

## Community Sponsorship Local Program Overview

### Canopy Northwest Arkansas

2592 N Gregg Ave  
Fayetteville, AR 72703  
<http://www.canopynwa.org>

**National Resettlement Agency:** Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS)

**Community sponsorship contact:** Mariah Green  
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**General community sponsorship program description:** Canopy's co-sponsorship program pairs every newly arriving refugee family with a co-sponsor team from a faith community or service group that commits to mentoring them and supporting them for their first six months in the US.

**Community sponsorship program name:** Co-sponsorship

**Time commitment:** 6 months

**Service commitment:** Canopy requires that co-sponsorship groups commit to certain services, including collecting furnishings for apartment and setting it up, preparing meals upon arrival and stocking fridge and pantry with one day's worth of food, and assisting with cultural orientation.

**Financial commitment:** Canopy requires that community sponsors raise a certain amount of money before they can commit to community sponsorship, preferably about \$1100. Canopy asks that all funds raised be given to the office to be spent on the refugee's behalf.

**Preferred size of community sponsor groups:** 8-12 people

**Types of cases matched with community sponsors:** Newly arrived refugees without friends or family in the area

**Community sponsorship training:** Canopy has a half-day training for all interested co-sponsors, as well as a two-hour retraining just before a team is paired with a newly arriving family. Canopy also gives them a co-sponsor manual and monthly folders with instructions and useful materials for each month of their co-sponsorship.

**Background checks:** Canopy uses Verified Volunteers, which costs an average of \$30/person. Volunteers are asked to cover this cost; however, Canopy will contribute up to 50% of the cost for those in need.