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](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.

**Application Deadline:**

*Wednesday, November 1st, 2023 by 11:59 P.M.*
• 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
  o 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, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, 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, applications will be identified to move forward to review by a selection panel. Applicants that move forward will be asked to complete an interview. After the interviews, semi-finalists will be selected, and will be instructed to submit their CV. Lastly, finalists and alternates will be identified and required 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.

Application Deadline:
Wednesday, November 1st, 2023 by 11:59 P.M.
## Community Solutions Program Timeline

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