Benefits During Service

The benefits of Peace Corps Volunteer service last a lifetime.

LIVING STIPEND AND VACATION TIME
The Peace Corps provides each Volunteer with a living stipend 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 the United States. Volunteers are also eligible for affordable healthcare insurance options following service.

STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE
Volunteers with Perkins Loans may be eligible for a partial cancellation benefit. School loan deferments exist for several federal programs e.g., Stafford, 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.

Peace Corps Volunteers receive benefits and professional development.

“One of the biggest professional benefits for me was becoming part of an expansive network of diverse returned Peace Corps Volunteer peers who generously help newly minted RPCVs find their place in the world. The training and experience you receive conducting data management, project design and management, grant writing, and managing budgets, combined with unique experiences that change your perspective on the world, are also highly valued by potential employers.”

DR. STACEY KELLEY
VOLUNTEER IN COSTA RICA
Benefits After Service

MARKETABLE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS
Fluency in foreign languages, international experience, and intercultural understanding are highly sought assets in today’s global economy. The Peace Corps provides Volunteers with up to three months of intensive language, intercultural, and technical training before service begins, and offers continued training throughout service.

CAREER SERVICES
The Peace Corps publishes an online job board of opportunities compatible with returning Volunteers’ experience, sponsors career events throughout the United States, and helps returned Volunteers translate their field experience for prospective employers and other professional contacts. Check out peacecorps.gov/engage to find out more.

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 federal retirement and employee benefits for their years of Volunteer service. Visit peacecorps.gov/nce for more information.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL PROGRAMS
Returned Volunteers have lifetime eligibility for reduced tuition, assistantships, and stipends at more than 90 universities in a variety of subject areas through the Paul D. Coverdell Fellows program. Fellows combine graduate study with substantive, degree-related internships that help meet the needs of underserved U.S. communities. A list of participating schools and fields of study can be found at peacecorps.gov/fellows.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHORT-TERM ASSIGNMENTS THROUGH PEACE CORPS RESPONSE
Peace Corps Response is a program that offers short-term, high-impact assignments abroad for returned Volunteers and other seasoned professionals with several years of experience. Visit peacecorps.gov/response for details.

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