuss topics for improving post management practices and addressing key Programming and Training issues and initiatives, including: improving Volunteer site assignments and management, staff training and development, and enhancing language learning through service, fostering a diverse and inclusive culture of Volunteer support, and sharing best practices and innovative solutions.	05/05/19	05/11/19	Dominican Republic	44	\$ 153,000	Competitive Basis
All VRS Training (AVT)	The All Volunteer Recruitment and Selection (VRS) Training is an annual conference that brings together VRS staff for all regions and unit offices. The joint conference reviews past year's results, trains attendees on new initiatives and technologies, and discusses plans for the upcoming recruitment and placement season.	07/14/19	07/19/19	Pennsylvania	154	\$ 284,298	Competitive Basis

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Name of Conference	Conference Description/Purpose	Start Date	End Date	Event Location	Attendee Count	Conference Cost	Contracting Procedure
CIE Conference (July)	The CIE Conference brings together IT Specialists/IT Assistants (ITS/ITA) for a Continuing IT Education (CIE) week-long training. During this event, ITS/ITA from overseas posts and headquarters IT staff collaborate on best practices, discuss agency IT initiatives, and conduct training for the advancement of technical and soft skills of ITS/ITA to better serve agency users and support overseas posts. Due to the large number of attendees, this conference was split into two groups, one that took place in July and another in August.	07/15/19	07/19/19	Headquarters( Washington, DC)	39	\$ 138,921	N/A
CIE Conference (August)	The CIE Conference brings together IT Specialists/IT Assistants (ITS/ITA) for a Continuing IT Education (CIE) week-long training. During this event, ITS/ITA from overseas posts and headquarters IT staff collaborate on best practices, discuss agency IT initiatives, and conduct training for the advancement of technical and soft skills of ITS/ITA to better serve agency users and support overseas posts. Due to the large number of attendees, this conference was split into two groups, one that took place in July and another in August.	08/19/19	08/23/19	Headquarters( Washington, DC)	31	\$ 137,002	N/A
CD Conference - IAP	The CD Conference brings together the Country Directors (CDs) from the Inter-America and Pacific Region and selected headquarters staff to collaborate and discuss topics of regional importance, including efficient and effective management practices, support for Volunteers, and agency initiatives.	08/19/19	08/23/19	Guatemala	38	\$ 113,313	Competitive Basis
CME Conference (Aug)	The CME Conference provides Peace Corps Medical Officers with an opportunity to earn required Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits needed to remain credentialed to practice medicine in accordance with agency policies and federal regulations. Due to the large number of attendees and educational topics, this conference was split into two groups; one in August and another in September.	08/25/19	08/30/19	District of Columbia	80	\$ 310,600	Competitive Basis
CME Conference (Sep)	The CME Conference provides Peace Corps Medical Officers with an opportunity to earn required Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits needed to remain credentialed to practice medicine in accordance with agency policies and federal regulations. Due to the large number of attendees and educational topics, this conference was split into two groups; one in August and another in September.	09/08/19	09/13/19	District of Columbia	82	\$ 331,660	Competitive Basis
CD Conference - AF	The CD Conference brings together the Country Directors (CDs) from the Africa Region (AF) and selected headquarters staff to collaborate and discuss topics of regional importance, including efficient and effective management practices, support for Volunteers, and agency initiatives.	09/21/19	09/27/19	Rwanda	50	\$ 205,928	Competitive Basis