

## Community Sponsorship Local Program Overview

### Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska

2301 O St, Lincoln  
NE 68510  
<https://www.lfsneb.org>

**National Resettlement Agency:** Church World Service (CWS)

**Community sponsorship contact:** Ted Blessing  
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**General community sponsorship program description:** Lutheran Family Services-Community Services offers a community sponsorship program welcoming refugees by partnering newly arrived families with faith, civic, educational or community groups. Refugee Co-Sponsors have three general responsibilities: to serve as a helper, friend and advocate to the newly arrived family. Lutheran Family Services works closely with the Co-Sponsor in providing extensive mentorship training, providing all necessary information for partnership success, helping with home set-ups and providing on-going support to all volunteer individuals and groups.

**Community sponsorship program name:** Welcome Team or Co-Sponsor

**Time commitment:** 3 months

**Service commitment:** Welcome teams set up the homes of newly arrived refugees and provide them with ongoing mentorship and support.

**Financial commitment:** Welcome teams are expected to commit to furnishing and setting up the home.

**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, and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders.

**Community sponsorship training:** All community sponsors are required to attend a 2-hour training in which the Volunteer Coordinator provides a handbook with many training documents to ensure thorough understanding of the resettlement process and expectations of the co-sponsor group.

**Background checks:** All community sponsors undergo a background check provided by Lutheran Family Services (cost unknown).