



IFYE Association of the USA, Inc.

Peace Through Understanding

SPECIAL IFYE UPDATE

VOL. 2020, ISSUE 3

April 10, 2020

2020 IFYE PROGRAM SUSPENSION

After careful consideration, the IFYE USA, Inc. Board of Directors voted April 8 to suspend the 2020 inbound and outbound IFYE program. This decision was not made lightly. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is a dynamic and fluid situation and seems to bring more challenges and concerning information daily.

This decision supports the current travel bans and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. State Department. Our primary concern is for the safety, health, and welfare of our inbound and outbound representatives as well as host families and volunteers in the U.S. and our partner countries.

As of the day of the vote, country coordinators from Thailand, South Korea, Switzerland Argentina, Uruguay and India all notified us they will not be sending or receiving participants in 2020.

The Board also voted to refund both the application fee and all other program fees received from our participants. This also includes funds received from organizations that paid fees directly to IFYE for specific representatives.

Our National Program Director, Alan Lambert, is in contact with the ten outbound applicants and is discussing the possibility of their participation in the program next year. Several have indicated they hope to participate in 2021. Our intent is to hold on to the applications and documentation already completed, which will streamline things when they join us next year.

Finally, IFYE USA is applying for a small business loan through the Coronavirus Relief Act. If received, this loan will cover two and half months of payroll costs for our staff. If we use at least 75 percent for staffing costs, the loan will not be required to be paid back.

The Board will be working with our Executive Director and our National Program Director on work to promote the 2021 IFYE program, seek funds to support the program, identify potential 2021 IFYEs, and host families. Meanwhile, as you are able, please continue your financial and participation support.

When our world opens to travel again, the IFYE program will perhaps never be more important than when we first started 72 years ago. Our emphasis on peace through understanding and cross-cultural contact and education through host family living will live on with everyone working together.

Your friend, Vicky (Victoria) Fehrmann Warren, President, IFYE USA