



Key Considerations for a Strengths-based Approach to Involving U.S. ties as Co-sponsors

Incorporating a comprehensive strength-based approach involving U.S. ties, local staff can foster partnership with family as co-sponsors, leading toward successful and sustainable support for the newcomer. Here is a summary of the most important considerations for reference.

1

Assessment and Activation of Family Strengths

Recognizing and empowering the capabilities of each family member can be leveraged to support co-sponsorship. For example, personal qualities, cultural assets including language support, skills, resources, support networks and more.

2

Empowerment and Collaboration

With active participation of the family's strengths, local staff should encourage shared decision making and open communication. Always emphasize what each family member brings to the table, so they are valued, respected and have a voice.

3

Cultural Competence and Sensitivity

Respect and learn about the family's cultural values, beliefs and practices. Consider how cultural factors may influence their decisions and perspectives. Be humble and ask many questions.

4

Strength-based Planning

Conduct a strength-based assessment to identify the needs, goals and aspirations of the family. Utilize this information to develop a comprehensive plan that builds on their strengths and prepares them for any challenges.

5

Support and Capacity Building

Give ongoing support to help the U.S. co-sponsorship develop skills, knowledge and resources to complete delegated core services and co-sponsorship successfully. Have training, mentorship, regular check-ins for support.

6

Roles and Responsibilities

Clearly define roles and responsibilities of each family member within co-sponsorship. Consider family history, role reversal, paternalism while fostering trust and encouraging each person to understand their commitments, goals, motivation and accountability.

7

Strength-based Problem Solving

Approach each barrier and challenge with a strength-based perspective. Encourage family members to draw on their strengths to come up with creative solutions to problems.

8

Recognition and Appreciation

Celebrate the success of each reached milestone and contributions of U.S. ties and co-sponsors. Recognize all the progress made and how they made it possible.

9

Flexibility and Adaptability

Understanding that each refugee family dynamic is complex, be aware and make sure the family is aware that a lot can change over time and that change is natural. Emphasizing that making constant adjustments to plans and strategies to come up with better solutions is necessary to meet the priorities of the family.

10

Evaluation and Feedback

Continuously evaluate effectiveness of strategies implemented in U.S. tie co-sponsorship. Ask the family for feedback and use this information to make improvements. Ensure that the process is focused on the strength-based methods and needs of the family.