



Community Solutions Program

The Community Solutions Program (CSP), sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by IREX, provides community leaders between the ages of 25 and 38 from 101 countries with an intensive professional development exchange program in the United States. CSP fellows collaborate with U.S. organizations to help promote mutual understanding, support local communities, and address some of the world's most pressing social, political, environmental, and economic issues.



Global Reach and Impact

- **739 alumni from 85 countries across six continents** have implemented community action projects that have benefited over **612,000** people globally
- CSP partners with over **400 diverse U.S. organizations in 40 states and the District of Columbia** who have hosted and collaborated with CSP fellows on community initiatives
- **CSP fellows have contributed over 350,000 volunteer hours** in cities across the United States
- Over the past 11 years, **96% of fellows reported that their leadership and technical skills increased** as a result of participating in CSP

Program Activities

Four-Month U.S.-based Practicum

CSP fellows are placed with nonprofit organizations, private entities, and government offices across the U.S. where they work with U.S. colleagues on initiatives related to issues they face in their own communities. CSP fellows work in one of four technical areas: *environmental issues, peace and conflict resolution, transparency and accountability, and women and gender issues*. For example, a gender rights activist from Vietnam focused on reducing human trafficking completed her practicum with YWCA in Houston, Texas and an environmental advocate from Haiti focused on food security and permaculture completed his practicum with Eco-City Farms in Riverdale, Maryland.

Community Leadership Institute

The Community Leadership Institute (CLI) is a leadership academy that provides customized learning and coaching to CSP fellows. The CLI uses a blended learning approach in which fellows participate in online sessions and in-person workshops, receive professional coaching, engage in experiential learning, and interact with other professionals in their field. Fellows complete subjects such as ethical leadership, strategic planning, motivational leadership, strategies for youth engagement, responsible digital engagement, measuring impact, and partnership building, and share these new learnings with their U.S. counterparts during their practicum.

Community Action Projects and Ongoing Alumni Engagement

CSP fellows develop innovative projects in collaboration with their U.S. host organizations and implement them after returning to their home communities, applying the new knowledge and skills gained through the U.S. practicum and CLI. Fellows share their projects in online portfolios, connecting and collaborating with a broad network of global change makers. CSP fellows continue to network and collaborate with like-minded leaders from around the world on development issues through alumni activities such as the annual Solutions Summit, Alumni Reunion Week, Collaboration for Community Impact Grants, and virtual course offerings.

"It's hard to choose just one thing that I value most when there are so many great reasons to be part of CSP, but I would say that the opportunity to build strong relationships with people around the globe has been phenomenal and transformative [and has] deepened my understanding of the world." - Cynthia Richie Terrell, Executive Director of RepresentWomen and CSP Partner



Eligible Countries by Region

- **Africa:** Botswana, Cameroon, Democratic Republic 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, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, and Vietnam
- **Europe:** Albania, Bosnia-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, Kuwait, Jordan, 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

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