

2021-2022 COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications for the 2021-2022 Community Solutions Program will be accepted between Wednesday, September 16 and Wednesday, October 28, 2020. Applications must be submitted **online** at <https://oas.irex.org/csp> by **Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. EST** to be considered. Applications that are mailed, faxed or emailed to IREX will not be accepted. Please direct any questions after reading this document to cspapply@irex.org.

When completing the application, please note:

- Applications must be completed online; applications that are mailed, faxed or emailed to IREX will not be accepted.
- Questions that are marked with a red asterisk must be answered. If a required question does not apply to you, enter N/A (not applicable).
- Do not translate the spelling of names or locations into English, only into the English alphabet.
- Other than names and locations, write all answers in English. Applications that are not completed in English will be disqualified.
- Applications must be completed solely by the applicant.
- Applications must be submitted by October 28, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. to be considered.
- Individuals may only submit one application. If an applicant submits two applications using different email addresses, then the individual will be disqualified.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Community Solutions Program, applicants must meet the requirements listed below. Applications that do not meet these eligibility requirements will be disqualified and will not be reviewed by the selection committee. Please note that the U.S. Department of State and IREX reserve the right to verify all the information included in an individual's application. In the event that there is a discrepancy, or information is found to be false, the applicant will immediately be disqualified.

- You are between the ages of 25 and 38 as of January 1, 2021
- You are a citizen of one of the eligible countries listed below
- You are living and working in your home country
 - Individuals with refugee status working on behalf of their home community may be given special consideration
- You have at least two years of experience working on community development, either as a full-time or part-time employee or volunteer
- You are **not** currently participating in an academic, training, or research program in the U.S.
- You have a high level of proficiency in spoken and written English at the time of application
 - Semifinalists will be required to take or submit recent scores for a TOEFL or IELTS English language test

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Wednesday, October 28, 2020 by 11:59 P.M. EST



- You are available to travel to the U.S. for four months from August to December 2021
- You are **not** a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. and have **not** applied for U.S. permanent residency within the past three years
- You are eligible to receive a U.S. J-1 visa
 - Applicants who have participated in an exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Government must have fulfilled their two-year home residency requirement
- You are committed to returning to your home country for a minimum of two years after completing the program
- You are **not** a current IREX employee or consultant, or their immediate family member

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

Africa: Botswana, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

East Asia and the Pacific: Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam

Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, and Ukraine

Middle East and North Africa: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and West Bank/Palestinian Territories

South and Central Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

Western Hemisphere: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay

SELECTION PROCESS

Competition for the Community Solutions Program is merit-based. After the deadline, all eligible applications will be reviewed by a selection panel. The panel will then choose semifinalists to complete an interview. Semifinalists will also be required to take an English language exam or submit recent TOEFL or IELTS scores. After the interviews, finalists and alternates will be selected, pending their performance on their English language exam.

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COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM TIMELINE

September 16, 2020	Application opens
October 28, 2020 by 11:59 p.m. EST	Application deadline
November 6, 2020	Identified 2 nd round applicants notified to complete interview recording
November – December 2020	2 nd round applicants complete interview recording
November – December 2020	2 nd round applications reviewed by selection committee
December 16, 2020	2 nd round applicants notified if selected as a semifinalist
December 16 - 31, 2020	CSP semifinalists submit CV and cover letter
December 2020	CSP semifinalist interviews reviewed by selection committee
February 12, 2021	CSP applicants notified if selected as a finalist or alternate
February 21, 2021	Deadline to accept finalist or alternate status (pending English exam)
March – April 2021	CSP finalists and alternates take English language tests (if required)
June 12, 2021	Remaining alternates notified they have not been selected as a finalist
June, 2021	Online pre-departure orientation for CSP fellows
August 2021	CSP fellows travel to the U.S. and participate in the Welcome Orientation
August - December 2021	CSP fellows complete a four-month practicum at a U.S.-based host organization
December 2021	CSP fellows participate in the End of Program Workshop and then return to their home countries
December 2021 - June 2022	CSP fellows complete their community-based initiatives

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