

REFUGEE COUNCIL USA

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP LOCAL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Church World Service Jersey City

26 Journal Square, Suite 600

Jersey City, NJ 07306

<http://cwsjerseycity.org/>

National Resettlement Agency: Church World Service

Community sponsorship contact: cwsjerseycity@cwsglobal.org
(201)659-0467

General community sponsorship program description: The CWS Jersey City office matches community sponsors with individuals who were recently granted asylum and who are in need of housing support.

Community sponsorship program name: Co-sponsorship

Time commitment: 6 months

Service commitment: Responsibilities of co-sponsors include housing setup and assistance with job search in consultation with CWS program staff.

Financial commitment: The agency requires that co-sponsors raise enough money to cover a security deposit and first month's rent, which is around \$5000, in advance of committing to sponsorship. CWS asks that all money raised be given to their office to be spent on the refugee's behalf. The office may hold back some of the funds to defray the cost of co-sponsorship management.

Preferred size of community sponsor groups: No preference; however, there should be one point of contact for CWS and more than one person available to do weekday services with the family. This is for the benefit of the sponsor group and to avoid volunteer burnout. Larger sponsor groups often organize themselves into committees.

Types of cases matched with community sponsors: Asylees and asylum seekers

Process of matching asylum seekers: CWS Jersey City recently launched an asylum-seeker case management program. Clients are referred by CWS to legal service providers who will assist with the asylum application process.

After they conduct a needs assessment they would make the determination that a co-sponsorship would be a good fit.

Community sponsorship training: The Office Director provides an initial training regarding the co-sponsorship process and to review basic principles for working with vulnerable populations. A second training will be organized prior to placing a family with a team to discuss additional details relevant to the family's situation. The Office Director provides a Welcome Team manual that provides a summary of public benefit programs and other useful information for working with refugees and asylees.

Background checks: Co-sponsor groups must provide proof that they conduct background checks or go through the CWS background check process and provide \$20 to cover the costs.