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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
ROYAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
Excellence in Service



RCSC/HRD-A8.4/2018/1656

15th October, 2018

Community Solutions Program (CSP)

The Royal Civil Service Commission is pleased to open application for **Community Solutions Program (CSP)**, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The program provides the best and brightest community leaders, from around the world with an intensive, professional development exchange program that includes a substantive hands-on learning experience in the United States from August to December 2019. Community Solutions Fellows gain valuable experience in community work and strengthen their capacity for leadership and development in their home countries.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applicants must be between the ages of 25-38 as of January 1, 2019
- Applicants must have at least two years of experience working on community development
- Applicants must be living and working in their home country
- Applicants must have a high level of proficiency in spoken and written English
- In addition to above eligibility criteria, applicants must fulfil eligibility criteria prescribed in BCSR 2018.
- Civil Servants in PMC who are involved in providing community based services like Teachers and Health Workers serving in rural areas, SEN Teachers, GAOs and General Focal Persons are encouraged to apply. The priority will be given to females and disabled persons.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

4-month U.S.-based fellowship: CSP fellows are matched with non-profit organizations, private entities, and government offices across the United States where they work with U.S. colleagues on initiatives related to issues they face in their own communities. ***Community Solutions leaders work in one of four technical areas: Environmental Issues, Tolerance and Conflict Resolution, Transparency and Accountability, and Women and Gender Issues.*** For example: A gender-rights activist from Vietnam focused on reducing human trafficking works with YWCA on human trafficking in Houston, Texas.

Community Leadership Institute: The Community Leadership Institute (CLI) is a leadership academy that provides customized learning and coaching to each CSP Leader. The CLI uses a blended-learning approach, where leaders participate in online sessions and in-person workshops, receive professional coaching, engage in experiential learning, and interact with other professionals in their field.

Community-based initiatives: CSP fellows develop innovative community action projects in collaboration with their U.S. host institutions and implement these projects after they return to their home countries to integrate their new skills and knowledge into their community work at



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home. Project summaries are made available online, allowing fellows to share their work with other community leaders around the world.

International network of community development professionals: CSP fellows continue to network and collaborate with like-minded leaders from around the world on global development issues through alumni activities and opportunities offered through the Community Leadership Institute online platform.

PROJECT IMPACT TO DATE

- Over 300 U.S. organizations in 90 U.S. cities have hosted CSP fellows, making life-long international connections.
- 559 grassroots leaders from 79 countries have participated in the Community Solutions Program since 2011.
- Over the past six years, CSP alumni have impacted over 260,000 individuals with their community development initiatives.
- 100% of CSP hosts provide in-kind contributions to the program, including staff time and expertise and office space and support that has resulted in over two million dollars since the program began.

KEY DATES FOR SELECTION:

September 19 – October 31, 2018 Recruitment: MFA and RCSC are encouraged to assist in the recruitment and outreach effort. This **Recruitment Toolkit** includes a program flyer, suggested outreach activities, and sample social media content.

November 2018 – February 2019 Selection: U.S. in New Delhi will read eligible applications and conduct interviews for selected semi-finalists from Bhutan. We may, if necessary, consult MFA and RCSC to clarify any concerns about any semi-finalists applicants from Bhutan.

February 2019 Notification: U.S. Embassy, in consultation with our colleagues in Washington, DC, finalizes a list of selected finalists and alternates from Bhutan. Applicants are notified if they have been selected by March 1.

March – April 2019 English language testing: Selected finalists complete English language test. This will be facilitated by the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi.

April – July 2019 J-1 Visa applications and interview: The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi assists selected finalists to apply for and obtain U.S. Visas.

June– July 2019 Pre-departure orientation and preparations: Selected finalists complete a program-specific virtual pre-departure orientation designed by our partner organization - IREX. The



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U.S. Embassy in New Delhi will provide a supplementary pre-departure preparation activities such as welcome receptions, pre-departure meetings, or other events as time and budgets permit.

August – December 2019 U.S. orientation and fellowship: IREX will share quarterly newsletters with candidates.

December 2019 Fellows return home: Fellows return from their U.S. exposure and share their proposed community-based initiatives with the U.S. Embassy as well as with RCSC.

January – June 2020 Community-based initiatives: Returned fellows will implement the community-based initiatives they designed with their U.S. partners. U.S. Embassy will share any funding opportunities and engage with returning fellows.

March – June 2020 Partnering for Stronger Communities: Selected alumni and U.S. partners will travel to give technical support to selected community-based initiatives of current Fellows.

Interested candidates may visit www.irex.org/csp and <https://exchanges.state.gov/non-us/program/community-solutions> and complete applications on or before the aforementioned deadline.

For details, please contact Sangay Yeshe at syeshi@rcsc.gov.bt or 322491(231/223) during office hours.