

2024 COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications for the 2024 Community Solutions Program will be accepted beginning Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. EDT Applications must be submitted online at <https://csp.irex.org> by **Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 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 13, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. to be considered.
- Applications must authentically communicate the lived experiences of the applicants. Thus, the use of AI language models in applications will result in automatic disqualification.

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 November 13, 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 13th, 2024 by 11:59 P.M.



- You are available to travel to the U.S. for four months on a J-1 visa from August 11 to December 5, 2025
- 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 current 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, Kenya, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Sierra Leone, 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, Brazil, 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

After the deadline, all eligible applications will receive a preliminary review by CSP staff before being shared with a selection panel that consists of CSP alumni (not from the applicant's country of citizenship), representatives from CSP U.S. partner organizations, and technical experts. Applicants who pass the preliminary and reading review stage and meet the criteria listed in the application materials will be identified as semi-finalists and invited to complete a recorded interview and submit a CV. Finalists and alternates will then be selected. Final acceptance into the program will depend on the individual's (or applicant's) performance on an English exam unless finalists meet certain exemption requirements.

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COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM TIMELINE

October 16, 2024	Application opens
November 13, 2024 by 11:59 p.m. EST	Application deadline
November 20, 2024	Reading committee begins their review
December 11, 2024	Reading committee completes interview
December 19, 2024	2 nd round of applicants (semi-finalists) are notified to begin their recorded interview
January 6, 2025	Deadline to submit recorded interview
January 10, 2025	Interview Committee begins review of recorded submissions
January 27, 2025	Interview Committee deadline for review of recorded submissions
February 3, 2025	Finalists and Alternates are selected and sent to U.S. embassies for review and concurrence
February 12, 2025	U.S. embassy concurrence period ends
February 19, 2025	Applicants are notified if selected for the program as a finalist or alternate.
March 5, 2025	Deadline for applicants to accept finalist or alternate status
February– April 2025	Finalists and alternates take English language tests (if required)
April 24, 2025	Alternates notified if they will not be selected as a finalist
June 2025	Virtual Pre-Departure Orientation for CSP fellows
August 4-8, 2025	CSP fellows travel to the United States and participate in the Welcome Orientation
August 11 – November 28, 2025	CSP fellows complete a four-month practicum at a U.S.-based host organization
December 1-5, 2025	Participants participate in the End-of-Program Workshop and depart for their home countries
January - July 2026	Participants complete their community-based initiatives

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