

Peace Corps' Statement on Diversity

"An organization that represents America should be representative of America.

The diversity of the American people is a large part of what makes America the country it is. Diversity of ethnic backgrounds, life experiences, and beliefs have strengthened our country in countless ways. And because the Peace Corps shares with the rest of the world our most precious resource -- our people -- it can carry out its mission only if the Volunteer corps truly represents America in all its diversity.

Since 1961, Peace Corps Volunteers have helped people in developing countries around the globe overcome the adversities they face and improve the quality of their life. Volunteers have brought that experience back to communities across our country, which has helped America respond to many of its own challenges. This has made the Peace Corps a valuable experience for people of every background, including African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and people of other ethnic groups who are so important to our country's past and its future.

To be sure, there are many communities in America that need and deserve assistance. But the Peace Corps can provide you with a new perspective on the world, a greater understanding of the problems in your community here at home, and provide you with the skills to help solve them.

In today's competitive world, there is often a great deal of pressure to use one's education to take the first good job that comes along. The Peace Corps, however, can often lead to more and better opportunities. Serving overseas as a Peace Corps Volunteer can increase your marketability here at home. Volunteers return with valuable technical and cross-cultural skills, knowledge of a foreign language, a financial readjustment allowance (up to \$6,075 if you complete your training and two years of service), and the chance to participate in the Peace Corps' graduate school programs -- the Master's International Program and the Peace Corps Fellows Program. This will put you in the enviable position to succeed in whatever career you choose.

The Peace Corps is an exciting opportunity not only because of what you can accomplish while serving as a Volunteer, but also because of what you can accomplish when you come home. That's why the Peace Corps continues to attract the best and brightest people from every ethnic background, from all over America. "

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