

CO-SPONSOR GUIDE FOR U.S. TIES

Do you remember how you felt the first day you arrived in the United States? You may have felt excited, nervous, relieved, anxious, and overwhelmed. Reflecting on your journey, you can be proud of all the growth and progress you have made since arrival. Starting a new life in a different country is very difficult. The challenges you have overcome, and your lived experience positions you as an expert in navigating the resettlement process and life in a new country. Now, as a U.S. tie, you can create a safe place for others.

Your journey uniquely positions you to support newcomers and expand on the assistance provided to them. By working with local resettlement offices as an official co-sponsor, you can collaborate with case managers and the broader Church World Service (CWS) network. As a co-sponsor, you will work alongside case managers to provide core welcoming services to the newcomer during their first 90 days after arrival. While many U.S. ties already offer support, formalizing your role as a co-sponsor enhances the collaboration between your lived experience and the expertise of case managers, ensuring the best resources and support for the newcomer.



What is Co-Sponsorship?

Co-sponsorship is when a group of community members join to assist in welcoming a newly arrived refugee family or individual to the United States. Co-sponsors commit to signing a written-non-legally binding agreement to collaborate with a local resettlement office to provide a minimum of 8 services for each refugee individual/family. As a U.S. tie, the role of sponsorship is powerful because of the already existing relationship, especially coupled with the local resettlement agency's expertise.

The local resettlement agency will contact you before the newcomer's arrival to discuss your active participation in the welcoming process. The first step is to arrange a meeting directly with the local agency's staff point of contact, usually a community engagement staff, case manager, or pre-arrival coordinator to express your interest. They will share what welcoming support is needed during the newcomers first 90-day period with the specific agency. If you agree to become a co-sponsor, you will sign a non-legally binding form called the [Co-sponsor Agreement Form](#) as an agreement to provide that support to the newcomer. From this point forward, there is immense potential to unite everyone's strengths to guide the newcomer's path toward self-sufficiency.



What are Core Services?

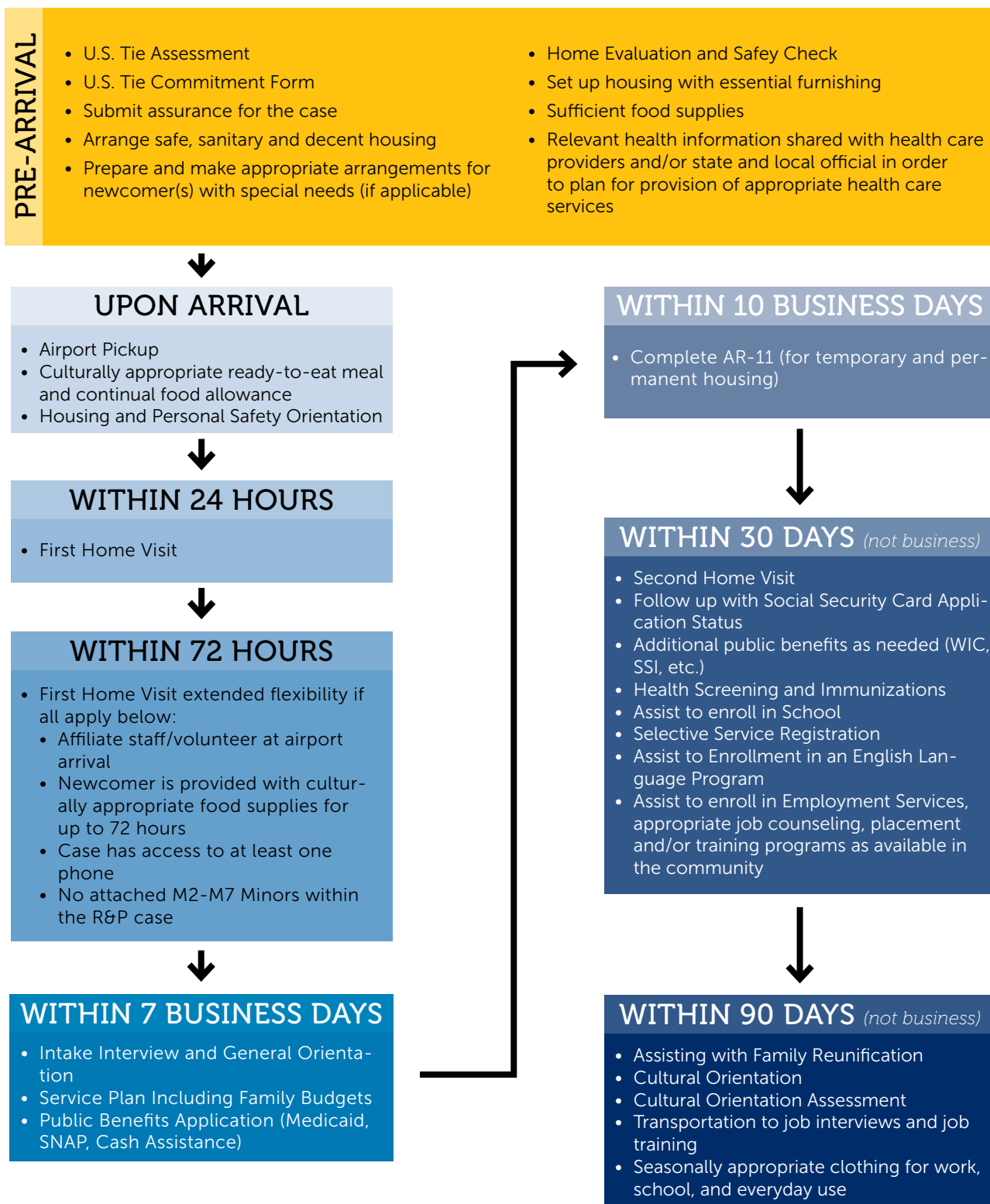
Many of these services may be familiar to you from your journey to the United States. Below is a comprehensive list of the welcoming support sponsors can provide.

- Arrange Safe and Sanitary Housing
- Set Up Housing
- Culturally Appropriate Ready-To-Eat Meal
- Seasonally Appropriate Clothing
- Airport Pickup
- Social Security Application
- Public Benefits Application
- English Language Training Enrollment
- Enrollment in Employment Services
- School Enrollment
- Selective Service Registration
- Transportation to Job Interviews/Training
- Cultural Orientation Delivery
- Cultural Orientation Assessment
- AR-11 Form
- Service Plan Including Family Budget
- Assisting with Family Reunification
- Health Screening and Immunizations



The timeline of when these services need to be delivered can be seen below. For a quick overview of these services, please see the [Co-Sponsor One Pager](#). For a step-by-step guide to completing these services, please visit the [CWS Co-sponsor Manual](#) or the manual provided by your local resettlement office.

Timeline of Service Provision



Benefits of U.S. Tie Co-sponsorship

Benefits to U.S. tie

- As a former newcomer, you are in a unique position to share your own personal experiences about life in the United States with newcomers as they navigate unfamiliar systems and cultural differences. You become an ambassador for your new community and a part of a newcomer's growing social capital in a new city.
- As a co-sponsor, you empower newcomers to take an active role in shaping their own integration process and the integration of others in their community. Beginning as a guide, you help newcomers navigate toward integration into their new community. The goal is in time the newcomer will feel able to navigate resources and networks on their own.
- As a co-sponsor, you will gain valuable skills and experience in areas such as mentoring, advocacy, and navigating the local systems in your community. These skills can be highly beneficial for personal and professional growth. Navigating the local system can be done by the U.S. ties as they can use their network and community connections to serve as resources for the newcomer.
- As a sponsor you also foster cultural exchange and understanding with newcomers. Introducing the newcomer to cultural differences and similarities of the local community versus their hometown/ country can help build a deep understanding of belonging.
- The most rewarding part of the welcoming process is the opportunity to give back to a community that welcomed you.

Benefits to the Newcomer

- Newcomers are provided with the best mentorship and resources when you bring your experience and strengths to the process. As a sponsor, you may already have a network of cultural resources that would help the newcomer feel at home in their new community.
- Newcomers benefit from the U.S. Tie's language support. U.S. ties know the newcomer's language and this helps expedite all processes. The newcomer can quickly understand each step of resettlement with the language support of the U.S. Tie.
- Finally, there is no replacement for a mentor that has a history, trust, and special relationship to the newcomer. The resettlement process is a very difficult and vulnerable moment for the newcomer. If the newcomer is guided by someone they trust, they will feel more confident, motivated and have a greater sense of belonging in the process.

Ready to Take the First Step?

Contact your case manager at the local resettlement office that is processing your case as a U.S. tie for more information! Local staff will be glad to provide you with an orientation with all the resources, networks, and opportunities that accompany co-sponsorship.

[Visit our website to learn more.](#)