



*CSP fellows at the Welcome Orientation in Washington, D.C.*

Rotary International is excited to announce a partnership with the U.S. Department of State's [Community Solutions Program](#) (CSP) that offers Rotarians across the United States the opportunity to host international fellows for a professional practicum at their workplace or a rich cross-cultural exchange through a homestay between from August through November 2022. Rotarians can also volunteer to welcome and support fellows placed in their communities or invite fellows to participate in club events. Learn more about this exciting program and the many ways you can get involved below!

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 25-38 from over 100 countries with an intensive professional development exchange experience in the United States. The goal of the Community Solutions Program is for engaged community leaders to positively impact the complex economic, environmental, political, and social challenges in their communities and become ambassadors for mutual understanding. The Community Solutions Program also increases the capacity of U.S. partner organizations by nurturing collaboration and partnerships with international professionals and organizations.

CSP fellows are early- to mid-career professionals working in the fields of environmental issues, peace and conflict resolution, inclusion, transparency and accountability, civic engagement, women's issues, and LGBTQIA+ issues who are eager to collaborate with organization working on similar issues in the United States.



*2021 CSP fellow Hina Bukhari from Pakistan leading a financial training workshop for women.*

CSP fellows gain valuable experience in community work and strengthen their leadership development capacity in their home communities through completing a four-month fellowship with a U.S. nonprofit organization or local government agency and engaging in a rigorous leadership academy and individualized professional coaching. Fellows then return home to apply their new skills through a community-based project.



*CSP fellows collaborating on a project during orientation in Washington, D.C.*

“One of the main things CSP teaches you is the ability to see yourself as the changemaker of your community and the impact that you could potentially have,” said Marysela Zamora, a 2014 Community Solutions Program alumna.



*2014 CSP alum Marysela Zamora from Costa Rica (center) with participants of the Nosotras conference in Kenya.*

Zamora applied the leadership and partnership-building skills she gained from her CSP experience to fulfill her vision of enhancing women’s entrepreneurship when she returned home to Costa Rica. Her confidence as a changemaker led her to create Nosotras Women Connecting, a gender movement that empowers women and girls and provides mentorship and training to strengthen entrepreneurial and leadership skills. To date, Nosotras has connected over 5,000 women leaders and entrepreneurs and grown from Costa Rica to Latin America and Africa. Through CSP’s Collaboration for Community Impact Grant, Zamora partnered with another CSP alum to bring the Nosotras model to Kenya.

Rotarians across the United States have the opportunity to host a CSP fellow for a professional practicum at their workplace or a rich cross-cultural exchange through a homestay. Rotarians can also volunteer to welcome and support fellows placed in their communities or invite fellows to participate in club events. Rotarians who host fellows’ professional practicums are eligible to apply for fully funded international conferences and reciprocal exchanges to their fellows’ home countries.



*2019 CSP alum Jambay from Bhutan with his host collaborators conducting field work in Minnesota.*

### **Host a CSP Fellow’s Professional Practicum**



*2019 CSP alum Mohammed Elbadry from Egypt with his host collaborator in Portland.*

Fellows work with their host organization for 32 hours per week from Aug. 8 – Nov. 25, 2022 and are fully supported through a stipend from the U.S. Department of State. Host organizations do not compensate fellows but do provide a workspace, computer, substantive projects to work on, mentorship, and support throughout the four-month practicum experience. To learn more, visit the [CSP partnership page](#) and submit this [interest form](#) by the priority deadline of **June 24, 2022**.

### **Host a CSP Fellow's Homestay (Aug. 5 – Nov. 28, 2022)**

While CSP fellows complete four-month professional practicums in cities across the United States, many are interested in experiencing American culture through a homestay. Hosting a CSP fellow provides a rich two-way exchange of culture and ideas! Ideally, homestay hosts would be located near public transportation or within walking or biking distance of the fellow's practicum organization given that fellows are not allowed to drive. The terms of the homestay (length, sleeping arrangement, meals, household responsibilities, house rules, rent, etc.) can be negotiated directly by the host and fellow. Fellows receive a monthly stipend of approximately \$1,800 - \$2,200 depending on the local cost of living that is meant to cover food, housing, and transportation expenses. If you are interested in hosting a homestay, please complete this [interest form](#) as soon as possible, but by **July 8, 2022** at the latest.



*CSP fellows engaging in an International Day of Peace event in their host community in Florida.*

### **Serve as a Community Liaison Volunteer**

Although fellows receive an orientation to the program and U.S. culture in Washington, D.C. during the first week of the program, they would greatly benefit from the friendship and support of a local volunteer in their host community. Community liaisons welcome fellows to their cities with a brief orientation and check in with fellows regularly to offer support in navigating their host community. Importantly, community liaisons assist fellows to identify safe and affordable housing and organize cultural events on a monthly basis with funding provided by CSP. If you are interested in this fun and fulfilling role, please complete this [interest form](#) as soon as possible, but by **July 8, 2022** at the latest.



*CSP fellows visiting the U.S. Capitol with their community liaisons in Washington, D.C.*

### **Provide Civic Engagement Opportunities**

CSP is seeking Rotarians to engage CSP fellows in club activities, particularly volunteer and community engagement opportunities. If you are interested in inviting a fellow to present about their work, home country, and/or CSP experience or are interested in including a fellow in other club activities, please complete this [interest form](#) by **July 15, 2022**.

For additional information, contact [csp@irex.org](mailto:csp@irex.org) and to learn more about the Community Solutions Program, visit [www.irex.org/csp](http://www.irex.org/csp).