



The American Consulate General in Jerusalem Announces the 2017 Community Solutions Program

Deadline: November 18, 2016

The Community Solutions Program (CSP), sponsored by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and implemented by IREX, provides the best and brightest community leaders from around the world with a four-month, intensive professional development program that includes a substantive hands-on learning experience in the United States. Community Solutions leaders work in one of four technical areas: Environmental Issues, Tolerance and Conflict Resolution, Transparency and Accountability, and Women and Gender Issues. Through tailored fellowships and the Community Leadership Institute (CLI), leaders gain valuable experience in U.S.-based community work, increase skills and knowledge, strengthen their capacity for leadership and development in their home countries, and create action plans for community-based initiatives back home.

Brief Description:

Four-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 peers (or U.S. colleagues) on initiatives related to issues they face in their own communities.

For example:

- A gender-rights activist from Nepal focused on reducing human trafficking works with a YWCA on gender-rights issues in Houston, Texas working on the same issues.
- A natural resource management specialist from Costa Rica worked with communities on the Gulf Coast to address coastal flooding issues due to climate change.

• **Community Leadership Institute:** The cornerstone of CSP is the Community Leadership Institute, 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 through tailored professional fellowships at U.S. host institutions, and interact with other professionals in their field. CSP enables fellows to work across the multiple communities — their individual fellowship cohort, the larger CSP alumni community, their U.S. host community, and their home community — to learn and disseminate knowledge and best practices aimed at generating positive community change.

• **Community-based initiatives:** CSP fellows develop innovative community action projects in collaboration with their U.S. host institutions and implement them after they return to their home countries. 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 online Community Leadership Institute platform.

Candidate Qualifications:

- Applicants must be between the ages of 25-38 as of January 1, 2017
- Applicants must have at least two years of experience working on community development, either as a full-time or part-time employee or volunteer
- Applicants must be living and working in their home country (individuals with refugee status working on behalf of their home community may be given special consideration)
- Applicants must have a high level of proficiency in spoken and written English

Application Guidelines and Deadlines:

CSP applications are available on-line at:

bit.ly/csp2017

Applicants must submit their application on-line by November **18, 2016**.

For questions or other inquiries:

Jerusalem and West Bank Applicants: send an email to jerusalemexchanges@state.gov; or call 02-622-7107 for more information.

Gaza Applicants: send an email to GazaExchanges@gmail.com; or call 08-286-4623 for more information.