



COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVE (CSI)

Miss America's Community Service Initiative (CSI) is an integral part of the interview phase of competition, supporting one of the branded elements of Miss America as outlined by the "Four Points" of the crown. The "Four Points" are Style, Scholarship, Service and Success. CSI is specific to the **SERVICE** point of the crown.

The CSI initiative allows you, as a participating Delegate, to showcase and deploy your interests and creativity, to outline a plan or effort to engage within your local community or state existing programs. You may also design your own program for your community or state.

This ONE page submission in san-serif font style of your choice, font sizes from 11-14 only, should include the following:

- A description of your Community Service Initiative passion or interest
- Why you chose this particular initiative
- How you've partnered or will partner with local/state communities to create momentum
- Any social media or marketing strategies that will best support your CSI
- Any activities you have planned or participated in with respect to this CSI

Use of Graphics

At the local level, you may use "header only" graphics approximately ½ inch from the top of the 8.5 x11 page. Graphics may include existing organizations' logos, taglines or other creative efforts. You may use bullet points within your long form essay. Your local/state organization may decide to have you submit your CSI single page electronically, via a form rather than a pdf, through a portal, or other options.

Signature and Date

Please sign and date your submission at the bottom right hand corner, and include your local title. No submissions to be verified without signature.

NOTE: Marketing & Promotional Suggestion

For personal use/promotion - NOT for an interview submission - you may create a fully graphic page for insertion into a state program book, distribution online as a promotional flyer, printed item to distribute during community events or presentations, or as a 'one sheet' to advertise your participation within the Miss America or Miss America's Teen programs online, or while raising funds. There are no guidelines as to promotional creative, other than you must have State/local permission to use Miss America or Miss America's Teen logos.

Step Up to the Plate: Food Insecurity in America - Miss Mississippi Crown, Isha Jog

One in six people in America face hunger. That means forty-nine million Americans struggle to put food on the table every single day. As an agro-advocate in the community for the past decade, I have worked hard to create solutions to this major problem. I specifically focus on three areas: food waste, hunger relief, and sustainable agriculture. People hear about this issue and want to help but do not know where or how to start.

Miss America has always been a role model for positivity and making a difference. This opportunity will give me the chance to elevate this social impact initiative to a greater audience. In order to help the millions of Americans who are food insecure, we need to raise awareness, educate the community on resources available to help, and to raise donations for charitable organizations like *Feeding America* and local food banks.

I plan to motivate the media with my current partnerships with Feed My Starving Children and Greater Chicago Food Depository to encourage Illinois citizens to donate time to this incredibly important cause. As the United States delegate to the International Youth Agriculture Summit, my peers and I drafted a proposal to battle world hunger that was presented to the United Nations in Rome. It is time to bring this message into people's homes starting right here in Illinois.

Obviously these organizations have existed for decades. The problem is that they still lack enough volunteers and fundraising. That's where the Miss America Opportunity can step in and make a lasting impact. Miss America can be the voice of this incredible cause, helping bridge the gap between eager to help volunteers and the resources they can use to donate food or volunteer their time.

It all comes down to tackling food-related issues right in our own backyards. For years I have started compost piles my schools and university to combat food waste, organized trips for dozens of community members to serve at soup kitchens and restock food banks to aid hunger relief, and volunteered at urban gardens in Chicago to increase sustainable agriculture. I am determined to be a leader for fighting food insecurity by inspiring citizens to give back in creative ways and connecting them to new organizations. Through my non-profit organization, Holiday Heroes, fifty area high school seniors came together to spend their senior volunteer quota at seven different local programs that helped fight hunger.

I have a dream of a country where no child goes to sleep hungry. I truly believe that with the right effort and collaboration with the Miss America Organization, this dream can become a reality.

Signature, Title, & Date