

# ENGAGE TO CHANGE

Co-sponsorship Initiative | *Welcoming Newcomers through Co-sponsorship*



*This initiative is a project of CWS  
funded under an agreement paid for  
by the U.S. Department of State.*

# PAST PARTICIPATION

Last year, dozens of local Lions clubs across the nation raised their hands to participate in the welcoming of our Afghan Allies through formal programs, including participating in the **Afghan Resettlement Program (ARP)** along with other club-specific refugee-related projects.

# DEEPER COMMITMENT

This year, Lions International is deepening its commitment to serving newcomers by participating in the **Engage to Change Co-sponsorship Initiative**.

Now, Lions clubs across the nation can **work alongside refugee resettlement agencies** to welcome families from all refugee populations into their communities.

# ENGAGE TO CHANGE

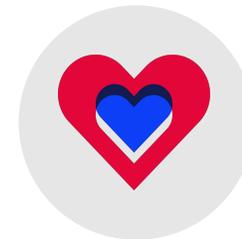
## CO-SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVE



**Mobilize** Lions clubs members to form co-sponsor groups nationwide.



**Prepare** co-sponsor groups for welcoming newcomers with trainings and tools to succeed.



**Connect** Lions clubs with local resettlement agency staff that is ready to expertly guide groups for the duration of their co-sponsorship journey.

**Co-sponsorship** is a collaborative effort between a group of people that work together to prepare for and welcome refugees, guided by the support and expertise of a local refugee resettlement agency every step of the way.

**Co-sponsors and local resettlement agency staff work together to help equip, guide and educate newcomers as they navigate their new home in the U.S.**

**Co-sponsors are responsible to complete agreed-upon core services as well as acts of welcome.**

**Core services may include:**

- Providing job support
- Accessing healthcare
- Finding English language classes
- Connecting to legal services
- Supporting with family budget planning
- Help secure and settle into housing

**Acts of Welcome include:**

- Having meals together
- Exploring town together
- Supporting success in work and school
- Recommending places to grocery shop
- Being a friend, neighbor, cheerleader

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW



## **Resettlement agency led**

Local resettlement agencies with dedicated program staff will oversee groups as part of their co-sponsorship programs.



## **Inclusive of all refugees**

This co-sponsorship program is not exclusive to a singular refugee population.



## **Funding available**

Participating clubs can receive up to US\$15,000 of funding support to be used for refugee expenses as agreed upon by clubs and affiliates.

# PROGRAM DETAILS

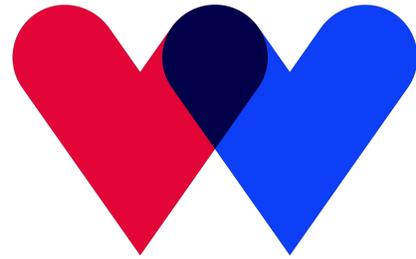
- **Time commitment:** 6-10 months beginning in Spring 2023; ~5 hours per week for the first 90 days, fewer hours over time
- **Group size:** 6-10 Club members
- **Training and resources:** Club members will complete online training to become fully versed on co-sponsorship.

*Supplemental training may be provided by the resettlement agency and ongoing training and technical assistance is provided by CWS's Refugee Welcome Collective.*

*Program requirements vary by local resettlement agency*

# **SIGN UP TO LEARN MORE**

Please send your interest,  
questions and feedback to  
[Refugee.Resettlement@lionsclubs.org](mailto:Refugee.Resettlement@lionsclubs.org)



**Welcome.US**