

# REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP



For the first time in forty years, **groups of everyday Americans** can privately sponsor refugees in the U.S. using a model adapted from the Canadian “Group of 5” program called the Welcome Corps Program.

## HIAS has 5 tips for forming a successful sponsor group

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### UNDERSTAND THE PHASES

**Phase 1 (open now):** the U.S. government will match sponsors with refugees they don't know. Initially, refugees will be matched out of Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Phase 2 (mid-to-late 2023):** sponsors can identify who they want to sponsor.

**You can start planning for phase 2 now!**

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### FORM YOUR GROUP

You'll need at least **5 people for your sponsor group**. Sponsors need to:

- Be over 18 years old
- Pass a background check
- Sign a code of conduct
- Take an online training
- Live in the same area where the refugees will live.

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### RAISE MONEY

**HIAS can help you figure out how much money you will need.**

The government requires you to raise \$2,425 per refugee being sponsored. However, real costs (including paying refugees' rent, food, utilities, and more) vary by state.

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### PLAN FOR WELCOME

**You will need to write a “Welcome Plan”** outlining how you will provide core resettlement services like airport pick-up, securing safe housing, signing up for public benefits, finding employment, and more.

**Don't worry, HIAS can help with this!**

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### TALK WITH HIAS

**HIAS has tools, resources, and experience to guide you** through the application process, connect partners, and support your sponsorship journey.

Learn more at [hias.org/welcome-circles](https://hias.org/welcome-circles)  
Email [info@hias.org](mailto:info@hias.org)

Call 800-HIAS-714  
(800-4427-714)



**Welcome the stranger.  
Protect the refugee.**