



What is Welcome Corps?

The Welcome Corps is a pilot program for the private sponsorship of refugees in the United States. Community organizations, universities or colleges, and individual Americans will be able to sponsor refugees to relocate and resettle in the United States through the existing U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). Welcome Corps was [launched](#) by the Department of State on January 19, 2023.

Who can be resettled under the Welcome Corps?

Only refugees can be resettled through the Welcome Corps.

Who is a refugee?

Refugees are persons outside of their home countries who are unable or unwilling to return because of persecution, or a well-founded fear of persecution, on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Refugees resettled through the Welcome Corps program must meet all the requirements that other refugees meet.

Who can sponsor refugees?

U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents can form Private Sponsor Groups to resettle refugees under Welcome Corps. Private Sponsor Groups must have at least five members who are over the age of 18 and who live in or near the same community.

How will the Welcome Corps work?

In the program's first phase, private sponsors applying to Welcome Corps will be matched with refugees, primarily from sub-Saharan Africa, whose cases are already approved for resettlement under the USRAP. The first refugees under this phase will arrive later in the spring of 2023. The second phase of the program, in which private sponsors will be able to identify and refer specific refugees for resettlement and support them after their arrival, will be launched in mid-2023.

If I join, what am I responsible for?

Private sponsors will be responsible for independently raising funds, a minimum of \$2,375 in cash and in-kind contributions per refugee, and directly assisting refugees for their first 90 days in their new community. This assistance includes housing and employment placement, school enrollment, and connecting refugees to essential services and benefits in their community.

I want to sponsor a specific refugee. How and when can I?

The Welcome Corps program is not currently accepting applications from private sponsors to identify and support specific refugees. For now, the Department of State and its partners are prioritizing the first phase of the program—which will resettle refugees already approved in the USRAP for resettlement. The second phase is still being structured and designed. Individuals who wish to sponsor refugees not yet in the USRAP pipeline, as well as refugees overseas who wish to be sponsored in Welcome Corps, will have to wait until the second phase launches for additional details.

Where should I go for more information?

The Welcome Corps [website](#) will include the most up-to-date information on the program's rollout. For more information on navigating the application process, visit Welcome Corps' "[Get Started](#)" page. Using this page, individuals can look up frequently asked questions, view an information session, sign up for training, register for an application support session, submit their Private Sponsor Group application to sponsor refugees under the first phase of Welcome Corps, and more.

USCRI is not one of the nonprofit consortium partners working with the Department of State to carry out this program.