American Impact Award
2023 Application Announcement

Apply Now for the 2023 American Impact Award

The U.S. Department of State and IREX are pleased to announce that applications for the American Impact Award (AIA) are being accepted through September 23, 2022. In-person AIA activities should be conducted in accordance with local COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, and precautions should be outlined in the work plan. Applicants may also apply to implement virtual projects or events.

The AIA is designed to enhance the U.S. impact of Reciprocal Exchange projects. This small grant program provides funds for Reciprocal Exchange Participants to implement programming and/or present at events in the United States that continue, expand, or deepen the local impact of their Reciprocal Exchange projects. Participants from all Reciprocal Exchange years and who have not previously been awarded an AIA are eligible to apply for grants of up to $3,000 to support a follow-on AIA activity related to their Reciprocal Exchange project.

As the focus of this award is domestic U.S. impact, eligible projects should clearly demonstrate both direct and indirect impact on U.S. stakeholders such as local businesses, community groups, youth organizations, and/or Fellowship Institute Partners. The intent of the AIA is to increase the number of U.S. beneficiaries who gain global skills, cultural knowledge, and strategic partnerships as a result of the Reciprocal Exchange component of the Mandela Washington Fellowship. Please note that no funding will be provided to bring Mandela Washington Fellowship Alumni to the United States; however, Fellowship Alumni may choose to travel to the United States without funding or support from the U.S. Department of State. They may also participate in the AIA virtually. Projects should not be contingent upon Fellowship Alumni participation. Cost-share is strongly encouraged.

American Impact Award Timeline

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<th>Application Deadline:</th>
<th>September 23, 2022</th>
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<td>Grant Period:</td>
<td>January 16 – September 30, 2023</td>
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Eligibility Requirements

Reciprocal Exchange Participants from all years are eligible to apply for grants of up to $3,000 to support a follow-on project or activity related to their Reciprocal Exchange project. As the focus of this award is domestic impact, eligible projects should clearly demonstrate both direct and indirect impact on U.S. stakeholders such as local businesses, community groups, youth organizations, or Institute Partners. Collaboration and cost-sharing with U.S. stakeholders for AIA projects is strongly encouraged.
Eligible applicants must:

- Be Reciprocal Exchange Participants who have completed a Reciprocal Exchange project prior to applying for the AIA;
- Be U.S. citizens currently living in the United States;
- Not be employees of the U.S. Government (including a U.S. Embassy, USAID, or other U.S. Government entity); and
- Agree to sign an Award Terms & Conditions agreement.

Note: Applicants proposing conference attendance will be required to present or exhibit at the proposed conference to share the outcomes of their Reciprocal Exchange projects.

All completed applications received by **11:59 pm ET on September 23, 2022** will be evaluated competitively against the eligibility requirements and selection criteria.

IREX reserves the right to verify all information included in the application. In the event of a discrepancy, or information is found to be false, the application will be declared invalid and the applicant ineligible. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. IREX reserves the right to offer partial funding to selected recipients.

**Application Materials**

- Required Application Documents:
  - American Impact Award Application Form
  - Work Plan Template and Guidelines
  - Budget Template and Guidelines
  - Resume (one for each applicant)
    
    To be submitted in English and no longer than two pages.

**Contact**

Please contact REmwf@irex.org with any questions.