

Peace Corps | Benefits of Service



Benefits During Service

Living allowance and vacation time

The Peace Corps provides each Volunteer with a living allowance 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 in the United States. Additionally, Volunteers are eligible for affordable health insurance for up to 18 months 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

Volunteers with Perkins Loans may be eligible for a partial cancellation benefit. School loan deferments exist for several federal programs, i.e., Stafford (formerly known as guaranteed student loans), Perkins, direct, and consolidated

loans. Some commercial loans may also be deferred during Peace Corps service. Talk to your lending institution about how this benefit applies to your particular situation.

Unique graduate school opportunities

Combine graduate school with Peace Corps service through the Master's International program. Visit peacecorps.gov/masters for a list of participating schools and fields of study.

Benefits Overview

- Living allowance 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 support 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 overseas requires some adjustment. After completion of 27 months of service, \$7,425 (pre-tax) is provided 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 cross-cultural understanding are highly sought assets in today's global economy. The Peace Corps provides Volunteers with up to three months of intensive 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 those years of Volunteer service, as well as time toward their annual leave category. In addition to federal employment advantages, your Volunteer service strengthens

your competitiveness for employment with Peace Corps partner organizations. Visit peacecorps.gov/careerpartners for a list of partner organizations.

Transition and job support services

Peace Corps Returned Volunteer Services (RVS) provides transition assistance related to jobs and education. RVS publishes a career-related online newsletter and listserv, sponsors career events throughout the U.S., 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 overseas for returned Volunteers and other professionals with 10+ years of experience. Visit peacecorps.gov/response for details.

Financial assistance for graduate school programs

The Paul D. Coverdell Fellows program is a graduate fellowship program that offers lifetime eligibility for financial assistance to returned Volunteers. All Fellows complete internships in underserved American communities, allowing them to bring home, and expand upon, the skills they learned as Volunteers. Visit peacecorps.gov/fellows for more information.

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