



## 2021 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications for the 2021 Community Engagement Exchange Program will be accepted between Monday, November 16 and Friday, December 23, 2020. Applications must be submitted **online** at <https://cee.irex.org/> by Wednesday, **December 23, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. EDT** to be eligible for the program.

Applications that are mailed, faxed or emailed to IREX will not be accepted. Please direct any questions after reading this document to [Apply.CEE@irex.org](mailto:Apply.CEE@irex.org).

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 addresses into English. Please use only the English alphabet. Do not use accent marks and do not translate your name. For example: José would be Jose; Gonçalves would be Goncalves.
- Applications that are not completed in English will be disqualified.
- Applications must be completed solely by the applicant. Individuals requiring assistance because of a disability should provide this information in the application.
- Individuals may only submit one application. If an applicant submits two applications using different email addresses, then the individual will be disqualified.
- Applications must be submitted by **December 23, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.** (EDT) to be considered.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Competition for the CEE Program is merit-based and open to emerging civil society and community leaders who meet the criteria 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. If there is a discrepancy, or information is found to be false, the applicant will immediately be disqualified.

- You are between the ages of 20 and 27 as of November 1, 2020
- You are a citizen of one of the eligible countries listed below
- You are living and working in your home country at the time of application
  - Individuals with refugee status working on behalf of their home community may be given special consideration
- You are working on a community engagement initiative in your home country, either in a professional or volunteer capacity, with a vision to pursue a career working to support civil society
- You have a high level of proficiency in spoken and written English at the time of application

- o 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 three months from October 2021 to January 2022
- You are committed to returning to your home country to complete a community-based project or CEE “Community Engagement Project (CEP)”
- 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
  - o Applicants who have participated in an exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Government must have fulfilled their two-year home residency requirement before applying for CEE
- 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 employee of or consultant for the U.S. Department of State or IREX or an immediate family member

#### ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

**Africa:** Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, 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 and Eurasia:** Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo, 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, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay

#### SELECTION PROCESS

Competition for the Community Engagement Exchange Program is merit-based. After the deadline, all eligible applications will be reviewed and scored by a selection committee. Applicants receiving top scores will be chosen as semifinalists and asked to complete an interview. Semifinalists will also be required to take an English language exam or submit recent TOEFL or IELTS scores. Finalists and alternates will be selected, pending their performance on their interviewers and English language exam.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM TIMELINE

November 16, 2020	Application opens
December 23, 2020	Application deadline
January 2021	Applications reviewed by selection committee
February 2021	Semifinalists notified of status. Complete virtual interviews
February - March 2021	Semifinalists interviews reviewed and scored by selection committee
March 2021	Finalists and alternates selected
March 2021	Finalists and alternates take English language exam (TOEFL or equivalent)
April 2021	Semifinalists notified if selected as a finalist or alternate. Finalists will be asked to submit additional materials
August 2021	Pre-Departure Orientation for Fellows (virtual)
October 2021	Travel to U.S. Orientation in Detroit, Michigan
October 2021 – January 2022	Professional practicum at U.S. host organization
January 2022	End of Program Workshop in Washington, DC
January 2022	Travel home to implement Community Engagement Projects (CEP)
April 2022	Community Engagement Project Check-in
June-August 2022	U.S. hosts and Global Leaders travel to CEE Fellows' home countries
September 2022	Innovation Hub and Alumni Network Events