

Public Health Education



Your Skills. Our Jobs.

Health issues such as HIV/AIDS, sanitation and nutrition, and maternal and child health challenge the welfare of people and communities throughout the world. The Peace Corps' health education programs continue to be highly requested by host countries who are seeking credentialed health specialists to join the effort and become part of a service legacy that dates back to 1961. While you may have many job prospects, nothing in your career is likely to compare to the challenges and rewards of the Peace Corps.

Public Health, Meet the World Stage.

Add a new dimension to your career. Discover innovative ways to apply your workplace, classroom, and leadership experiences. Work in unforgettable locations where your knowledge and resourcefulness are in great demand. Forge new and lifelong relationships within the communities you serve, while equipping communities to adopt healthy lifestyles and support those who are suffering and in need. The possibilities as a Peace Corps Volunteer are endless and yours to leave an indelible mark.

Upon returning to the U.S., you'll discover open doors leading to new and exciting personal and professional opportunities. Fluency in a foreign language, international experience, and cross-cultural understanding are highly sought-after assets in today's global economy. You'll take away the satisfaction of knowing your efforts will have a lasting influence abroad while making you stand out here at home.

Experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer working in public health is valued by numerous organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Public Health Service, the American Red Cross, Oxfam International, Doctors Without Borders and many private companies, NGOs, and public organizations seeking individuals with unique skills.

The Work.

As a Public Health Education Volunteer, your role will be to provide formal and informal training and support to individuals, communities, NGOs, hospitals, clinics, and others. Your work will depend upon collaboration with host country counterparts. Depending on your specific assignment, you might:

- Develop and conduct training workshops to improve the skills of community health workers
- Promote volunteerism to mobilize community members and develop caregiver groups
- Create materials and workshops to help eliminate stigma of those who suffer from HIV/AIDS
- Support government organizations and NGOs in promoting healthier lifestyles
- Conduct assessments and develop systems for data collection and analysis
- Develop social welfare, life skills, and school access programs for orphans
- Carry out epidemiological studies



As the Peace Corps approaches its 50th anniversary, it continues to promote peace and friendship, with Volunteers serving in over 70 countries. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Americans have served the Peace Corps in 139 countries around the world

Are You Ready?



How do I qualify?

To qualify for a Public Health Education assignment, you will need at a minimum:

- Bachelor's degree in health education, nutrition, or dietetics or
- Master's degree in public health or
- Registered nurse certified in public health or midwifery or
- Certification as a physician's assistant

Is this the right fit?

Let the Peace Corps match your skills and ambitions with the right type of program. Based on the areas identified by our host countries, there is a pressing need for education, information, and support systems that encourage community members to adopt behaviors that promote health, prevent illness, treat disease, and facilitate rehabilitation. You may live and work in a rural area, a small village, or a larger town. In all sites, you have the opportunity to put your knowledge and ideas into practice and, in the process, be a catalyst for change and set the groundwork for a truly sustainable impact.

How can I stand out?

Qualified applicants have been active in health-related activities on a volunteer basis in college or their community, working, for example, as peer nutritionists, AIDS or sexually transmitted disease counselors, or resident advisors in dormitories. Many are pre-med students who have shadowed doctors in hospitals. You will strengthen your application if your credentials include experience in disease surveillance, creative training and adult education techniques, and community entry and survey methods.

The ability to learn a new language is an important ingredient to a successful volunteer experience. Become more competitive by taking at least a year of French or two years of Spanish at the university level. If you have learned a language informally, Peace Corps may consider the CLEP and ACTFL exams to consider you for placement.

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Call 800.424.8580, option 1 to talk to a recruiter near you.

"We created a radio broadcasting project to empower young people to address health issues in their community the trained them in radio broadcasting and various aspects of reproductive health. They were not only dynamic, enthusiastic, and hungry to offer and receive information, but their newfound voice allows them to talk about issues that are otherwise taboo in the community and educate a population in a highly entertaining manner."

— John Sullivan, Volunteer in Nicaragua