

2018-2019 COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications for the 2018-2019 Community Solutions Program will be accepted between Friday, September 15 and Tuesday, October 31, 2017. Applications must be submitted **online** at <https://oas.irex.org/csp> by **Tuesday, October 31, 2017, at 11:59pm 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 31, 2017 at 11:59pm 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 US 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, 2018
- 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 US
- 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

Application Deadline:
Tuesday, October 31, 2017 by 11:59 PM EST



- You are available to travel to the US for four months from August to December 2018
- You are **not** a citizen or permanent resident of the US and have **not** applied for US permanent residency within the past three years
- You are eligible to receive a US J-1 visa
 - Applicants who have participated in an exchange program sponsored by the US 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, 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, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, and Ukraine

Middle East and North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, and West Bank/Palestinian Territories

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

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

SELECTION PROCESS

Competition for the Community Solutions Program is merit-based and candidates will be considered without respect to race, color, religion, national origin, or gender. 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 15, 2017	Application opens
October 31, 2017 by 11:59pm EST	Application deadline
November – December 2017	Applications reviewed by selection committee
December 15, 2017	Applicants notified if selected as a semifinalist
December 15 – 31, 2017	Semifinalists complete online interviews
January 2018	Semifinalist interviews reviewed by selection committee
February - April 2018	Finalists and alternates take English language tests as needed
March 1, 2018	Applicants notified if selected as a finalist or alternate
June 2018	Pre-departure orientation
August 2018	Participants travel to the US and participate in the Welcome Orientation
August - December 2018	Participants complete a four-month practicum at a US-based host organization
December 2018	Participants participate in the End of Program Workshop and then return to their home countries
December 2018 - June 2019	Participants complete their community-based initiatives

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