

The Peace Corps Community in Illinois

Illinois Peace Corps Volunteers Through the Years

ILLINOIS
VOLUNTEERS
SINCE 1961

9,468

2020: **274**

2017: **325**

2019: **279**

2016: **301**

2025
ILLINOIS
VOLUNTEERS

97

2018: **312**

1966: **699**

5 Things to Know about the Peace Corps Community in Illinois

1

Illinois currently ranks 13th in the nation, with roughly 100 citizens serving as Peace Corps volunteers. Historically, Illinois ranks 4th in the nation in sending volunteers since 1961.

2

Peace Corps has educational partnerships with nine institutions across the state: Aurora University, the Chicago School of Psychology, DePaul University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Monmouth College, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, and Western Illinois University.

3

National Peace Corps Association affiliate groups include the Chicago Area Peace Corps Association (CAPCA), which held its annual fundraising dinner last October, 2024. Proceeds will support small grants to serving volunteers, CAPCA's scholarship program, and other local non-profit organizations.

4

CAPCA community volunteer projects in the past year include volunteering with the Friends of the Chicago River, and providing winterizing assistance with the Chicago-based Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly.

5

Springfield native Carlos Ortega is the executive director of Downtown Springfield Incorporated, the city's downtown business association. Ortega was a Peace Corps volunteer in Namibia and also served as an Americorps volunteer.

*Based on data from Peace Corps, National Peace Corps Association, and other news sources.