

*Life is calling.*  
How far will you go?

## FACT SHEET

### Peace Corps

Paul D. Coverdell  
Peace Corps Headquarters  
1111 20th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20526

[peacecorps.gov](http://peacecorps.gov)

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800.424.8580 TOLL FREE  
202.692.1111 MAIN  
202.692.2230 PRESS

### 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

**Officially established:** March 1, 1961  
**Americans who have served:** 200,000+  
**Host countries served to date:** 139

### PEACE CORPS TODAY

**Peace Corps Director:** Aaron S. Williams  
(Dominican Republic, 1967-1970)

**Peace Corps Deputy Director:** Carrie Hessler-Radelet  
(Western Samoa, 1981-1983)

**Host countries:** 75  
**Volunteers and trainees:** 9,095  
**Gender:** 61% female, 39% male  
**Marital status:** 93% single, 7% married  
**Minorities:** 20% of Volunteers  
**Average age:** 28  
**Volunteers over 50:** 7% of Volunteers

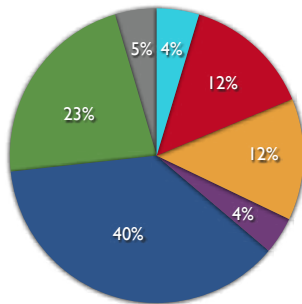


## PEACE CORPS SERVICE

Volunteers work with local governments, communities, schools, and small businesses to address changing and complex needs in education, health and HIV/AIDS, business and information communication technology (ICT), environment, agriculture, and youth development.

### *Peace Corps Program Sectors:*

● Education:	40%
● Health and HIV/AIDS:	23%
● Business and ICT:	12%
● Environment:	12%
● Youth Development:	5%
● Other:	4%
● Agriculture:	4%



## BUDGET

<b>Fiscal Year 2011</b>	\$374.25 million
<b>Fiscal Year 2012</b>	\$375 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.
- 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 2011:*

<b>Africa:</b>	39%
<b>Latin America:</b>	24%
<b>Eastern Europe/Central Asia:</b>	18%
<b>Asia:</b>	9%
<b>The Caribbean:</b>	4%
<b>North Africa/Middle East:</b>	3%
<b>Pacific Islands:</b>	3%

## PEACE CORPS HIGHLIGHTS

- President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961, by executive order 10924.
- Director Aaron S. Williams is the fourth director in Peace Corps' history to have served as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Deputy Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet is also a returned Volunteer.
- Peace Corps reflects the diversity of America—today's Volunteers range in age from 20–84 and represent all 50 states.
- For Americans with an interest in service, Peace Corps is a life-defining leadership opportunity.
- Peace Corps is a great way to launch a career. Volunteers return to the United States as global citizens, with leadership, language, cross-cultural understanding, and technical skills that position them well for professional opportunities.

Figures are based on data as of September 30, 2011. Percentages do not total 100% due to rounding.