

## 2020-2021 COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications for the 2019-2020 Community Solutions Program will be accepted between Wednesday, September 18 and Wednesday, October 30, 2019. Applications must be submitted **online** at <https://oas.irex.org/csp> by **Wednesday, October 30, 2019 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 [cspapply@irex.org](mailto: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 30, 2019 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, 2020
- 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

**Application Deadline:**  
**Wednesday, October 30, 2019 by 11:59 P.M. EST**



- You are available to travel to the U.S. for four months from August to December 2020
- 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, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, 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, 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, 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 18, 2019	Application opens.
October 30, 2019 by 11:59 p.m. EST	Application deadline.
November 4, 2019	Identified 2 <sup>nd</sup> round applicants notified to complete interview recording.
November – December 2019	2 <sup>nd</sup> round applicants complete interview recording.
November – December 2019	2 <sup>nd</sup> round applications reviewed by selection committee.
December 16, 2019	2 <sup>nd</sup> round applicants notified if selected as a semifinalist.
December 16 – 31, 2019	Semifinalists submit CV and cover letter.
December 2019	Semifinalist interviews reviewed by selection committee.
February 28, 2020	Applicants notified if selected as a finalist or alternate.
March - April 2020	Finalists and alternates take English language tests as needed.
June 12, 2020	Remaining alternates notified they have not been selected as a finalist.
June 2020	Online pre-departure orientation.
August 2020	Participants travel to the U.S. and participate in the Welcome Orientation.
August - December 2020	Participants complete a four-month practicum at a U.S.-based host organization.
December 2020	Participants participate in the End of Program Workshop and then return to their home countries.
December 2020 - June 2021	Participants complete their community-based initiatives.

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