Community Solutions

2024 COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications for the 2024 Community Solutions Program will be accepted beginning Thursday, October 5, 2023. Applications must be submitted **online** at https://csp.irex.org by **Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. EDT** 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 apply.csp@irex.org.

When completing the application, please note:

- Use one email address throughout the entire CSP application and selection process
- 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 Wednesday, November 1, 2023 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 26 and 39 as of January 1, 2024
- 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
    - Finalists and alternates will be required to take an English Language exam or submit recent scores for TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo language exams.

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- You are available to travel to the U.S. for four months on a J-1 visa from August to December 2024
- 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, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, and Vietnam

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

Middle East and North Africa: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, 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: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, 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. After the interviews, finalists and alternates will be selected, and will be instructed to take an English Language exam or submit recent passing TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo scores. Finalists participation will be confirmed pending their performance on their English language exam.

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COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM TIMELINE

October 5, 2023	Application opens
November 1, 2023 by 11:59 p.m. EST	Application deadline
November 10, 2023	Identified 2nd round applicants notified to complete interview recording
November 10 – November 26, 2023	2nd round applications reviewed by selection committee
November 10 – December 3, 2023	2nd round applicants complete interview recording
December 18, 2023	CSP semifinalists notified
December 18, 2023 – January 15, 2024	CSP semifinalists submit CV
February 9, 2024	CSP applicants anticipated to be notified if selected as a finalist or alternate
February 23, 2024	Deadline to accept finalist or alternate status (pending English exam)
March – April 2024	CSP finalists and alternates take English language tests (if required)
May 24, 2024	Remaining alternates notified they have not been selected as a finalist
June 2024	Online pre-departure orientation for CSP fellows
August 2024	CSP fellows travel to the U.S. and participate in the Welcome Orientation
August - December 2024	CSP fellows complete a four-month practicum at a U.S.-based host organization
December 2024	CSP fellows participate in the End of Program Workshop and then return to their home countries
January - June 2025	CSP fellows complete their community-based initiatives

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