

Consider Co-sponsoring a Refugee Family!

IRIS partners with community groups throughout Connecticut to help newly arriving refugee families get off to a strong start and become self-sufficient. Co-sponsorship is an opportunity to participate in the tremendous mission of refugee resettlement and to do the welcome work that is vital to our communities. Multiple groups can work together as a coalition. IRIS requires that groups who want to co-sponsor submit an application, which is available on our [co-sponsorship web page](#). Below are the ideal features of a co-sponsoring community.

Criteria for Co-sponsorship

Location: Refugees tend to fare best in communities where they have access to public transportation, employment opportunities, ESOL resources, and affordable housing. If these are not available in your town, we strongly encourage you to resettle the family in a nearby location with the following features:

- Accessibility to public transportation
- In an area that has adult ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes
- In a school district that is ready to welcome refugee students and has resources for English language learners
- Availability of entry-level jobs that do not require a high level of English: e.g., factory work, cleaning, service industry
- Close to an affordable grocery store that takes food stamps
- Close to a hospital or health clinic that takes Medicaid and provides interpreters
- Availability of clean, safe, affordable apartments.

Co-sponsoring Community Group

- Ability to raise \$4,000-\$12,000 to provide 3-6 months of assistance.
(Since most of the funds raised will be used for rental assistance, the amount varies according to cost-of-living in the location the family is resettled. This is the total amount likely needed for the whole 3 to 6 months.)
- An excellent co-sponsorship team coordinator who can serve as a liaison with IRIS
- A strong, well organized team with the skills necessary to help refugees access social services, assist with healthcare coordination, education, and employment. We recommend at least 30 volunteers who can, *as a group* devote a *total* of 40hrs/week for the first two months.

*For more information, see <https://irisct.org/communitycosponsorship/>
or email Ashley Makar at amakar@irisct.org*