

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of State has opened up applications for the [Community Engagement and Exchange \(CEE\) Program](#) for young civil society and community leaders. CEE is a new civil society program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and supported in its implementation by IREX that connects a dynamic global network of innovators working with communities to address critical 21st Century issues. The program equips dedicated visionaries with the expertise, skills, and resources to develop multi sector approaches and build healthy and engaged communities

### 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.

1. You are between the ages of 20 and 27 as of November 1, 2020
2. You are living and working in your home country at the time of application
3. 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.
4. 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
5. You are available to travel to the U.S. for three months from October 2021 to January 2022
6. You are committed to returning to your home country to complete a community-based project or CEE "Community Engagement Project (CEP)"
7. 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
8. 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 before applying for CEE

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applications must be submitted **online** at <https://cee.irex.org/> latest by Wednesday, **December 31, 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.

## **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 interviews and English language exam.

For more information and queries contact program administrators at [Apply.CEE@irex.org](mailto:Apply.CEE@irex.org).