



How to Build a Private Sponsor Group (PSG)

Welcome Corps private sponsorship groups must have at least 5 group members. This resource is meant to provide support and guidance for individuals in need of additional members of their group. Added group members must be willing to complete and sign forms as sponsors, provide financial support, and volunteer their time to support newcomers after arrival.”

Participation

PSGs require a minimum of five community members willing to participate. First, take stock of your needs.

- ❓ How many more sponsors do you need to meet the minimum of five members willing to sign documentation, get a background check, receive training and participate as members of the PSG?



Finances

Sponsors must raise a minimum of \$2,425 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.

- ❓ Do you have all the financial support you need to fully support the newcomer(s) for the required period, or do you need help raising more money? How much additional money do you need to raise?

As a Private Sponsor Organization (PSO), CWS participates in the Welcome Corps program, which was launched in January 2023 by the U.S. Department of State, to provide support and technical assistance to Private Sponsor Groups (PSGs) welcoming newcomers to their communities.

Time Commitment

PSGs commit to providing welcoming services to arriving refugees for their first 90 days in the community.

- ⊙ While volunteer time commitment varies depending upon the needs of the newcomer and tends to be more time intensive in the beginning and then taper off in later weeks, the average volunteer time is about 2 hours per week. How much time on average per week do you anticipate each volunteer/sponsor will need to help?

Transportation

PSGs will guide the newcomer(s) in accessing available transportation in their community and identify how they might travel to and from possible employment, schools, healthcare, faith community, shopping and the grocery store.

- ⊙ Will you need help from volunteers/sponsors willing to transport newcomers to appointments and for errands?

Housing

Refugee newcomers need a comfortable, safe place to live. Through the Welcome Corps, groups can apply for temporary housing credits for the first days after the refugee(s) arrival and will need to secure safe and affordable housing for the 90-day sponsorship period and after that time.

- ⊙ Do you already have temporary and/or permanent housing solidified for the newcomer(s) or do you need more support? Permanent housing is usually defined by having a signed lease for at least six months. Do you need help finding and solidifying housing for the newcomer(s) once they arrive?

- ⓘ For more information about Private Sponsor Group core services, visit the [Welcome Corps website](#) and browse [CWS' collection of downloadable resources](#) for volunteers.

Recognize Community Connections

Groups can be formed by friends, neighbors, work colleagues or any group of adults who together meet the requirements: a minimum of five members who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, who are over the age of 18 and who live in or near the community where the refugee(s) will live.

Existing Connections

Reach out to your existing network to help identify friends and family who may already be thinking about forming a private sponsor group.

- 📌 • Do you have friends and family members in your local area (within 50 miles) interested in becoming a member of your Private Sponsorship Group?
- Are you a member of a local faith community?
- Are you an employee of a local business?
- Are you associated with a local college or university?
- Are you a member of a local sports team or recreation club?
- What other community connections do you have?

New Connections

Reach out to local service organizations and faith communities to connect with others interested in forming or joining a sponsor group.

- 📌 **Community Organizations:** Civic Groups, Ethic Community-Based Organizations, University Organizations and retired professionals


Examples: Lion's Club, Rotary Club, Shriners, League of Women Voters

- Faith-Based Community Groups:** Mosques and Islamic Centers, Synagogues and Jewish Community Organizations, Congregational Groups and Christian Churches or Organizations


Examples: [Presbyterian Church USA](#), [United Methodist Church](#), [United Church of Christ](#), [Unitarian Universalist](#), [Episcopal Migration Ministries](#), [Union for Reform Judaism](#), [The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism](#), [U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations](#)

Tips for Establishing Connections

1. Prioritize outreach to organizations you believe are most likely to support you in your efforts.
2. Do some research before reaching out. Who is the most likely contact person?

 Who is the most likely contact person? Instead of emailing *info@organization.com*, see if you can find a specific person at the organization to reach out to. Look at their website: do they have someone dedicated to humanitarian work, community outreach, and/or organizing? After you have identified who to contact, email or call them directly. If you can, go in-person during their office hours to meet them face-to-face.

3. Be prepared to share your specific request.

 For example, "I am working on sponsoring my cousin through Welcome Corps who is a refugee in Rwanda. I need at least three more volunteers/sponsors to help me form a Private Sponsorship Group. I also need help raising another \$5,000." If you (and they) feel comfortable, share some information about the refugee(s) you wish to sponsor. Storytelling is a powerful method of recruiting other sponsor group members. Also, be prepared to share additional information about [Welcome Corps](#).

 CWS staff are available to host a virtual interest call for a church or other organization that is interested in partnering with you. Our team can help explain the benefits of the Welcome Corps program and the responsibilities of sponsors. To connect with the CWS team, email sponsorship@cwsglobal.org.



Additional Resources

- [Private Sponsor Group Start-Up Toolkit](#) (Welcome Corps)
- [Private Sponsor Group Recruitment Flyer](#) (Welcome Corps)
- [Social Media Toolkit for Sponsors](#) (Welcome Corps)
- [Five Tips for Starting a Private Sponsor Group](#) (Welcome Corps)
- [Sample Private Sponsor Group Structure and Roles](#) (Welcome Corps)
- [Dine for Refugees Toolkit](#) (Welcome Corps)