

GUIDANCE FOR SUPPORTING NEWCOMERS

The United States has a rich tradition of welcoming newcomers. Following are some best practices, drawn from this experience, that can set you and the newcomer you are welcoming up for success.

Establish a Group: Our experience with sponsorship has shown that sponsorship is most successful when the responsibility is shared. Consider pulling together a group of at least five people, with one person serving as sponsor group lead. You can see a sample sponsor group structure [here](#).

Create a Budget: As a sponsor, you will offer critical support in the first months after arrival. You will assist them in securing initial housing and ensure they have essential furnishings, household goods, and food. Create a budget to estimate the resources you will need to provide this support. You can use this [budget template](#) to get you started.

Fundraise to Meet that Budget: Fundraising can help you generate the financial and in-kind resources needed to support newcomers. Often, members of your community are eager to give. This [fundraising guide](#) can serve as a useful support.

Make a List of Early Tasks: In addition to providing the newcomer with critical financial support, you will also need to connect them with relevant services (such as health care and education), and support their integration, by assisting them as they learn English and secure employment. Here is a [checklist](#) that can guide you in things to be done.

Keep Going! Supporting someone who is adjusting to a new environment can take time and rarely unfolds as expected. Newcomers have unique journeys and may seek to achieve different goals on different timelines. Sponsorship is hard work. But it's worth it!

Resources Available to You

You will have access to a growing collection of tools, including the following resources:

- [Initial Sponsor Service Checklist](#) - Supports preparation for the newcomer's arrival by having an easy reference for what critical services are typically needed within the first 90 days of arrival.
- [Sample Sponsor Group Structure](#) - There are many ways to structure a sponsor group. This resource offers a template structure, with typical roles and responsibilities outlined.
- [Sample Budget Template](#) - Helps capture initial and ongoing estimated living costs and supports a newcomer in establishing a balanced budget.
- [Sponsor Fundraising Tips and Tools](#) - Provides guidance for groups in raising necessary resources for the newcomer.
- [Tips for Securing Housing](#) - Provides guidance on how to secure temporary and permanent housing for the newcomers.
- [Sample Home Supply Checklist](#) - Helps sponsor groups prepare the home for the arriving newcomers.
- [Sample Pantry Checklist](#) - Lists items recommended to being included in the newcomer's pantry upon arrival.