Peace Corps | Health & HIV/AIDS



Peace Corps service is a life-defining leadership experience. Peace Corps Volunteers live, learn, and work with a community overseas for 27 months, providing technical assistance in six program areas: education, youth and community development, health, business and information and communications technology, agriculture, and environment. We are looking for applicants with a variety of skills and are actively recruiting to reflect the diversity of America. Peace Corps prepares Volunteers with language, cross-cultural, and technical training.

We recommend you submit your application as early as possible so we can match your skills to openings as they become available. Plan ahead and apply nine months to a year in advance of your target departure date. To be eligible for Peace Corps service, you must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen.

Health Volunteers

The well-being of a community begins with basics such as access to clean water, nutrition, and preventive health measures. Peace Corps Volunteers encourage community members to adopt healthy behaviors and raise awareness about public health issues such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, maternal and child services, nutrition, and hygiene education. As promoters of health education and awareness, Volunteers are not medical care providers.

Programs and Sample Projects

Health Extension

- Arrange training on nutrition, sanitation, and oral rehydration therapy
- Identify local leaders to teach families about maternal and child health, basic nutrition, hygiene, or sanitation
- Conduct training of trainers for peer education about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases

Public Health Education

- Support local health clinics to develop health education and outreach programs
- Conduct needs assessment surveys in communities
- Assist government planning offices in identifying health education needs
- Design communication messages aimed at improving local health practices
- Manage epidemiological studies

Water and Sanitation Extension

- Conduct community outreach to heighten awareness of water and sanitation, health, and environment issues
- Tap springs, construct wells, build latrines, and develop irrigation systems
- Improve potable water storage facilities





Environmental and Water Resources Engineering

- Train community members in facilities operation and maintenance
- Design and build potable water sources and supply systems, including sewage and irrigation systems
- Design and build garbage collection facilities, earthen dams, and concrete spillways

Construction and Skilled Trades

- Develop and build water and sanitation projects
- Conduct vocational education in the skilled trades

What Makes a Successful Volunteer

From the application process through completion of service, successful Peace Corps Volunteers demonstrate motivation, flexibility, curiosity, cultural sensitivity, leadership, and a commitment to service.

Launch Your Career

Peace Corps Volunteers who served in the field of public health have gone on to careers with a variety of leading public health and development institutions, including: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Public Health Service, and many private companies and nongovernmental organizations. Visit our website to learn how returned Peace Corps Volunteers receive advantages in federal employment.

Benefits of Peace Corps Service

- Language, cross-cultural, and technical training
- Travel costs to and from the country of service covered
- Stipend for overseas living and housing expenses
- Medical and dental coverage
- Student loan deferment and partial cancellation of some loans
- Vacation time
- Transition funds of \$7,425 (before taxes) following 27 months of service
- Career and transition assistance
- Advantages with Peace Corps graduate school partners
- No fee to participate

"My Peace Corps experience was life-changing. I developed a commitment to volunteering and learned skills in dealing with people of different cultures and dispute-resolution issues that serve me well in helping lead the nation's largest voluntary health organization."

> Van Velsor Wolf Board Chair of the American Cancer Society Peace Corps Volunteer in Tanzania

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Live, learn, and work with a community overseas. Be a Volunteer.