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.

**1. 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!

**2. 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.

**3. 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.

**4. 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!

**5. 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
Email info@hias.org
Call 800-HIAS-714 (800-4427-714)

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**REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP**

HIAS has 5 tips for forming a successful sponsor group

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