

Core Private Sponsorship Services

Private Sponsor Groups (PSGs) are required to provide services similar to those provided by resettlement agencies through the Reception & Placement (R&P) Program, including the following:

Airport Reception: The Private Sponsor Group (PSG) will greet the refugee newcomer(s) at the airport and transport them to initial housing.

Financial Support: The PSG will provide each refugee newcomer with basic financial supports during the initial sponsorship period of 90 days. This aligns with the per capita each resettlement agency receives for each refugee resettled through the R&P program (as of FY 2023, \$2,425). Financial supports may include cash or other direct funding as well as in-kind supports (e.g., donated housing).

Housing: The PSG will ensure that the refugee newcomer(s) have safe, sanitary, and affordable housing for the duration of the initial sponsorship period. To the extent possible, the refugee newcomer(s) should be able to assume the payment of rent at the end of the sponsorship period.

Basic Necessities: The PSG will ensure the refugee newcomer(s) have basic start-up necessities, including but not limited to utilities, furniture and household goods, seasonally appropriate clothing, baby and/or children's items as needed, pocket money for the first 30 days, and food or food allowance until Supplemental Nutritional Assistance is available or the refugee newcomer(s) is able to provide themselves.

Documentation: The PSG will support each refugee newcomer in securing essential documentation. Essential documentation includes a social security card, employment authorization document, and state ID for each refugee newcomer, regardless of age. For eligible refugee newcomers who wish to obtain a driver's license, the PSG will support them in securing a driver's license as their state ID. The PSG will also support the newcomer in filing a change of address form as required during the sponsorship period and support males ages 18 – 25 to register for selective service.

Benefits and Services: The PSG will support the refugee newcomer(s) in accessing public benefits for which they might be eligible (e.g., time-limited cash assistance, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance, medical assistance, Supplemental Security Income). The PSG will also support the refugee newcomer(s) in understanding and accessing available services for which the newcomer(s) may be eligible that support long-term integration. This may include such services as case management, ESL, and employment services.

Health and Mental Health Services: The PSG will connect the refugee newcomer(s) to necessary health and desired mental health services, including those necessary to complete refugee health screening requirements.

Education and Childcare: The PSG will support the refugee newcomer(s) in enrolling any school-aged children in school. The PSG will also support the refugee newcomer(s) in identifying available child development programs and/or childcare.

Language: As appropriate, the PSG will support refugee newcomers in language acquisition. Such support should include connecting refugee newcomers to English language learning opportunities in their community (e.g., English language classes, conversation circles at libraries, tutoring through local literacy council) and/or informal language learning through regular conversational practice.

Interpretation and Translation: The PSG will ensure appropriate interpretation/ translation when communicating with the refugee newcomer(s) regarding critical issues such as those surrounding health and core services.

Cultural Connections: In consultation with refugee newcomers, the PSG will facilitate cultural connections for refugee newcomers. Such cultural connections may include access to culturally appropriate foods, houses of worship, other culturally or ethnically appropriate community-led organizations and/or compatriots.

Orientation: The PSG will provide a basic introduction to the refugee newcomer(s)' new home, community, and life in the United States. This will include a review of topics such as home and personal safety orientation, rights and responsibilities, laws, navigating public transportation, banking, cultural adjustment, and community supports.

Employment: The PSG will support employable refugee newcomer(s) in securing employment in the US workforce. This support may include assistance with resume development and employment search and/or enrollment to workforce development programs). "Employable refugee" means any refugee, aged 18 through 64, other than a refugee who: a) is required to be in the home to care for a child under one year of age or other fully dependent person; b) is unable to work for physical or mental health reasons; or c) is pursuing educational studies.

Transportation: The PSG will guide the refugee newcomer(s) in accessing available transportation in their community, identifying how the refugee newcomer(s) might travel (e.g., bus, metro, rideshare, taxi, walk) to and from possible employment, schools, healthcare, faith community, shopping, and grocery store.

Transition from Sponsorship: The PSG and the refugee newcomer(s) will discuss the conclusion of sponsorship supports and plans for the attainment of economic self-sufficiency and long-term integration, including through the access of ongoing community services.

Reporting and Feedback: As part of ensuring accurate information and data is available for program improvement and oversight, the PSG will (a) complete 30- and 90-day reports via an established online submission process; (b) complete 6-month and 12-month sponsorship experience surveys; (c) support the process for refugee newcomer(s) to complete surveys within 30 days of arrival and at 6 months and 12 months post arrival; and d) communicate critical incidents or issues impacting the delivery of core services and/or refugee newcomer(s) safety and wellbeing according to program procedures.