

About the Welcome Corps



In January 2023, the U.S. Department of State, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [launched the Welcome Corps](#), a new program that empowers everyday Americans to welcome refugees arriving through the [U.S. Refugee Admissions Program \(USRAP\)](#).

The boldest innovation in the United States' approach to refugee resettlement in four decades, the Welcome Corps builds upon our country's long tradition of providing refuge to people forced to flee their homes.

For more than 40 years, the U.S. Department of State has partnered primarily with non-profit resettlement agencies to provide initial resettlement assistance to newly arriving refugees. The Welcome Corps creates new opportunities for Americans in communities across the United States to engage directly in refugee resettlement, building on existing opportunities to volunteer with resettlement agencies. By leveraging private sponsorship as a community-led model of resettlement, this program is part of the U.S. Government's ongoing efforts to strengthen, modernize, and expand the U.S. refugee resettlement system.

Sponsoring Refugees, Strengthening Communities

Refugees being resettled in the United States may now receive initial assistance and basic services through the USRAP in one of two ways: through professional resettlement agencies or by private sponsors through the Welcome Corps.

Working in groups of at least five individuals, private sponsors come together as a community to collectively support refugees' resettlement and integration as they build new lives in the United States. The Welcome Corps provides private sponsors with access to tools and resources as well as ongoing guidance from resettlement experts throughout the sponsorship period.

In addition to providing core private sponsorship services, private sponsors connect refugee newcomers directly to their communities, helping them build a social network, become self-sufficient, and gain a stronger sense of belonging. Some of the core private sponsor services include helping the refugee newcomer with: [Housing, Education and childcare, Employment assistance, English language learning](#).

These shared acts of welcome strengthen communities and build support for refugee protection by directly involving private citizens in refugee resettlement.

Welcome Corps Consortium

The Department of State funds a consortium of non-profit organizations with expertise in refugee resettlement, protection, and welcome to implement the Welcome Corps. The Welcome Corps is implemented through the collective efforts of these organizations under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration at the U.S. Department of State.



welcomecorps.org/about