

Community Sponsorship Local Program Overview

Kentucky Refugee Ministries - Lexington

1710 Alexandria Dr #2

Lexington, KY 40504

<https://kyrm.org>

National Resettlement Agency: Church World Service (CWS)

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General community sponsorship program description: Co-Sponsorship groups work alongside KRM staff to welcome a refugee family through giving and volunteering such things as furniture and household items, apartment set up, welcoming at the airport, being a community guide, providing ESL tutoring, and can also include financial support that directly helps pay for rent and utilities.

Community sponsorship program name: Co-Sponsorship

Time commitment: 3 months

Service commitment: KRM asks that community sponsors commit to at least 3 of the following: apartment setup, rental assistance, collect furniture and home supplies, provide clothing, stock the pantry, airport arrival, welcome meal, transportation to health appointment, provide conversation in English, financial education, job development, transportation assistance, and/or community guide.

Financial commitment: No money is required, but a financial contribution is encouraged. It is often about \$2,500. However, different groups have different abilities to give. Some groups have more volunteer power than money, and others have more money than actually volunteer time. All are welcome to become Co-Sponsor groups. KRM asks that the money be given to the office to be spent on the refugee's behalf.

Preferred size of community sponsor groups: N/A

Types of cases matched with community sponsors: Newly arrived refugees with friends or family in the area, newly arrived refugees without friends or family in the area, previously arrived refugees with friends or family in the area, previously arrived refugees without friends or family in the area, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, Asylees, Asylum-seekers, and clients who are being helped through our Victims of Crime program and Survivors of Torture program

Process of matching asylum seekers: KRM can provide legal services to asylum seekers, and that is often how they are connected. They may also be connected to KRM through the Victims of Crime program.

Community sponsorship training: Training consists of a one-hour general discussion of the global refugee crisis and services KRM provides. Then a one-hour training on specific issues of resettlement and logistics of working directly with clients is provided. Community Engagement Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator work directly with Co-Sponsor groups on an ongoing basis leading up to arrival and after arrival.

Background checks: Background checks costs about \$8