



Refugee Welcome
Collective

New Pathways & Best Practices in Community- Based Resettlement: Community Sponsorship

Refugee Welcome Collective

refugeewelcome.org

Refugee Welcome Collective is a project of CWS under an agreement paid for by the U.S. Department of State.

Session Objectives



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Following this session, participants will be able to:

1. Define the ways community members can help to welcome newcomers (refugees and humanitarian parolees) through sponsorship, distinguishing between community sponsors (co-sponsors and private sponsors) and financial supporters.
2. Name and define the programs that use community sponsorship and sponsorship to welcome newcomers, and which are available in the Upper Valley.
3. List three resources available to support community members engage in welcome through community sponsorship and sponsorship.

Session Outline



**Refugee Welcome
Collective**

- Overview of the Refugee Welcome Collective
 - Who we are
 - RWC services
 - Our approach
- Part I: overview of community sponsorship
- Part II: where to find community sponsorship programs: a look at the Reception and Placement Program and Welcome Corps
- Part III: non-refugee populations and financial supporters
- Part IV: RWC supports and materials



WHO WE ARE

The Refugee Welcome Collective (RWC), a project of CWS, is a Community Sponsorship (CS) Technical Assistance (TA) provider funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) and the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

We aim to improve outcomes for refugees resettled through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program by building capacity and expanding community sponsorship.

RWC Services



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Training	One-to-one and group Technical Assistance (TA) Sessions	Program Supports	Knowledge sharing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Live training (in-person and virtual)• Off the shelf training<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baseline• Top-up series• Deep dive	<p>TA sessions for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Sponsorship staff (national and local)• Case managers• Sponsors• Refugees paired with sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guides• Toolkits• Manuals• RWC App	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weekly Lunch and Learns• Monthly roundtable discussions "Sounding Board"• RWC Membership – community of practice that meets quarterly



HOW WE DO IT

We work closely with national and local resettlement agencies, sponsors, volunteers, and refugees paired with sponsors through our Collective to identify needs, develop tools, resources, and set priority areas.



Part I

Overview of Community

Sponsorship

What is Community Sponsorship (CS)?

Community Based Resettlement and CS



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Community members come together as a **group** to help welcome a newcomer.

Groups take on the responsibility of **helping to provide key services and resources** to the newcomer.

Groups play a vital role in creating **social connections** for the newcomer.

Groups support the newcomer in **learning and practicing English** and often **use their networks** to help find employment and other opportunities.

Part II

Where to find Community Sponsorship: Reception and Placement (R&P) and Welcome Corps

United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)



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Following consultations (discussions) with cabinet representatives and Congress, a determination is drafted for signature by the President.

The Presidential Determination establishes the overall admissions levels and regional allocations of all refugees for the upcoming fiscal year.

United States Refugee
Admissions Program (USRAP)

Bureau of Population, Refugees, Migration

Reception and
Placement Program

Welcome Corps

Reception and Placement (R&P)



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- Funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugee, Migration (PRM).
- Funds 10 national Resettlement Agencies (RAs) and their local affiliate offices to receive and place refugees across the U.S.
- RAs and affiliated organizations oversee the services provided to refugee newcomers as part of the R&P Program.
- Services are referred to as 'core services,' and include things such as:
 - Enrollment in services and benefits
 - School enrollment
 - Housing



R&P: National Resettlement Agencies



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- Each year RAs determine capacity across their network to welcome refugees through R&P.
- Proposals are submitted to PRM.
- RAs participate in weekly allocation meetings.
- Internally, RAs determine where to place refugees allocated to their organization.
- Local affiliate offices engage community members to help receive and welcome refugee newcomers.

National Resettlement Agencies

- Church World Service
- Episcopal Migration Ministries
- Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.
- HIAS
- International Rescue Committee
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
- U.S. Committee for Refugee and Immigrants
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services
- World Relief

R&P: Local offices and co-sponsorship



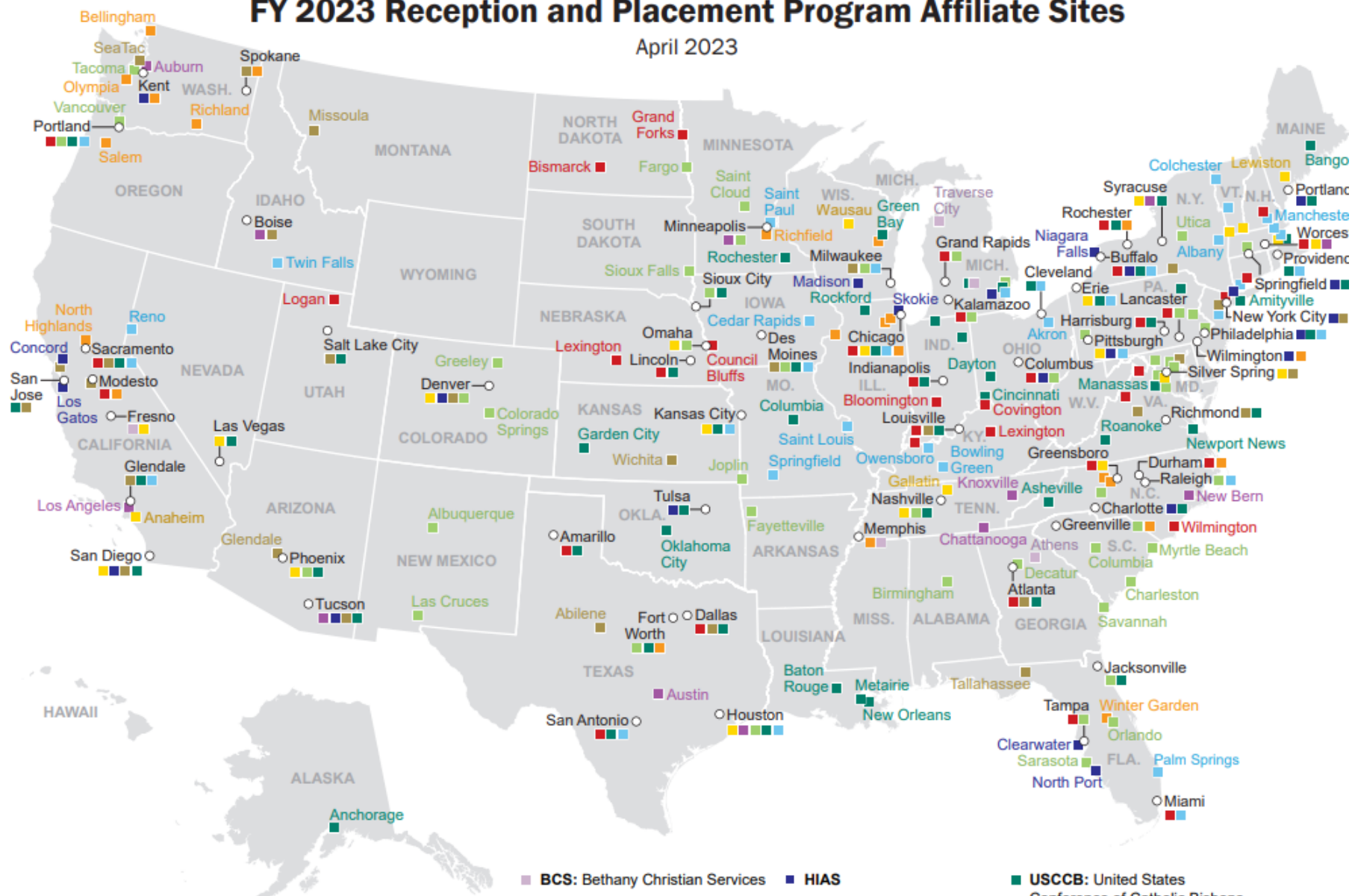
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- Local offices welcoming refugees may engage community members through **co-sponsorship**.
- Co-sponsorship provides community members the chance to help welcome refugees by taking on the responsibility of helping provide the majority of core services.
- Co-sponsorship requirements:
 - Group of people (usually 5+)
 - Sign an MOU with local office
 - Agree to provide a majority of core services
 - Raise funds or in-kind contributions
- Each RA's co-sponsorship program varies but all tend to also require training, background checks, and community members documenting the services they've provided.



FY 2023 Reception and Placement Program Affiliate Sites

April 2023



- BCS: Bethany Christian Services
- CWS: Church World Service
- ECDC: Ethiopian Community Development Council
- EMM: Episcopal Migration Ministries
- HIAS
- IRC: International Rescue Committee
- LIRS: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
- USCCB: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- USCRI: U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
- WR: World Relief
- Multiple sites

There are 1 affiliate site in America: Samoa, Guai or Puerto Ric

Co-sponsorship is a form of community sponsorship where community members work in collaboration with a local resettlement office to provide services to a refugee newcomer.

Community members in the Upper Valley could potentially participate in co-sponsorship programs, if available, at local affiliate offices in VT and NH.

Colchester, VT: USCRI

Burlington, VT: USCRI

Brattleboro, VT: ECDC

Bennington, VT: ECDC

Concord, NH: CWS

Manchester, NH: USCRI



**To explore co-sponsorship opportunities, contact local
resettlement offices in your area or state.**

Welcome Corps



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- Funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugee, Migration (PRM).
- Funds **Community Sponsorship Hub (CSH)** to oversee a consortium of organizations to implement the program.
- **Private Sponsor Groups (PSGs)** are trained, raise funds (\$2,375 per refugee), apply, certified to welcome a refugee case.
- **Refugee are matched** with certified PSGs who ensure all services are provided to them. **In the future PSGs will be able to name** refugees they'd like to welcome.
- PSGs receive support from **Private Sponsor Organizations or RWC** to carry out their responsibilities (core services).



Welcome Corps: PSGs and PSOs



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- Community members from anywhere in the U.S. can form a group, complete training and a welcome plan, and apply.
- Organizations that want to support 50+ private sponsor groups can apply to become a private sponsor organization.



Private Sponsorship is a form of community sponsorship where community members provide all services to a refugee newcomer. They are trained, apply, and certified.

Community Members in the
Upper Valley can form PSG
groups and apply to welcome
refugees through Welcome
Corps.

**To become a private sponsor, visit the
Welcome Corps website:
www.welcomecorps.org**



Part III
Non-refugee
populations and
Financial
Supporters/Sponsors

Non-Refugee Populations: Humanitarian Parolees (HPs)



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- **Financial supporters**, commonly referred to as Sponsors, can sign-up to welcome Humanitarian Parolees:
 - Afghans - Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) (now re-paroling those entered 2 years ago)
 - Ukrainians – Uniting for Ukraine
 - Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelans
- An individual supporter completes an **I-134A form**.
- **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** is responsible for processing I-134A applications and paroling beneficiaries into the U.S.

Parole allows an individual to be in the United States for a temporary period for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.

Financial Supporters



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- Each supporter must demonstrate sufficient financial resources to “receive, maintain, and support” parolee beneficiaries and attest to their willingness to ensure that beneficiaries “have sufficient financial resources ... for the period of his or her temporary stay in the United States.”
- Supporters commit to providing core services such as housing and benefits enrollment; however, this is not enforced.



Sponsor Circles and CWS Neighbor Network



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- Apply a community sponsorship model to support Financial Supporters welcome and support Humanitarian Parolees.
- Groups apply, receive training, support, materials to help their effort.



Sponsor Circles



neighbor
NETWORK



neighbor NETWORK

- New CWS initiative that encompasses all private sponsorship programming:
 - Humanitarian parole sponsorship
 - Uniting for Ukraine
 - Processes for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans
 - Welcome Corps
 - Asylum seeker support (forthcoming)

CWS Support



- After approval, groups receive 3-6 months of remote support from CWS HQ
 - Weekly and on-demand technical assistance calls via Zoom
 - Private sponsorship manual and other materials, including core service delivery guides
- CWS staff are available to help groups navigate internal conflict, how to approach conflicts with beneficiaries, and how to access resources
 - Groups leverage their own community knowledge and resources!

Financial Supporters support Humanitarian Parolees (HP) and are not considered community sponsors unless they are part of a group of people paired with a HP.

Community Members in the Upper Valley can apply to be a Financial Supporter and can connect with the Sponsor Circle Program, CWS Neighbor Network, and RWC for support.

To become a financial supporter, visit the USCIS website to complete an I-134a form:

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-134>

You can also visit the Sponsor Circle Program:

<https://www.sponsorcircles.org/programs>

You can join CWS Neighbor Network by e-mailing Katie Randall:

krandall@cwsglobal.org



Part IV
RWC Supports and
Materials

Training



Community Sponsorship Essentials is an interactive, user-friendly and comprehensive baseline training for community sponsorship programs

Sponsorship 101

Key Mindsets

Support Areas

Logistics & Admin

Group Discussions

- **The History of Welcoming**
Meeting the moment, painting a big picture
- **Learner Journey**
Outline of content to come
- **Sponsorship Overview**
Vital role in variable forms
- **Our New Neighbors**
Key considerations for working with different populations
- **Sponsorship in Action**
From Welcomer to Neighbor, Path to self-sufficiency
- **Ways to Sponsor**
Overview of Co-Sponsorship and Sponsor Circles

Being Mindful

As a sponsor, it's important to be mindful of the following areas:

Click on each item to learn more about it.

Language

Religion

Children

Many newcomers have arrived with their families, including children. This will mean that sponsors may help families navigate and enroll in the local school system. In doing so, sponsors should consider what services are available for ELL (English Language Learner) students as well as transportation options. It will also be important to be mindful of and respect different parenting styles.

Sponsorship 101

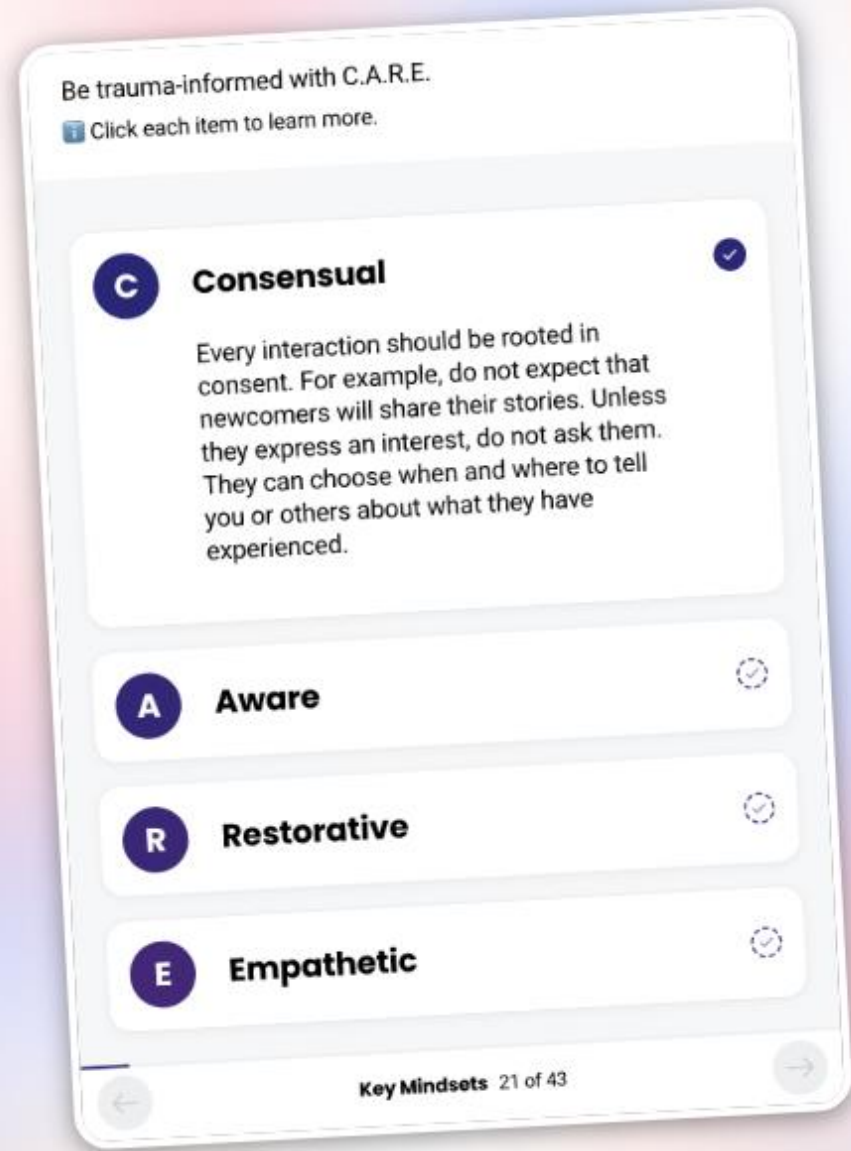
Key Mindsets

Support Areas

Logistics & Admin

Group Discussions

- **The ABCD's of Sponsorship**
- **Adaptive**
Set reasonable expectations, consider multiple perspectives, practice cultural humility
- **Benevolent**
Compassionate, trauma-informed, mindful of power & privilege
- **Collaborative**
With the newcomer, agency, group, and community
- **Dedicated**
Time, organization, documentation
- **Group Considerations**
Leader, committee structure



Sponsorship 101

Key Mindsets

Support Areas

Logistics & Admin

Group Discussions

- Housing
- Transportation
- English / ESOL
- Cultural Adjustment
- Employment and Finances
- Health and Mental Health
- Education

ESOL Support

There are a myriad of ways to support ESOL as a Sponsor, outside of simply helping newcomers enroll in classes. Click to learn about each way you can provide support. Click each item to learn more.



Practice with Kids

Watch Television

Parents with young children can also benefit from watching children's programming with their kids. Programs like Sesame Street and The Electric Company present grammar, vocabulary, and numbers at a pace that works for English language learners.

Sponsorship 101

Key Mindsets

Support Areas

Logistics & Admin

Group Discussions

Co-Sponsorship

- **Key terms & deliverables**
Ex: R&P, C.O., ORR
- **Organizational policy considerations**
Core service, MOU, Case notes, Financial/In-kind requirements, Resettlement agency staff
- **Support systems**
CORE, RWC, RA newsletters

Sponsor Circles

- **Key terms & deliverables**
Ex: Sponsor Circle
Umbrella organizations
- **Organizational policy considerations**
Welcome plan, 30 and 180 reporting requirements
- **Support systems**
CORE, CSH, Sponsor Circle Program coalition partners



Sponsorship 101

Key Mindsets

Support Areas

Logistics & Admin

Group Discussions

Group Discussion 1

Share reflections around Key Mindsets and how to support one another's growth

Group Discussion 2

Share learnings from each support module; explore how each support area may apply to your community; brainstorm local resources that exist (or are needed) to support newcomers in each support area


Group Discussion 3


Reflections on learnings; Navigating conflict as a group; walk-through three to five practical scenarios


Scheduling and Preparation

Within the next few days, connect with your group members and schedule a 60-90 minute meeting.


By the time of the discussion, make sure everyone has agreed to complete all prior lessons, in addition to the Support Areas Overview (which is the next lesson in this module). **Here's how to prepare for your discussion.**

 Click on each of the checked items as you read them. Once all items are checked, click Next to continue learning.

 **Look back at your prior reflections and take some notes on what you'd like to share with your group, making sure to share potential strengths, weaknesses, and questions you might have identified as a result of the prior reflections.**

 **Reflect on how you might be able to support your group in staying accountable to the ABCDs of sponsorship and what support you might need from your group to stay accountable.**

 **Review the 7 Support Areas in the next section. Reflect on the potential roles you could take within your group.**

 **The roles you assume and delegate will inform how you approach the learning content in the remainder of the next module.**



RWC Learning Platform

Video Tutorials

Documentation and Benefits

- Applying for Social Security Income
- Essential Documentation: Social Security Card, Employment Authorization Document, State ID
- Registering with Selective Service
- Completing Form AR-11, Alien's Change of Address
- Domestic Medical Screening for Refugees
- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Refugee Medical Assistance
- Medicaid



60%

Documentation and Benefits for
Newcomers and Sponsors



See Overview



Resume Course

Top-up Series



Setting and maintaining boundaries



See Overview



Resume Course



Self-sufficiency and newcomer agency



See Overview



Resume Course



Conflict resolution and understanding



See Overview



Resume Course

Deep Dive Training



Translation and interpretation



See Overview



Resume Course



Trauma informed care



See Overview



Resume Course



Power and privilege



See Overview



Resume Course



One-to-One Technical Assistance

One-to-One

- One-to-one sessions
- Help line
- Email responses to questions



RWC provides one-to-one Technical Assistance to Private Sponsor Groups (PSGs) that are **not paired** with a Private Sponsor Organization (PSO); to co-sponsorship staff at national and local resettlement agencies; and refugees paired with sponsors.

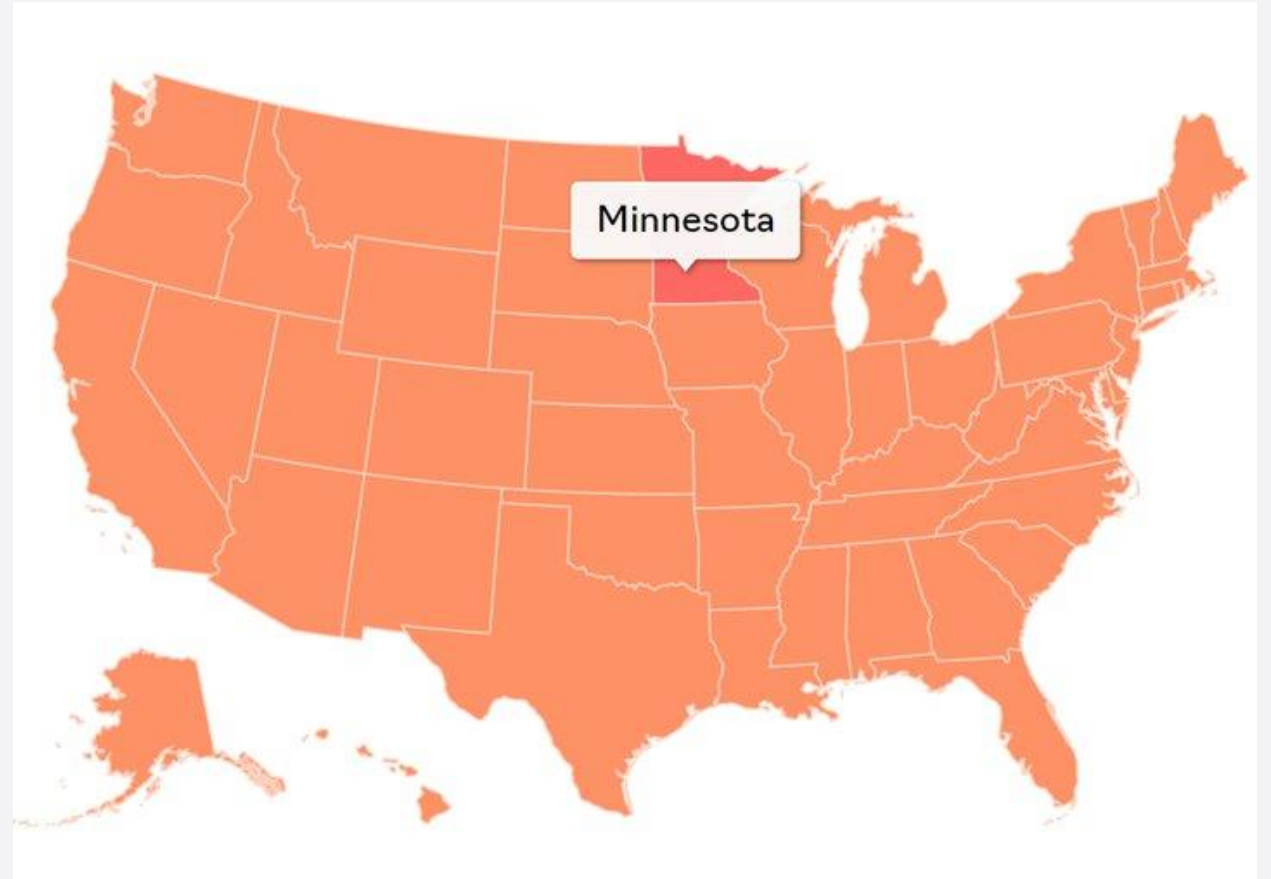
Program Supports

Interactive State Resource Map

Equips newcomers and sponsors with information to navigate and access benefits and services by state.

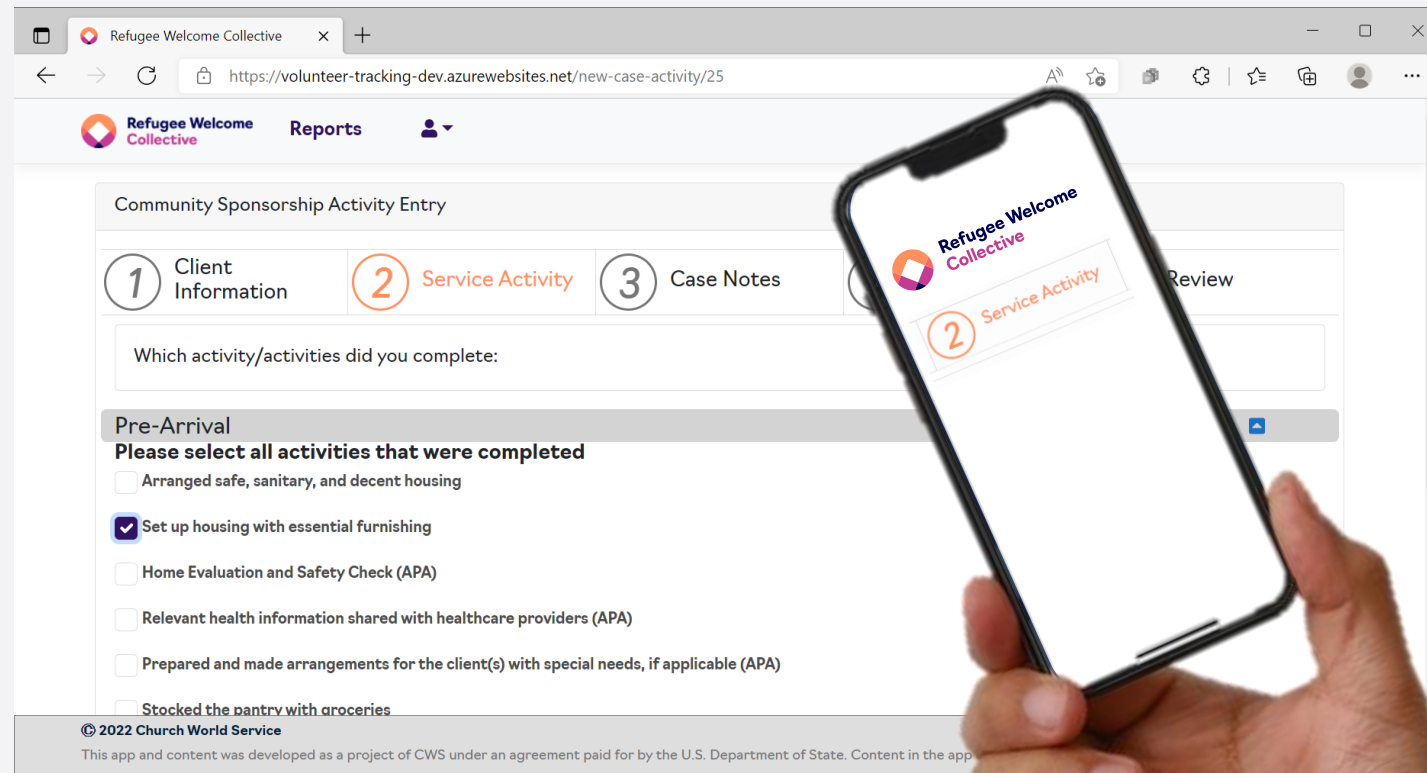
Developed in close collaboration with stakeholders, the interactive map directs users to up-to-date websites, resources, and materials.

Initial cohort: AZ, MI, MN & MO



RWC App Features

- **Stay on Track:** Access checklist of core services.
- **Never Miss a Deadline:** Real-time deadlines ensure timely completion of tasks.
- **Take Notes and Track Mileage:** Easily jot down notes on completed activities, track mileage, and translation services.
- **Log In-Kind Donations:** Keep a record of in-kind donations and effortlessly monitor your contributions.
- **Collaborate with Ease:** Sponsors stay connected by viewing and tracking activities completed by fellow members.



RWC App Features Cont.

- **Progress at a Glance:** real-time information on the progress of sponsor groups.
- **Simplify Reporting:** Access notes from sponsors on completed activities, streamlining reporting.
- **In-Depth Analytics:** Dive into valuable data on sponsor hours, donated mileage, translation, and both in-kind and financial donations made.
- **Generate Insightful Reports:** Generate reports for reporting and learning purposes, fostering continuous improvement.



Sponsorship Manual and Journey Guide

- Week to week guide of activities
- Tips for activities
- Cultural considerations
- Additional resources and information
- Important reminders

WELCOMECORPS

Journey Guide

A week-by-week guide for refugee newcomers and community sponsors participating in the Welcome Corps program



Knowledge Check

1. What are three ways community members can engage in welcoming refugees and humanitarian parolees through sponsorship?
2. What community sponsorship program is part of the Reception and Placement program?
3. What are three resources available for community members to use when sponsoring?
4. What community sponsorship programs are available to community members in the Upper Valley?

Knowledge Check

1. What are three ways community members can engage in welcoming refugees and humanitarian parolees through sponsorship?
 1. Co-sponsorship
 2. Private sponsorship
 3. Financial supporter
2. What community sponsorship program is part of the Reception and Placement program?
 1. Co-sponsorship
3. What are three resources available for community members to use when sponsoring?
 1. CSE baseline training
 2. RWC TA sessions
 3. RWC learning platform for self-paced learning
4. What community sponsorship programs are available to community members in the Upper Valley?
 1. Welcome Corps
 2. Neighbor Network, Sponsor Circles
 3. Potentially co-sponsorship

Q&A



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MM/DD/YY

Join, Contribute, Welcome!

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