



## 2017-2018 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications for the 2017-2018 Community Solutions Program will be accepted between Wednesday, October 12 and Friday, November 18, 2016. Applications must be submitted **online** at <https://oas.irex.org/csp> by **Friday, November 18, 2016, at 12pm EST** to be considered. Applications that are mailed, faxed or emailed to IREX will not be accepted.

When completing the application, please note:

- 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.

### 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 be interviewed. 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.

### COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM TIMELINE

October 12, 2016	Application opens
November 18, 2016 by 12pm EST	Application deadline
November 2016 - January 2017	Applications reviewed by selection committee
January 2017	Applicants notified if selected as a semifinalist
January - February 2017	Semifinalists interviewed by selection committee
February - April 2017	Finalists and alternates take English language tests as needed
February - March 2017	Applicants notified if selected as a finalist or alternate
July 2017	Pre-departure orientation
August 2017	Participants travel to the US and participate in the Welcome Orientation
August - December 2017	Participants complete a four-month fellowship at a US-based host organization
December 2017	Participants participate in the End of Program Workshop and then return to their home countries
December 2017 - June 2018	Participants complete their community-based initiatives

**Application Deadline:  
Friday, November 18, 2016 by 12 PM EST**



## 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 of 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, 2017
- 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
- You are available to travel to the US for four months from August to December 2017
- 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:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

**East Asia and the Pacific:** Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam

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

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

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

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

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