



Community Solutions 2021 Virtual Practicum

Program Overview

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 CSP fellowship, including the practicum component, will occur virtually. IREX has adapted the program to a virtual model that will engage host organizations and fellows in new, innovative ways. Within this new model, host organizations and fellows will collaborate on **one project or initiative** with **one or two key deliverables** that advance the mission of the host organization while achieving fellow and host learning goals. Fellows will work on the project or initiative at least eight hours per week for eight weeks. Host organization commitments are listed below.

Practicum Host Commitment

- Identify one **“host collaborator”** (see below) to support the fellow at least **two hours per week** through weekly check-in meetings and providing deliverable instructions and feedback
- Invite the fellow to make a **presentation** and **connect the fellow to colleagues, opportunities, and other relevant professionals** within the organization and community
- Participate in the **events** indicated below

Practicum Events

- **Partner Orientation** in August to prepare host collaborators for the fellowship
- **Practicum Orientation** the week of August 30 to launch the practicum
- **Practicum Period** from September 6 to October 29 to collaborate with fellows
- **Community Leadership Institute Symposium** the week of November 5 to share learnings from professional development courses available to partners for the first time in 2021 (optional)

Host Collaborator Role

Previously referred to as “host supervisors,” **host collaborators** will co-create a Practicum Work Plan with their fellow, hold weekly meetings, collaborate on deliverable(s), and facilitate networking

Virtual Practicum Project Ideas

- **Communications Campaign:** fellow designs a strategic communications plan and prepares content (social media, briefs, flyers, etc.) for an upcoming activity or event
- **Virtual Training or Webinar Series:** fellow collaborates on the design and/or delivery of a training or webinar
- **Research or Survey Support:** fellow conducts a literature review, develops a survey, designs and facilitates a focus group discussion, analyzes a data set, and/or produces a report
- **Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:** fellow identifies indicators, targets, and a data collection plan to understand the effectiveness of a program or activity
- **New Programming Proposal:** fellow develops a concept note for a new activity including a needs assessment, strategic plan, budget, and work plan
- **Grant Support:** fellow assists with planning, writing, and submitting a grant application

Unique Benefits of Hosting a 2021 Fellow

- **Access to Customized Leadership Coursework and Networking Opportunities:** hosts will be invited to participate in free, optional professional development courses including Strategies for Youth Engagement, Measuring Impact (M&E), and Fundraising and Partnership Building
- **Eligibility for Collaboration for Community Impact (CCI) Grants:** 25% of the 2021-2022 CCI grants enabling hosts to travel to support fellow and alumni projects will be reserved for 2021 fellows and hosts
- **In-person Event in Washington, D.C.:** if it is safe and logistically feasible for fellows and hosts to travel, 2021 hosts will be invited to attend a skill-building and networking event in Spring 2022