

the inability to convert local currencies into U.S. dollars. OPIC can insure up to \$250 million per project and has no minimum investment size requirements. Insurance is available for investments in new ventures, expansions of existing enterprises, privatizations, and acquisitions with positive developmental benefits.

OPIC provides financing through direct loans and loan guaranties for medium- and long-term private investment. Loans range from \$100,000 to \$250 million for projects sponsored by U.S. companies, and financing can be provided on a project finance or corporate finance basis. In most cases, the U.S. sponsor is expected to contribute at least 25 percent of the project equity, have a track record in the industry, and have the means to contribute to the financial success of the project.

To address the lack of sufficient equity investment in emerging markets, OPIC has supported the creation of privately owned and managed investment funds that make direct equity and equity-related investments in new, expanding, or privatizing companies. These funds, which have a regional or sectoral focus, provide the long-term growth capital that can serve as a catalyst for private sector economic activity in developing

countries and the creation of new markets and opportunities for American companies.

Helping America's small businesses grow through investments in emerging markets is an important OPIC priority. Any small business with annual revenues less than \$35 million is eligible for small business center programs. For businesses with annual revenues over \$35 million and under \$250 million, OPIC's regular small business programs are available. OPIC provides direct loans to U.S. small businesses, and offers insurance products to meet the special needs of small businesses. Other client services include streamlined applications and processing procedures, and a small business hotline.

Sources of Information

General Inquiries Inquiries should be directed to the Information Officer, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, 1100 New York Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20527. Phone, 202-336-8799. E-mail, info@opic.gov. Internet, www.opic.gov.

Publications OPIC programs are further detailed in the *Annual Report* and the *Program Handbook*. These publications are available free of charge and on the Web site.

For further information, contact the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, 1100 New York Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20527. Phone, 202-336-8400. Fax, 202-408-9859. Internet, www.opic.gov.

PEACE CORPS

1111 Twentieth Street NW., Washington, DC 20526
Phone, 202-692-2000. Fax, 202-692-2231. Internet, www.peacecorps.gov.

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The mission of the Peace Corps is to help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women, and to help promote better mutual understanding between Americans and citizens of other countries.

The Peace Corps was established by the Peace Corps Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2501), and was made an independent agency by title VI of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1981 (22 U.S.C. 2501-1).

The Peace Corps consists of a Washington, DC, headquarters; 11 area offices; and overseas operations in 75 countries, utilizing more than 7,800 volunteers.

Activities

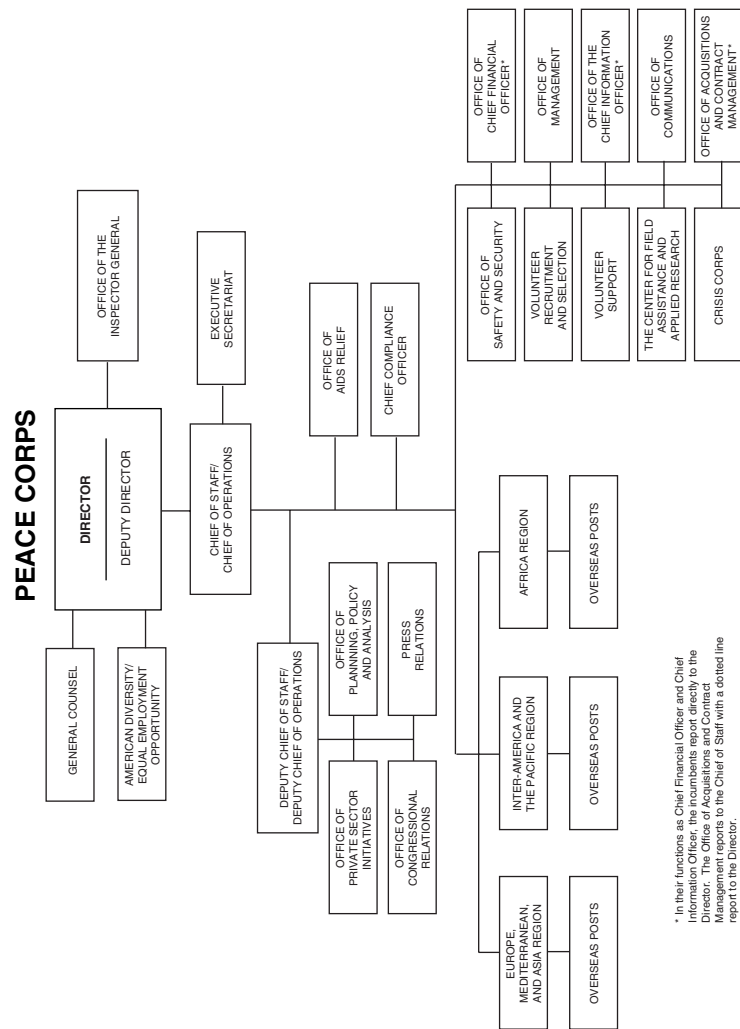
To fulfill the Peace Corps mandate, men and women are trained for a 9-to-14 week period in the appropriate local language, the technical skills necessary for their particular jobs, and the cross-cultural skills needed to adjust to a society with traditions and attitudes different from their own. Volunteers serve for a period of 2 years, living among the people with whom they work. Volunteers are expected to become a part of the community through their voluntary service.

Thousands of volunteers serve throughout the world, working in six

program areas: education, health and HIV/AIDS, environment, information technology, agriculture, and business development. Community-level projects are designed to incorporate the skills of volunteers with the resources of host-country agencies and other international assistance organizations to help solve specific development problems, often in conjunction with private volunteer organizations.

In the United States, the Peace Corps is working to promote an understanding of people in other countries. Through its World Wise Schools Program, volunteers are matched with elementary and junior high schools in the United States to encourage an exchange of letters, pictures, music, and artifacts. Participating students increase their knowledge of geography, languages, and different cultures, while gaining an appreciation for volunteerism.

The Peace Corps offers other domestic programs involving former volunteers, universities, local public school systems, and private businesses and foundations in a partnership to help solve some of



the United States' most pressing domestic problems.

The Peace Corps Office of Private Sector Initiatives works with schools, civic groups, businesses, and

neighborhood and youth organizations in the United States to facilitate their support of Peace Corps initiatives here and abroad.

Area Offices—Peace Corps

Office	Address	Telephone
Atlanta, GA (AL, FL, GA, MS, PR, SC, TN)	Suite 2R70, Bldg. 1924, 100 Alabama St., 30303 ...	404-562-3456
Boston, MA (MA, ME, NH, RI, VT)	Suite 450, 10 Causeway St., 02222	617-565-5555
Chicago, IL (IL, IN, KY, MI, MO, OH)	Suite 450, 55 W. Monroe St., 60603	312-353-4990
Dallas, TX (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)	Rm. 527, 207 S. Houston St., 75202	214-767-5435
Denver, CO (CO, KS, NE, UT, WY)	Suite 2205, 1999 Broadway, 80202	303-844-7020
Los Angeles, CA (AZ, southern CA)	Suite 155, 2361 Rosecrans Ave., El Segundo, CA 90245	310-356-1100
Minneapolis, MN (IA, MN, ND, SD, WI)	Suite 420, 330 2d Ave. S., 55401	612-348-1480
New York, NY (CT, NJ, NY, PA)	Suite 1025, 201 Varick St., 10014	212-352-5440
San Francisco, CA (northern CA, HI, NV)	Suite 600, 333 Market St., 94105	415-977-8800
Seattle, WA (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA)	Rm. 1776, 2001 6th Ave., 98121	206-553-5490
Washington, DC (DC, DE, MD, NC, VA, WV)	Suite 250, 1525 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209	703-235-9191

Sources of Information

Becoming a Peace Corps Volunteer

Contact the nearest area office. Phone, 800-424-8580. Internet, www.peacecorps.gov.

Employment Contact the Peace Corps, Office of Human Resource Management, Washington, DC 20526. Phone, 202-

692-1200. For recorded employment opportunities, call 800-818-9579 (toll free).

General Inquiries Information or assistance may be obtained by contacting the Peace Corps Washington, DC, headquarters or any of its area offices.

For further information, contact the Press Office, Peace Corps, 1111 Twentieth Street NW., Washington, DC 20526. Phone, 202-692-2230 or 800-424-8580. Fax, 202-692-2201. Internet, www.peacecorps.gov.

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

1200 K Street NW., Washington, DC 20005

Phone, 202-326-4000; 800-400-7242. Internet, www.pb.gc.gov.

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