



2023 - 2024 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXCHANGE (CEE) PROGRAM APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications for the 2023- 2024 Community Engagement Exchange (CEE) Program will be accepted between Wednesday, October 26, 2022 and Wednesday, November 30, 2022. **Applications must be submitted online at <https://cee.irex.org/> by Wednesday, November 30 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.

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 not applicable (N/A) in the text box.
- Do not translate the spelling of names or addresses into English. Do not use accent marks. Do not translate your name. For example: José would be written as Jose. Gonçalves would be written as 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 more than one application, the individual will be disqualified.
- Applications must be submitted by November 30, 2022, 11:59 pm EST 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 21-28 on the date the application closes, November 30, 2022
- You are a citizen of one of the eligible countries listed below
- You have a minimum of two years of professional or volunteer experience at the time of application
- 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 project 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

- Semifinalists will be required to take or submit previous scores from a TOEFL or IELTS English language exam and must receive or show proof of a minimum TOEFL score of 68, IELTS score of 6.0, or a Duolingo English Test score of 95
- You are available to travel to the United States for three months from approximately January – April 2024
- You are committed to returning to your home country to apply your experience and complete a Community Engagement Project (CEP)
- You are **not** a citizen or permanent resident of the United States 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 by the time of application
- You are committed to returning to your home country for a minimum of two years after completing the CEE Program and
- Neither you nor your immediate family members are employees or consultants of IREX or the U.S. Department of State

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The program covers the costs associated with:

- J-1 visa application
- Round-trip travel from participants' home city to the United States
- Monthly allowance to cover housing, meals, and other living expenses while in the United States
- Accident and sickness insurance

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

Africa: Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Madagascar, 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, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, and Vietnam

Europe and Eurasia: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, and Ukraine

Middle East and North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Palestinian Territories, and Tunisia

South and Central Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, 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, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela

SELECTION PROCESS

Competition for the CEE Program is merit-based. After the application 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 English-language interview. Semifinalists will also be required to take an English language exam or submit recent TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo scores. Finalists and alternates will be selected, pending their performance on their interviewers and English language exam.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM TIMELINE

October 26, 2022	Application opens
November 30, 2022	Application closes
December 2022	Applications reviewed by selection committee
January 2023	Semifinalists notified of status. Complete virtual interviews
February 2023	Semifinalist interviews reviewed and scored by selection committee
April 2023	Semifinalists notified if selected as a finalist or alternate
April - June 2023	Finalists and alternates take English language exam
August 2023	J-1 visa application process begins
September– December 2023	Pre-Departure Orientation for Fellows (virtual)
January 2024	Travel to U.S. Orientation in Detroit, Michigan
January – April 2024	Professional practicum at U.S. host organization
April 2024	End of Program Workshop in Washington, D.C.
April 2024	Travel home to apply experience and implement Community Engagement Projects (CEP)
May – October 2024	Participants implement Community Engagement Projects (CEPs) and Community Engagement Project Exchange
November 2024 – April 2025	Innovation Hub Activities