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| C:\Users\Intern\Desktop\logo small.jpg | **CO-SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION** |

**Part A. Contact Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Group  | Click here to enter text. |
| Affiliated/Member groups (if any) | Click here to enter text. |
| Town where group is based  | Click here to enter text. |
| Physical Address (e.g., of the fiduciary\*) |  |
| Contact person (name, email, phone) | Click here to enter text. |
| Date of Submission | Click here to enter text. |

**Part B. Your Community Group**

1. Why are you interested in co-sponsoring a refugee family?

Click here to enter text.

1. Has your group ever co-sponsored a family or worked with refugees before?

Click here to enter text.

1. What skills / assets / strengths would your group bring to the co-sponsorship?

Click here to enter text.

4.What challenges would your group expect to face co-sponsoring a refugee family?

Click here to enter text.

5.Have you recruited at least 30 volunteers? (Among those 30 volunteers, we ask that 12 volunteers take leadership roles on subcommittees for [each functional area of refugee resettlement](https://irisct.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Sample-Resettlement-Team-Structure-May-2021.pdf). For a list of these functional areas and related duties, see <https://irisct.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Sample-Resettlement-Team-Structure-May-2021.pdf>.) Have you identified who among your volunteers will take leadership roles?

Click here to enter text.

6.Would all of your volunteers be able to do a 7-hour training with IRIS? (either on 1 day in New Haven, or via Zoom, in 3 sessions over 3 consecutive days)

Click here to enter text.

7.Would your group be able to bring the refugee family to New Haven 3 times (on 3 consecutive days) during the first month? (to attend an orientation for newly arrived refugees)

Click here to enter text.

8.Does anyone in your group have a background in mental health?

Click here to enter text.

9.Volunteer Vetting

a) Is there someone in your group who will be responsible for ensuring that all volunteers (including interpreters) undergo a background check through Verified Volunteers? (IRIS will provide instructions)

Click here to enter text.

b) What volunteer training will you provide to promote safety in the relationship between volunteers and refugee family members? (e.g., “youth protection training,” or “safe sanctuary training”)

Click here to enter text.

c) Has your group designated someone who will be responsible for ensuring that all volunteer drivers have a valid license and insurance?

Click here to enter text.

10.Group structure and insurance

Please read the document on [liability and group organization](https://irisct.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/OCT-2018-Liability-and-Group-Organization.pdf). (Click on the hyperlink, or access from our [Co-Sponsorship Resources page](https://irisct.org/resources/))

a) How is your group organized? (e.g., an independent 501c3, attached to a 501c3)

Click here to enter text.

b) Is your group affiliated with an institution whose insurance policy would serve as secondary (after the driver’s) in the event of a car accident?

Click here to enter text.

c) Have you designated a \*fiduciary for holding and disbursing co-sponsorship funds? (IRIS cannot hold and disburse co-sponsorship funds.)

Click here to enter text.

11.Will an institution or individual affiliated with your group co-sign the lease (with the refugee family), if the landlord requires a co-signer?

Click here to enter text.

12.Has your group designated an administrative contact who will be responsible for ensuring that all paperwork be completed and returned to IRIS according to the requisite deadlines?

Click here to enter text.

13.Memorandum of Understanding

Please have your group leaders read the Iris Co-sponsorship [Memorandum of Understanding](https://irisct.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Co-Sponsor-MOU-v1.3-FINAL-Watermarked-Fillable.pdf).

(Click on the hyperlink, or access from our [Co-Sponsorship Resources page](https://irisct.org/resources/))

Will a representative from your group be ready to sign the MOU upon accepting an offer of co-sponsorship?

Click here to enter text.

14.In addition to co-sponsorship, IRIS sometimes works with community groups to help refugees and other immigrants in different ways, generally providing less structured forms of support.

a) Would you be willing to consider assisting other types of clients such as asylum seekers, visa holders or undocumented immigrants?

Click here to enter text.

b) Would you be willing to consider a less intensive form of support for new arrivals (in collaboration with IRIS) if that is what IRIS determined to be more valuable for a specific family?

Click here to enter text.

15.Would your group like guidance on fundraising for co-sponsorship? Let us know, and we can connect you with our Development staff.

Click here to enter text.

16. Have you and all of your volunteers read the [Community Co-Sponsorship Program Manual](https://irisct.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/COMM-CO-SPONSORSHIP-MANUAL-FEB-2021-FINAL2.pdf)?

**Part C. Location and Services**

1. Housing

Identify 2-3 neighborhoods in your area that are accessible via public transportation and where there are affordable 2, 3 and 4 bedroom apartments.Familiarize yourself with the rental markets. Talk to residents of these neighborhoods. Talk to landlords.Describe these neighborhoods noting safety, diversity, affordability, sense of welcoming:

Click here to enter text.

1. Public Transportation

Access to public transportation is an essential component of successful resettlement because self-sufficiency, the goal of refugee resettlement, is unreachable without it. Familiarize yourself with local public transportation options in the neighborhoods you have identified. Describe the accessibility of these neighborhoods with regard to social-service agencies, grocery stores and other shops, places of employment, other cities and towns.

Click here to enter text.

1. Access to English Language Classes

Describe the types of free English language instruction that would be available to residents of these neighborhoods (including but not limited to: municipal/regional adult education, libraries, Literacy Volunteers of America). How frequent are the classes? Are they accessible via public transportation?

Click here to enter text.

If there are no free English classes in your area, or if classes are less than 3 times per week, how would your co-sponsoring group enable refugees to learn English quickly?

Click here to enter text.

1. Schools

Talk to school administrators in the local public schools of the neighborhoods you’ve identified. Describe that resources they offer to English language learners and efforts they can make to accommodate newly arrived immigrant students. Ask about languages spoken among the student and teacher populations.

Click here to enter text.

1. Early Childhood Education/ Childcare

 Are there Head Start or other free school-readiness programs in your area for children aged 3-5? Are there free or discounted daycare options for children under 3?

Click here to enter text.

1. Healthcare

Identify healthcare providers in your area who accept HUSKY (Medicaid) insurance, are accepting new patients, and provide interpreters (either in-person or by phone.) Name at least one primary care provider and one mental-health provider in your area who fit these criteria. Community health clinics are acceptable providers.

Click here to enter text.

1. Engaging Local Government

Contact your local elected officials about your plans to resettle a refugee family, likely from the Middle East, Africa, or Afghanistan. Describe their responses. (See our [Guidelines for Community Engagement](https://irisct.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Local-Community-Engagement-Requirements-Guidelines-for-Co-Sponsors.pdf))

Click here to enter text.

1. Employment

Familiarize yourself with the local employers in your area. Are there entry-level jobs that don’t require English proficiency? (e.g., factory work, cleaning, service industry)

Click here to enter text.

1. Interpreters

Please identify a few people in your area who are willing and able to serve as interpreters, with native-level fluency in at least two of the following languages: Swahili/ Kiswahili, Dari/Farsi, Pashto, or Arabic. Other languages that could be useful are: French, Tigrinya, Turkish, Urdu, Lingala, Kinyarwanda, & Bembe. (Keep an eye out for these rarer languages, but focus on Swahili, Dari/Farsi, & Pashto.)

Please provide the names and affiliations (if any) of these potential interpreters (e.g., he/she is part of your co-sponsorship community; he/she is a student at a local university).

Click here to enter text.

1. Cultural Resources

Are there communities in your area who share the cultural backgrounds and/or languages of the refugees IRIS resettles? (Congolese, Afghan, Sudanese, Eritrean, Iraqi, and/or Syrian?) If so please contact them to discuss your group’s goal of resettling a refugee family. Please describe these communities and their interest in your project.

Click here to enter text.

1. Disability Resources

a) Would your group have the capacity to resettle a refugee family member with a physical disability in your area? e.g., Is there affordable housing in your area that is wheelchair-accessible? Is there someone in your community who has a van with a lift?

Click here to enter text.

b) Would your group have the capacity to resettle a refugee family member with a cognitive disability (such as autism)? What resources are available in your area for people with cognitive challenges?

Click here to enter text.

**Part D. IRIS Feedback and Approval**

1. IRIS Feedback:

Click here to enter text.

2. Co-Sponsor Response to the IRIS Feedback:

Click here to enter text.

**For IRIS office use only**

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]

Chris George, IRIS Executive Director

Group Trained On: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (date)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] Co-sponsorship Program Manager