

## WHAT IS WELCOME CORPS?

The Welcome Corps is the program for the private sponsorship of refugees in the United States. Community groups, universities or colleges, and individual Americans are able to sponsor refugees to relocate and resettle in the United States through the existing U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). The program was [launched](#) by the Department of State in January 2023. It is now accepting applications to refer specific refugees to the USRAP for resettlement.

### Who is the Welcome Corps for?

Only refugees can be resettled through the Welcome Corps.

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 Welcome Corps 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. These groups must have at least five members who are over the age of 18 and who live in or near the same community.

### If I join as a sponsor, what am I responsible for?

Private sponsors will be responsible for independently raising funds, a minimum of \$2,425 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. Private Sponsor Groups (PSGs) can only sponsor one refugee individual or family at a time.

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

The Welcome Corps is now accepting applications from PSGs to identify and support specific refugees. A [beta application portal](#) is open for a member of a PSG to create an account and submit materials for a specific refugee or refugee family.

### Who can I sponsor in the Welcome Corps' newly open "Sponsor A Refugee You Know" process?

Refugees referred to USRAP for resettlement through Welcome Corps must be outside of their home country and outside of the United States. Barring some exceptions, they must already be registered on or before September 30, 2023, as a refugee by the UN Refugee Agency or the country where they live. This eligibility criteria may be updated at a later time.

### Who is not eligible?

Individuals who were previously denied for U.S. resettlement through the USRAP are not eligible. Unaccompanied minors also cannot be referred to Welcome Corps. There is also a list of countries where Welcome Corps case processing cannot occur at this time. Therefore, individuals living in certain countries are not currently eligible for USRAP processing through the Welcome Corps. This list is available [online](#), along with [information specific](#) to sponsoring Afghan refugees.

### How long will it take for refugees to arrive in the United States through the Welcome Corps?

It is expected to take between six months and a few years for refugees to arrive from the time an application is submitted.

### Where should I go for more information?

The Welcome Corps [website](#) includes the most up-to-date information on the program. 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, and more. The "[Sponsor A Refugee You Know](#)" page contains information on referring specific refugees to the USRAP.

USCRI has been approved as a Private Sponsor Organization to assist groups in resettling refugees.

### Don't Get Scammed

Applying to Welcome Corps is free. Refugees should never pay money to be resettled, and be wary of offers that promise approvals or expedited processing through Welcome Corps.