



Que Pasa

Fondo Quisqueya ☐ 1991

Fondo Quisqueya Update

First the good news: Fondo Quisqueya is alive and well. Many generous friends have sent money over the past year, and the Fondo bank account is looking mighty fine. Perhaps the most encouraging development was the arrival in the Dominican Republic of staff who recognize the fund's potential and are willing to lend a hand locally by passing out Fondo literature at PC orientations and conferences and by channeling appli-

cations to the Dominican committee. This alone is bound to increase the number of applications, which have been thin on the ground for quite some time. (That's the bad news.) Often, months went by without a request—never a happy circumstance for a donor group. But those days appear to be over (read on for specifics). Thanks and kudos to the Dominican Republic staff, volunteers, and the local D.R. Committee!

Another Look at the Fund

If this is your first look at *Que Pasa*—and you're asking yourself, Fondo who?—please read on. If you do remember us but wouldn't mind a refresher, the following is text that we have prepared as an orientation for Dominican volunteers.

What is it?

Fondo Quisqueya (FQ) is a fund that helps provide in-country education and training to low-income Dominican nationals. Its grant monies come from ex-PCVs, ex-staff, and other friends of the Dominican Republic.

How may the money be spent?

FQ grants may be used for any purpose that will help groups or individuals learn new skills. For example, the fund encourages activities that strengthen local institutions; thus, applications to support training (bookkeeping skills for co-op members, audiovisual techniques for teachers, operation and maintenance procedures for people in charge of community water systems, etc.) would be attractive to the Fondo committee.

Grants may also be awarded to individuals: tuition, transportation, or room and board while enrolled in a training program would all be eligible expenditures, as would school uniforms and/or books for a child who otherwise could not attend school.

The possibilities mentioned here are merely examples! Volunteers should feel free to propose any candidate(s) they believe to be eligible and deserving. If the activity or purchase supports learning and if the learning will benefit both candidate and community (or country) in some way, go for it. Fondo Quisqueya has only two hard and fast rules: (1) training must be taken in-country and (2) no funds may support traditional four-year university education.

Do bear in mind, however, that if limited funds were to force Fondo committee members to choose among competing applications, they might favor agricultural or primary health training over a computer course, for example, or group training over individual education. Also, the committee would probably always give added weight to activities for women and other groups that have less access to opportunities and resources.

Don't let that prospect discourage you from nominating candidates! If everyone cannot be funded at a given time, the committee will reconsider eligible applications as more funds become available.

How large are the grants?

Three grant categories exist:

1. Grants of US \$50 and under, which may be awarded at the discretion of the country Peace Corps office.
2. Grants of US \$51 to \$250, which are awarded by the Dominican committee.
3. Grants above US \$250, which the Dominican committee awards with the approval of the U.S. committee.

Grants may not exceed \$250 per person per year without special approval.

How often is the money available?

The committee will try to act upon applications within 60 days. If the candidate requires more-immediate action, please note this on the application.

How does someone apply for a grant?

Each candidate must be sponsored by a member of the community or by a Peace Corps volunteer. Application forms, available from the Peace Corps office in Santo Domingo, must be filled out by the sponsor and returned to the APCD for Training, who will forward them to the Dominican committee.

Sponsors should give careful thought to the application questions and include all information requested. Feel free to include any background that would help the committee make its decision, whether or not the form requests that particular information. (Remember that some of the data would also be of interest to Fondo supporters and could help our fundraising.) Please include a black-and-white photograph of the candidate if you can.