

Peace Corps | Benefits of Service



Benefits During Service

Living stipend and vacation time

The Peace Corps provides each Volunteer with a living stipend that enables one to live in a manner similar to the local people in his or her community, covering housing, food, and incidentals. Additionally, Volunteers receive two vacation days per month of service—a total of 48 days over two years. Many use this time to travel to nearby countries, invite family or friends to visit, or take a trip home (at their own expense).

Full medical and dental coverage

The Peace Corps provides complete medical and dental care during service and covers all related expenses, including those incurred during the training period and while Volunteers are on vacation or any type of leave. If a health problem occurs that cannot be treated locally, the Peace Corps, at its own expense, will send the Volunteer to an appropriate facility in a nearby country or the United States. Additionally, Volunteers are eligible for affordable health insurance following service. The Peace Corps pays the first month's premium, and returned Volunteers then have the option to purchase a reasonably priced insurance policy to cover themselves and qualified dependents.

Student loan assistance

School loan deferments exist for several federal programs (i.e., Stafford, Perkins, direct, and consolidated loans). Volunteers with Perkins loans may be eligible for a 15-70 percent cancellation benefit. Volunteer service is also considered “qualifying employment” for the Department

of Education’s Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. Some private loans may also be deferred during Peace Corps service. Talk to your lending institution about how this benefit applies to your particular situation. For more information, visit peacecorps.gov/loans.

Benefits Overview

- Living stipend and vacation time
- Full medical and dental coverage
- Student loan assistance
- Unique graduate school opportunities
- Transition funds after service
- Marketable professional skills
- Advantages in federal employment
- Transition and job search services
- Opportunities for short-term assignments through Peace Corps Response
- Travel to and from country of service
- No fee to participate





Benefits After Service

Transition funds

The Peace Corps recognizes that returning from abroad requires some adjustment. After completion of 27 months of service, the Peace Corps provides over \$8,000 (pre-tax) to help with the transition to life back home. This money is for returned Volunteers to use as they wish.

Marketable professional skills gained from language, cross-cultural, and technical training

Fluency in foreign languages, international experience, and intercultural understanding are highly sought assets in today's global economy. The Peace Corps provides Volunteers with up to three months of intensive language, intercultural, and technical training before service begins, and offers continued training throughout service.

Advantages in federal employment and with Peace Corps partner organizations

Returned Volunteers receive one year of noncompetitive eligibility for employment in the federal government. This means that, at the hiring agency's discretion, if a returned Volunteer meets the minimum qualifications for a position, he or she can be hired without going through the standard competitive process. Those who are employed by the federal government after their Peace Corps service can receive credit toward retirement for their years of Volunteer service, as well as time toward their annual leave category. Visit peacecorps.gov/nce for more information.

Transition and job search services

The Peace Corps provides transition assistance related to jobs and education. The Peace Corps publishes an online job board of returned Volunteer friendly job announcements, sponsors career events throughout the United States, and helps returned Volunteers translate their field experience for prospective employers and other professional contacts. Check out peacecorps.gov/engage to find out more.

Opportunities for short-term assignments through Peace Corps Response

Peace Corps Response is a program that offers short-term, high-impact assignments abroad for returned Volunteers and other professionals with 10-plus years of experience. Visit peacecorps.gov/response for details.

Financial assistance for graduate school programs

Returned Volunteers have lifetime eligibility for reduced tuition, assistantships, and stipends at more than 90 universities in a variety of subject areas through the Paul D. Coverdell Fellows program. Fellows combine graduate study with substantive, degree-related internships that help meet the needs of underserved U.S. communities. A list of participating schools and fields of study can be found at peacecorps.gov/fellows.

***Make a difference.
Be a Volunteer.***



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