



Welcome to the CWS Neighbor Network!

The Neighbor Network is a collective of community groups, churches, and other organizations who are welcoming refugees and humanitarian parolees to the United States through private sponsorship.

Private sponsorship provides an additional resettlement pathway for individuals whose home countries are no longer safe. Many of these people have been displaced for years as they wait for the opportunity to be welcomed into a new country. By agreeing and preparing to sponsor, you and your neighbors can provide a safe place to land for some of the world's most vulnerable people.

Helping someone begin their journey in a new country is both more rewarding and more challenging than many people expect. To help ensure groups are prepared for the responsibilities of sponsorship, Neighbor Network groups are partnered with CWS staff who provide training,

resources, expertise, and remote technical assistance through the first 3-6 months after a newcomer arrives

WELCOMECORPS

In January 2023, the U.S. Department of State announced the launch of the Welcome Corps, a new program that allows community members to sponsor and welcome refugees to their neighborhoods.

Welcome Corps expands the resettlement capacity of the United States and equips sponsors to provide all the services refugee newcomers need in their first few months.

Church World Service is excited to participate in this program as a Private Sponsor Organization (PSO). As a PSO, CWS will provide support and technical assistance to Private Sponsor Groups (PSGs) welcoming newcomers to their communities.



Organizational Background

Church World Service (CWS) is a global humanitarian and development agency supported by 37 U.S. Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican churches who came together in partnership to do what none of us could do as well alone: deliver relief and empower communities. The mission, to transform communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. It is out of this mission that CWS works with local refugee resettlement offices and faith communities to engage them in welcoming newcomers to their neighborhoods and cities.

Transforming Communities

For over 75 years, CWS has known that welcoming newcomers to our communities is an essential way to make sure all of us are more compassionate and civically engaged. We embrace our new neighbors, knowing that together we have a brighter future; a future where all our people will have the opportunity to grow and thrive.

Embracing new neighbors allows us to engage cross-culturally in our communities. It helps us build empathy, heal past prejudices, and create cultural understanding as we learn that refugees are more similar to us than different.

Through decades of experience, CWS knows the importance of ensuring communities receive the support they need to welcome new neighbors.

Support Provided to Private Sponsor Groups



Dedicated CWS staff member to support your group during your welcoming



Weekly technical assistance calls during the 90 day service period



Monthly technical assistance support calls from 3 months to 1 year of your welcome



Experience-based training and technical support from resettlement experts



Steps To Become a Private Sponsor Group

1

Fill Out the [CWS Interest Form Online](#)

Once this step is completed a CWS staff member will reach out to you to set up an initial meeting to go over next steps

2

Download the [Sponsor Checklist](#)

This form will assist you in navigating the onboarding process

3

Complete the Sponsor Checklist

With the support of your dedicated CWS staff member complete all onboarding steps and submit your application

4

Application Approval

CWS staff will keep you updated on the status of your application, once approved you will be ready to welcome

5

Welcome A Family

Once your application is approved you will be matched with a newcomer family to welcome to your community

FAQs

What are a Private Sponsor Group's responsibilities?

Private Sponsor Groups (PSGs) commit to providing welcoming services to arriving refugees for their first 90 days in the community. They secure and furnish initial housing, provide for initial basic needs, and make connections to relevant services, such as health care, education, and employment services. Most importantly, PSGs offer friendship and support to those adjusting to life in a new community. For a full list of core sponsorship services that Private Sponsor Groups commit to providing, [click here](#).

What is the financial commitment to privately sponsor refugees?

Sponsors must raise a minimum of \$2,375 in cash and in-kind contributions per refugee newcomer being welcomed. This is used to secure and furnish housing and provide for the refugee's initial basic needs, until they secure employment.



FAQs Continued

How long is the commitment to privately sponsor refugees through the Welcome Corps?

Sponsors commit to providing friendship, guidance, and financial support for the refugees' initial 90 days in the United States. As it often takes longer for an individual to integrate in their new community, sponsors also commit to making connections to ongoing supports and services, available from local organizations.

Even as the sponsorship commitment is for just 90 days, the relationships built, both between the sponsors and refugee newcomers as well as among members of the sponsoring community, may last a lifetime.

Can I sponsor a specific refugee family member, friend, or other individual that I know who is still overseas and I would like to help resettle in the United States?

No, not at this time. The Welcome Corps is not currently able to accept applications from private sponsors who identify specific refugees overseas they wish to support and help resettle in the United States. In the first and current phase of the program, private sponsors approved to

participate in the Welcome Corps will be matched with refugees who have already been approved for resettlement to the United States through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP).

In mid-2023, the Welcome Corps will expand and roll out a second phase of the program that will allow private sponsors to identify a specific refugee individual or refugee family overseas whom they wish to sponsor and refer to the USRAP for consideration to be resettled in the United States, subject to program criteria established by the U.S. government. Further information on this expansion of the Welcome Corps will be made available in the coming months. To stay in touch and learn about further developments in the Welcome Corps program, you can join our email list [here](#).

All refugees referred to the USRAP by private sponsors will need to complete the same processing requirements as all other USRAP applicants to be approved for resettlement, including the determination of eligibility for refugee status through an interview overseas conducted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, security vetting by U.S. government law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and a medical screening.