

Peace Corps
Office of Volunteer Recruitment and Selection
Peace Corps Volunteer Application Form
OMB Control Number 0420-0005
Supporting Statement

Section A: Justification

1. Circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

The Peace Corps is seeking an emergency clearance authorizing use of the Expedited Evacuee Re-entry Application for members of the public who are officially associated with the Peace Corps. This specifically applies to Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) who were recently evacuated from their service Posts around the world in response to coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic (COVID-19). These individuals served as Peace Corps Volunteers within rural communities around the world, prior to their necessary mobilization and return to the U.S. This event abruptly changed the status of nearly 7,000 Peace Corps Volunteers to members of the public. We are seeking an emergency clearance to allow us to with the recently evacuated RPCVs by providing a straightforward process and opportunity to reenter volunteer service. It has been streamlined by removing unnecessary questions that remain in the original application form (OMB Control number 0420-005). It is also critical that the Peace Corps rebuild its volunteer program as soon as possible. Currently, there are not any active Peace Corps Volunteers. This expedited application serves for the Office of Volunteer Recruitment and Selection (VRS). VRS is responsible for recruiting individuals to serve in the Peace Corps. The Volunteer application is the mechanism by which interested members of the public apply to serve in the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps uses the application as the tool to collect information from the applicant that will be used to determine whether an individual has the qualifications to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

The Peace Corps Act, in 22 U.S.C. 2504(a), gives the Peace Corps the authority to set the terms and conditions for enrollment of individuals as Peace Corps Volunteers. Further description of those terms and conditions, in 22 CFR Part 305, include the need for particular skills, experience, medical condition, and other characteristics.

2. By whom, how, and for what purpose the information is to be used.

The information collected by the Expedited Evacuee Re-entry Application is used by the Peace Corps to collect essential information from individual applicants who previously served as Peace Corps Volunteers. The information is used by the Peace Corps Office of VRS in its assessment of an individual's qualifications to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer. It is designed to offer the Evacuee RPCV an efficient means of re-applying to the Peace Corps. Selection for Peace Corps service is based on that assessment. This is a modification of traditional application form that is still in use, PC-1502, OMB Control Number 0420-0005. The information in the re-entry application will be used by VRS staff to evaluate the qualifications of RPCV applicants and to make selection decisions, including reassigning the RPCV to the evacuated service site.

3. Consideration of the use of improved information technology.

The Peace Corps Expedited Evacuee Re-entry Application is accessed through the Peace Corps website and is collected electronically.

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The questionnaire logic reduces the burden to applicants and staff because applicants see only the questions relevant to them. When applicants submit subsequent applications, responses from the previous submissions auto-fills throughout the form, further reducing the burden.

4. Efforts to identify duplication. Why similar information cannot be used.

The Peace Corps has limited its questions so that the application is the only questionnaire of its type used by the Peace Corps to assess individuals interested in re-applying to the Peace Corps for 27-month assignments after being evacuated as a result of COVID-19. The electronic, web-based nature of the application allows for staff in multiple offices, domestic or overseas, to view the same information without having to ask applicants to provide it again.

5. Methods to minimize the burden to small business if involved.

N/A

6. Consequences to the Federal program if collection were conducted less frequently.

Countries overseas request the Peace Corps to provide particular types of trained Volunteers to serve in their countries. Those Peace Corps Volunteers represent the United States in those countries overseas. To ensure that the applicants selected as Volunteers have the appropriate skills, experience and other qualifications from among the many individuals interested in Peace Corps service, the Peace Corps uses the traditional Volunteer Application as the mechanism to collect information, to select the best Volunteers, and to identify the assignments in the best interests of the Volunteers, Peace Corps, and the host countries. The Expedited Evacuee Re-entry Application captures only essential information to properly select RPCVs who have already qualified based on the traditional form.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause the information collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with guidelines.

No special circumstances exist that require the information collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.6.

8. Consultation.

We are requesting simultaneous publication of the Federal Register Notice for emergency processing. We have not consulted with other agencies to obtain this information because the information is about Peace Corps RPCV applicant, and therefore other agencies are not likely to have this information.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents.

There is no payment or gift provided to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents.

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Applicants are provided the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), the Paperwork Reduction Act Burden Statement, and a statement of non-discrimination.

11. Additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature.

The following questions make it possible for Peace Corps to determine if an applicant might neglect legal responsibilities while serving as a Volunteer, or if they are in compliance with Peace Corps' restriction on intelligence activities.

- Have you ever been cited for, arrested, charged with, or convicted of any offense? Exclude minor traffic violations, traffic citations, and parking tickets.
- Are you currently involved in any court proceedings (civil or criminal) that will require your participation (as a plaintiff, defendant, or witness) during the time you would be serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer?
- Have you or a family member ever been employed by or connected with an intelligence agency, or engaged in intelligence activity or related work?

The following questions make it possible for Peace Corps to determine if the applicants with a legal history related to drug or alcohol use are in compliance with Peace Corps' drug and alcohol policy.

- What is alcohol abuse?
- In the last three years, what is the longest period of time you have demonstrated without getting drunk from alcohol consumption? Please give the dates.
- What is illegal drug use?
- Has a relative, friend or healthcare representative been concerned about or suggested you cut down on your drinking or drug use or suggested you cut down?
- In the last three years, what is the longest period of time you have demonstrated without using illegal drugs? Please give the dates.
- Have you or someone else been injured or embarrassed as the result of your alcohol or drug use? If yes, please explain.
- Have you taken prescription drugs not prescribed for you or abused prescription drugs? If yes, list drugs and dates.
- What risks have you taken by using drugs and/or alcohol in the US?
- How would using drugs and alcohol in a foreign culture create risks different from those in the US?
- Why is drug and alcohol behavior pertinent to the role of a Peace Corps Volunteer?

12. Estimates of reporting and recordkeeping hour and cost burdens of the collection of information.

* If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in Item 13 of OMB Form 83-I.

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* Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 13.

Estimated burden (hours) of the collection of information:

Peace Corps Application	
a. Number of respondents	23,000
b. Frequency of response	One time
c. Completion time	60 minutes
d. Annual burden	23,000 hours

The estimated total reporting burden is the estimated number of respondents multiplied by the estimated average burden per response.

13. Estimates of annualized capital and start-up costs.

* The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life) and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.

* If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collections services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use 10/95 existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.

* Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

The estimated start-up costs were as follows:

There will be no cost to respondents.

14. Estimates of annualized Federal Government costs.

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Year operations & maintenance	\$200K
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15. Explanation of change in burden.

Within the Volunteer application there are sections that have been edited to improve the accuracy of data collection and reduce the need for staff to request clarification from applicants on a frequent ad hoc bases. Analysis indicates there would be no change in the annual burden.

16. Information collections data planned to be published for statistical use.

The information collected will not be published for statistical use.

17. Explanation for seeking not to display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection.

N/A

18. Exception to the certification statement.

N/A

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SECTION B. GO!

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If you checked “Does this ICR contain surveys, censuses or employ statistical method” on the OMB 83-I, the following questions should be answered. Note if any of the methods listed below do not apply to the proposed information collection please note “N/A” and provide a brief explanation.

B: COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection of information does not employ statistical methods.

1. Respondent universe and sampling methods.

2. Procedures for the collection of information.

Describe the procedures for the collection of information including:

- * Statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection,
- * Estimation procedure,
- * Degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification,
- * Unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures, and
- * Any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

3. Methods to maximize responses rates and deal with nonresponse.

4. Tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken.

Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Testing is encouraged as an effective means of refining collections of information to minimize burden and improve utility. Tests must be approved if they call for answers to identical questions from 10 or more respondents. A proposed test or set of test may be submitted for approval separately or in combination with the main collection of information.

19. Individuals consulted on statistical aspects and individuals collecting and/or analyzing data.

Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on statistical aspects of the design and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.