



## 2022 CSP Application Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the eligibility requirements of the program?

- You are between the ages of 25 and 38 as of January 1, 2023
- 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
- You are available to **travel to the U.S. for four months** from August to December 2022
- 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
- You are committed to returning to your home country for a **minimum of two years** after completing the program and
- You are **not** a current IREX employee or consultant, or their immediate family member

### How do I apply?

Check the [Community Solutions application website](#) for a link to the online application.

### Can I submit my application via email?

No, we do not accept applications via email.

### I wanted to learn what kind of people makes a successful candidate for the program?

CSP looks at certain criteria for candidates when reviewing applications. Strong applicants have a clear idea of the community impact that they want to make and are able to articulate that vision clearly in their application. The program also aims to be a unique opportunity for candidates to ensure that programs like CSP reach a wide range of community leaders, prioritizing those strong candidates without prior international development program experience.

### Who are the host organizations and how are they paired?

While CSP has a community of host organizations as partners, each year we tailor our host organization outreach to our applicants and their expertise and specialties. A team of advisers assist in matching each fellow with a unique U.S. host organization that closely matches their community work or desired area of professional growth and development.

### I don't see my country on the list of eligible countries for CSP. Can I still apply for the program?



The United States Department of State determine the list of eligible countries for the Community Solutions Program. If your country is not listed, it is not an eligible country this year.

**I am younger than 25 or older than 38. Can I still apply for the program?**

CSP applicants must be between the ages of 25 and 38 as of January 1, 2023. The eligible age range was determined by the U.S. Department of State, and exceptions cannot be made. If you are younger than 25, we encourage you to apply for the program once you have reached the eligible age.

**I’ve previously applied to CSP. Do I need to submit a new application?**

Yes, you will still need to submit a new application.

**Who do I email if I have questions about the application?**

You can send an email to [apply.csp@irex.org](mailto:apply.csp@irex.org) or [csp@irex.org](mailto:csp@irex.org)

**How does IREX/CSP plan to handle the COVID-19 situation? Will the program be in person or virtual? When will we know?**

IREX intends to implement the Community Solutions Program in-person in the United States from August to December 2023 if public health concerns abate. IREX, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and will adjust program implementation accordingly. Ensuring the safety and well-being of CSP participants, partners, and communities is and will continue to be IREX’s highest priority.

**Questions regarding the application, selection, and program timeline:**

October 5, 2022	Application opens
November 2, 2022 by 11:59 p.m. EST	Application deadline
<b>November 10, 2021</b>	<b>Identified 2<sup>nd</sup> round applicants notified to complete interview recording; Rejections sent</b>
November 10 – December 4, 2021	2 <sup>nd</sup> round applicants complete interview recording
<b>December 15, 2022</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> round applicants notified if selected as a semifinalist; Rejections sent</b>
December 15, 2022 – January 15, 2023	CSP semifinalists submit CV and cover letter
<b>February 14, 2023</b>	<b>CSP applicants notified if selected as a finalist or alternate; Rejections sent</b>
February 28, 20223	Deadline to accept finalist or alternate status (pending English exam)
March – April 2023	CSP finalists and alternates take English language tests (if required)
May 26, 20223	Remaining alternates notified they have not been selected as a finalist
June 2023	Online pre-departure orientation for CSP fellows



August 2023	CSP fellows travel to the U.S. and participate in the Welcome Orientation
August - December 2023	CSP fellows complete a four-month practicum at a U.S.-based host organization
December 2023	CSP fellows participate in the End of Program Workshop and then return to their home countries
January - June 2024	CSP fellows complete their community-based initiatives

### Eligible countries by region

- **Africa:** Botswana, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, 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, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, 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:** Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela