



*Life is calling.*

How far will you go?

## FACT SHEET

### Peace Corps

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### OVERVIEW

Peace Corps is an independent U.S. government agency that provides trained Volunteers for countries requesting assistance around the world. The agency traces its roots and mission to 1960, when then-Sen. John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries.

Although times have changed, the Peace Corps continues to promote peace and friendship by remaining true to its mission, established in 1961:

1. To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
2. To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
3. To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

### HISTORY

<b>Officially established:</b>	March 1, 1961
<b>Americans who have served:</b>	210,000+
<b>Host countries served to date:</b>	139

### PEACE CORPS TODAY

<b>(Acting) Peace Corps Director:</b>	Carrie Hessler-Radelet (Western Samoa, 1981-1983)
<b>Host countries:</b>	76
<b>Volunteers and trainees:</b>	8,073
<b>Gender:</b>	62% female, 38% male
<b>Marital status:</b>	93% single, 7% married
<b>Minorities:</b>	22% of Volunteers
<b>Average age:</b>	28
<b>Volunteers over 50:</b>	7% of Volunteers

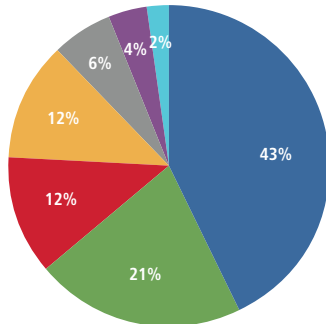


## PEACE CORPS SERVICE

Volunteers work with local governments, communities, schools, and small businesses to address changing and complex needs in education, health, community economic development, environment, youth in development, and agriculture.

### *Peace Corps Program Sectors:*

● Education:	43%
● Health:	21%
● Community Economic Development:	12%
● Environment:	12%
● Youth in Development:	6%
● Agriculture:	4%
● Other:	2%



- The health, safety, and security of Volunteers is Peace Corps' highest priority. The agency devotes significant resources to provide Volunteers with the training, support, and information they need to stay healthy and safe.

## WHERE VOLUNTEERS SERVE

Peace Corps provides technical assistance to countries that request it.

### *Percentage of total Volunteers serving, by geographic region, in 2012:*

<b>Africa:</b>	43%
<b>Latin America:</b>	21%
<b>Eastern Europe/Central Asia:</b>	15%
<b>Asia:</b>	10%
<b>The Caribbean:</b>	4%
<b>North Africa/Middle East:</b>	4%
<b>Pacific Islands:</b>	3%

## PEACE CORPS HIGHLIGHTS

- Peace Corps Volunteers come from all areas of the U.S., with California producing the most Volunteers overall and the District of Columbia producing the most per capita. The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island metro area produced the most Volunteers overall, while the metro area of Fort Collins and Loveland, Colo., is the leading producer of Peace Corps Volunteers per capita
- In December 2012, the Peace Corps teamed up with Random Hack of Kindness for the first Peace Corps Innovation Challenge – an effort to develop technology-based solutions to community problems in developing countries. Seventy-four ideas were submitted from around the world, and 10 tech solutions were developed at 30 hackathons worldwide.
- In November 2012, 20 Peace Corps Volunteers were sworn in at the U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal, after an eight-year absence from the country. The Volunteers will be working to promote food security through agriculture, sanitation, and health activities.
- Peace Corps reflects the diversity of America—today's Volunteers range in age from 19-82 and represent all 50 states.

## BUDGET

<b>Fiscal Year 2012</b>	\$375 million
<b>Fiscal Year 2013</b>	\$377.295 million*

## TO BE A VOLUNTEER

- Length of service is 27 months, which includes an average of 10 weeks of in-country training and 24 months of Volunteer service.
- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. The application process averages 9-12 months.
- The minimum age for Peace Corps service is 18; there is no upper age limit. Volunteers must be U.S. citizens.
- Volunteers receive a living allowance that covers housing, food, and incidentals, enabling them to live in a manner similar to people in their local communities.

Figures are based on data as of September 30, 2012.

\*Annualized funding under Continuing Appropriations Resolution 2013 until March 27, 2013