



ENGAGE TO CHANGE

CO-SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVE



Global displacement is at an all-time high, with **100 million people** displaced around the world due to war, political and economic instability, and the impacts of natural disasters and climate change. **Fewer than 1%** of those who have fled have an opportunity to resettle, rebuild their lives and make their contributions to a new community. It is a tremendous loss of human potential.

ENGAGE TO CHANGE CO-SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVE

The Engage to Change Co-sponsorship Initiative supports the growth and sustainability of resettlement programs nationwide by pairing civic member organizations with participating local resettlement agencies to work in tandem to welcome refugees into their communities. This Initiative is a project of Church World Service's Refugee Welcome Collective under an agreement paid for by the U.S. Department of State. ***It is separate from the 2022 Afghan Resettlement Program; Engage to Change is inclusive of all refugee populations and pairs clubs with expert local resettlement agencies.***

THE ROLE OF LIONS CLUBS

Lions clubs have the opportunity to form co-sponsor groups, receive comprehensive training and guidance, and work alongside refugee resettlement agency staff to welcome refugees into their communities over a period of 6-10 months. While timeline and specific tasks will vary by resettlement partner, participating clubs will be paired with a family and provide their new neighbors with reception services, typically including: airport pick-up, safe housing, job support, assistance accessing health services, finding English language classes, connecting to legal services and helping with family budgeting. They will assist with school enrollment for school-age children, transportation and help with cultural orientation.

THE ROLE OF LIONS INTERNATIONAL

Lions International is working in close partnership with Welcome.US to engage, recruit and provide programmatic support to participating co-sponsor club groups.

PROGRAM FUNDING

Typically, resettlement agency co-sponsorship programs require groups to fundraise US\$3,000-7,000 per newcomer family. Lions International will offer Lions clubs participating in the Engage to Change Co-sponsorship Initiative grants up to US\$15,000 to support refugees with expenses agreed upon by clubs and their affiliate partner.

TO PARTICIPATE OR LEARN MORE

If you would like to learn more about participating, we invite you to reach out to:
Refugee.Resettlement@lionsclubs.org.

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