

Private Sponsor Group Commitment

This commitment form describes the requirements for all sponsors in Welcome Corps. By filling out and signing this form, you commit to supporting the refugees for 3 months after they arrive in the United States. This includes the family members who are listed on their refugee case and any members born before the refugees arrive to the United States or within the sponsorship period.

Private sponsor groups must support refugees with the core requirements listed below. For more information or resources to help you navigate the requirements, visit [Core Sponsorship Services](#).

- ☒ **You must check every box to agree to the program requirements.**
- ▲ You must upload every page of this document into your application.**

Reception

Sponsors must greet the refugees at the airport with appropriate language interpretation and transport them to their initial housing.

Our sponsor group will send at least one sponsor to the airport to greet the refugees at the airport and transport them to their initial housing.

Our sponsor group will ensure language interpretation is available at the airport by one of the following:

- A sponsor group member will provide language interpretation directly
- A member of the community will provide language interpretation
- Our sponsor group will use a phone or in-person interpretation service or company

Our sponsor group will ensure that transportation for the refugees includes car seats and booster seats for children, if needed.

Housing

Housing is one of the most challenging core services and it is important to begin research and understand what is involved in securing housing. Refugees need a comfortable, safe place to live during the 3-month sponsorship period that is close to public transportation. Refugees can live with a sponsor group member only if they are a close family relative. If the refugee lives with a sponsor, they must have a safe, comfortable, and private space that accommodates their family size. This must be a temporary living arrangement with the intent to help refugees find safe, sanitary, and affordable long-term housing.

Many newly arrived refugees cannot meet the basic requirements to secure housing due to a lack of references, credit score, and proof of income. Sponsors will need to support refugees in overcoming these barriers.

Our sponsor group will start making plans to secure housing and will consider the following when doing so:

- Cleanliness
- Safety and availability of housing close to sponsor group members
- Affordability to ensure refugees can pay for the rent and utilities on their own at the end of the 90-day sponsorship period
- Cost of a security deposit
- Access to public transportation or other convenient transportation to go to work, school, and other essential places such as grocery stores

Our sponsor group will ensure the refugees understand how to use the utilities and appliances in the home. This includes things like safely using a stove, what a smoke detector is, and how/why to lock doors and windows.

Applying for Benefits

Finding and applying for available services and benefits can be a challenge. It may require accompanying the refugees and traveling long distances to access benefit centers.

Our sponsor group will support the refugees in completing the application processes for the following benefits and services, as eligible:

Essential Benefits

- Medical Assistance (Refugee Medical Assistance [\(RMA\)](#), [Medicaid](#))
- Income and Cash Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [\(TANF\)](#), Refugee Cash Assistance [\(RCA\)](#))
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [\(SNAP\)](#)

Supplemental Benefits

- Supplemental Security Income [\(SSI\)](#)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children [\(WIC\)](#)

Healthcare

Your sponsor group will need to guide and accompany the refugees to access several different types of health and mental health services. You may have to use in-person or virtual interpretation when helping the refugees access medical care. Do not ask other refugee family members or refugee youth to do language interpretation during medical appointments.

Our sponsor group will support the refugees in receiving necessary medical care including routine medical visits, medications, mental health care, and emergency care.

Our sponsor group will respect the privacy of the refugee in all medical appointments.

For urgent care or emergency medical care, it is important for sponsor groups and refugees to understand how to call 911 or get medical care, especially if they don't have health insurance yet. Please note that Medicaid and Refugee Medical Assistance is generally retroactive, refugees should access emergency care if needed regardless of insurance status.

Our sponsor group will ensure the refugees know how to access urgent care and emergency medical care in my community.

Mental health resources are hard to find in some communities. You may find relevant information for your location through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [\(SAMHSA\)](#), researching local crisis response resources, or on your state's office of mental health website.

Our sponsor group will support the refugees in receiving mental health services, as needed.

Initial Medical Screening

After refugees arrive to the U.S., they must complete a medical screening in your community. This medical examination is called a Refugee Health Assessment and is different from a routine primary care visit. You will be responsible for making sure the refugees complete this screening. Since the screening can sometimes take up to 2-3 visits to complete, sponsors should help refugees get their screening within 30 days upon arrival.

Regardless of the distance to the health care provider, sponsor groups are responsible for completing this process with the refugees.

Our sponsor group will support the refugees in scheduling and going to their initial medical screening appointments.

Learning English

Your sponsor group will support refugees to learn English. This could include:

- In-person or virtual English language classes
- Conversation circles at libraries
- Tutoring through local literacy groups
- Informal language learning through regular conversational practice

Our sponsor group will support the refugees in formal and informal English language learning.

Translation Services

Your sponsor group will need to communicate with all adult refugees in their language, by using professional interpretation and translation tools. This is even more important when discussing issues like health and core sponsorship services.

In-person or phone interpretation is required for appointments and communicating important information, while apps like Google Translate or Tarjimly can be used for more casual settings. You cannot assume that the refugees will speak English. Refugee youth or adults should not translate for other members of their family.

Our sponsor group will provide professional interpretation services for critical appointments and communicating important information.

Orientation

Refugees will need a basic introduction to their new home, community, and life in the United States. This will include a review of topics such as home and personal safety, rights and responsibilities, employment, laws, navigating public transportation, banking, and community support.

Our sponsor group confirms that we will provide information and orientation around:

- Home and personal safety
- Navigating public transportation
- Laws
- Rights and responsibilities
- Employment
- Banking
- Community Support
- Healthcare
- What to do in an emergency

Employment

Your sponsor group will need to support the refugees in getting a job. **Sponsors are not allowed to employ refugees.** They will need job preparation such as English language learning, orientation to the American workplace, connection to workforce development services in your community, development of short-term and long-term employment goals, resume preparation, and interview practice. Refugees are eligible to work upon arrival by using their I-94 as proof of employment eligibility.

Our sponsor group will help the refugees with resume preparation, interview practice, brainstorming employers, and applying for jobs.

Education and Childcare

Some refugees arriving to the U.S. will be under age 18 and will need your help enrolling in public schools. If you sponsor refugees under age 18, you must help with school enrollment and childcare. Children are required by law to attend school. Families with children under the school-aged requirement will need a childcare plan.

Our sponsor group understands that we must help any refugees under age 18 enroll in school.

Our sponsor group understands that we must help plan for childcare for any refugees under the school-aged requirement.

Transportation

Your sponsor group will help the refugees learn how to use transportation in their community, such as bus, metro, rideshare, taxi, bike, or walking. They will need to use transportation to go to jobs, schools, healthcare, faith communities, shopping, and grocery stores. They should understand transportation safety, including requirements for child safety seats.

Our sponsor group commits to ensuring refugees have access to transportation to attend critical needs, employment and appointments.

Fundraising

Your sponsor group will need to provide each refugee with basic financial support during the 90-day sponsorship period.

Our sponsor group will have sufficient financial resources and capacity to fulfill our sponsorship responsibilities.

Our sponsor group commits to spending the required \$2,425 per refugee on basic needs and expenses for the refugees we are sponsoring.

Necessities

When a refugee arrives, sponsor groups must provide for their basic needs. You will need to provide through donations or purchases the following items:

- Furniture and household goods
- Clothing for all seasons
- Baby and/or children's items as needed
- Food, including groceries and a meal upon arrival
- School supplies
- Pocket money for the first 30 days (at least \$40 per adult refugee per week, given to each adult separately)
- Food or money for food until Supplemental Nutritional Assistance is available or when the refugees can provide for themselves

Our sponsor group commits to ensuring the refugees have all above listed basic needs met until the end of the 90-day sponsorship period.

Our sponsor group commits to providing at least \$40 in pocket money to each adult refugee every week for the first 30-days after arrival. We will give each adult the money separately.

Documentation

Your sponsor group will support each refugee in securing and submitting important documentation, including those listed below:

- Refugees who are male and ages 18 – 25 are legally required to register for [Selective Service](#).
- Each adult refugee should get a state ID and/or driver's license.
- Each individual refugee is legally required to complete a [Change of Address Card](#) and submit that form to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) each time they move. Additionally, refugees must file a [U.S. Postal Service \(USPS\) Change of Address](#) form each time they move.
- Refugees are eligible to work upon arrival by using their I-94 as proof of employment eligibility.
- Refugees also apply for Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) overseas. EADs should arrive within a month of the refugee's arrival. If the card does not arrive by that time, you may submit [an inquiry with USCIS](#).
- Refugees apply for their Social Security cards overseas, and the cards should arrive within seven to ten business days of the delivery of the EAD. If the card does not arrive by that time, you should take the refugees to your [local Social Security office](#).

Our sponsor group will assist the refugees in securing and submitting the above-listed documentation.

Transition from Sponsorship

Your sponsor group and the refugees will discuss the conclusion of your sponsorship support. You must plan for the refugees to become economically self-sufficient, to integrate into your community, and to continue accessing community services.

Our sponsor group commits to planning support and services available to refugees after the sponsorship period ends.

Cultural Connections

Your sponsor group should first ask the refugees whether they would like cultural connections in your community, such as access to culturally appropriate foods, houses of worship, and other community-led organizations.

Our sponsor group commits to supporting the refugees in facilitating appropriate cultural connections.

Reporting and Feedback

As part of ensuring accurate information and data is available for program improvement and oversight, your sponsor group will:

- Complete 30- and 90-day reports via an established online submission process
- Complete 6-month and 12-month sponsorship experience surveys
- Support the process for refugees to complete surveys within 30 days of arrival and at 6 months and 12 months post arrival; and
- Communicate to Welcome Corps if you are unable to deliver any of the core services listed above, or if there are incidents related to refugee safety and wellbeing.

Our sponsor group commits to completing all required reports and surveys and communicating critical incidents as needed.

U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident

Every sponsor group member must be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States. Making a false claim may negatively impact your application and, if applicable, have serious consequences to your immigration status.

Signature

Every member of your sponsor group must sign below to confirm their status as a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States, agree to the above Commitment form, and [agree to the Welcome Corps Code of Conduct](#).

▲ Each group member must:

- Sign electronically or hand-sign and
- List their printed name and
- List today's date

Sponsor Group Coordinator

- I attest that I am a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States. I authorize the U.S. Government to confirm my status.
- I have read and agree to the above Commitment form.
- I have read and agree to the Welcome Corps Code of Conduct.

*Sponsor Group Coordinator Name

*Sponsor Group Coordinator Signature

*Date

Group Member #2 (required)

- I attest that I am a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States. I authorize the U.S. Government to confirm my status.
- I have read and agree to the above Commitment form.
- I have read and agree to the Welcome Corps Code of Conduct.

*Group Member #2 Name

*Group Member #2 Signature

Date

Group Member #3 (required)

- I attest that I am a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States. I authorize the U.S. Government to confirm my status.
- I have read and agree to the above Commitment form.
- I have read and agree to the Welcome Corps Code of Conduct.

Group Member #3 Name

*Group Member #3 Signature

Date

Group Member #4 (required)

- I attest that I am a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States. I authorize the U.S. Government to confirm my status.
- I have read and agree to the above Commitment form.
- I have read and agree to the Welcome Corps Code of Conduct.

*Group Member #4 Name

*Group Member #4 Signature

Date

Group Member #5 (required)

- I attest that I am a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States. I authorize the U.S. Government to confirm my status.
- I have read and agree to the above Commitment form.
- I have read and agree to the Welcome Corps Code of Conduct.

*Group Member #5 Name

*Group Member #5 Signature

*Date

Group Member #6 (if applicable)

- I attest that I am a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States. I authorize the U.S. Government to confirm my status.
- I have read and agree to the above Commitment form.
- I have read and agree to the Welcome Corps Code of Conduct.

Group Member #6 Name

Group Member #6 Signature

Date

Group Member #7 (if applicable)

- I attest that I am a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States. I authorize the U.S. Government to confirm my status.
- I have read and agree to the above Commitment form.
- I have read and agree to the Welcome Corps Code of Conduct.

Group Member #7 Name

Group Member #7 Signature

Date

Group Member #8 (if applicable)

- I attest that I am a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States. I authorize the U.S. Government to confirm my status.
- I have read and agree to the above Commitment form.
- I have read and agree to the Welcome Corps Code of Conduct.

Group Member #8 Name

Group Member #8 Signature

Date

Group Member #9 (if applicable)

- I attest that I am a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States. I authorize the U.S. Government to confirm my status.
- I have read and agree to the above Commitment form.
- I have read and agree to the Welcome Corps Code of Conduct.

Group Member #9 Name

Group Member #9 Signature

Date

Group Member #10 (if applicable)

- I attest that I am a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States. I authorize the U.S. Government to confirm my status.
- I have read and agree to the above Commitment form.
- I have read and agree to the Welcome Corps Code of Conduct.

Group Member #10 Name

Group Member #10 Signature

Date