

# **Fact Sheet: Avenues for Community Engagement in Resettlement**

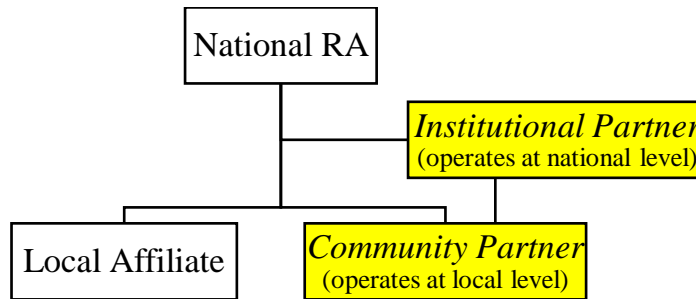
January 20, 2022

To rapidly expand resettlement capacity, PRM has created several new avenues for community organizations and groups to support the resettlement of Afghans granted humanitarian parole as well as of refugees admitted through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. This effort builds on the critical role that local communities have long played in refugee resettlement, with the aim of creating additional opportunities for different community actors to engage through the Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA) Program, the Reception & Placement (R&P) Program, and outside of the APA and R&P Programs as appropriate.

This fact sheet provides an overview of the different avenues available to community actors to engage including: 1) partnerships with the national resettlement agencies (community partners and institutional partners); 2) community sponsorship through local affiliates or community partners (co-sponsors and support teams); and 3) community sponsorship outside of the APA and R&P Programs (sponsor circles and private sponsors).

## **1) Partnerships with National RAs (Community Partners and Institutional Partners)**

Community groups or organizations can pursue direct partnerships with a national resettlement agency (RA) by becoming a **Community Partner** or **Institutional Partner**, depending on whether they operate at a local or national level.



- **Community Partner** is defined as a community group or organization, which has accepted in a written agreement with a national RA, the responsibility to provide, or ensure provision of, all APA or R&P services to its caseload. Individuals may not serve as community partners. Cases are allocated and assured directly to community partners in the same way as local affiliates. Community partners differ slightly between the R&P and APA programs.
  - APA Community Partners: For the APA program, given the urgent need to mobilize additional capacity to resettle Afghans, each of the nine national RAs may use (with PRM approval) community partners located anywhere in the United States.
  - R&P Community Partners: For the R&P program, community partners fall under remote placement and national RAs must first be approved for remote placement in

order to propose to resettle refugees through a community partner. R&P remote placement community partners provide R&P services to refugees placed outside any affiliate's 100-mile placement radius. Previously, USCCB was the only RA approved for remote placement; in 2022, LIRS, IRC, and CWS were also approved to participate. Other RAs may also propose to participate in the future.

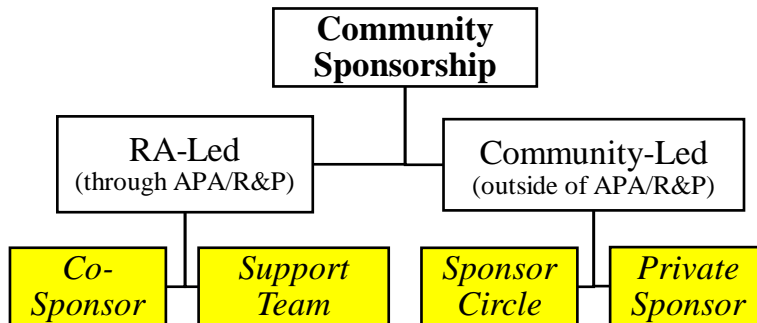
- National RA Management: For both R&P and APA, the national RA staff must onboard, train, and oversee community partners similarly to how RAs work with local affiliates. The national RA office is responsible for providing ongoing oversight of APA and/or R&P activities conducted by the community partner, including maintaining regular contact with the community partner to ensure sound service delivery.
- Community Partner Approval Process: For both R&P and APA, to establish a community partner within its national network, the RA must submit a short request for approval to PRM. The RA must ensure that the appropriate state refugee coordinator has been consulted and a summary of the consultation shall be submitted as part of the approval process. The RA must also ensure that the community partner has addressed core service delivery and material support, including housing.
- **Institutional Partner (IP)** is defined as a national organization which has accepted the responsibility to oversee the provision of all required APA or R&P services through its own network of community partners in a written agreement with a national RA.
  - An IP is responsible for working through its own networks to identify, train, and oversee community partners in close collaboration with a national RA. An IP must enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the national RA, which delegates responsibility to the IP for managing its community partners. It remains the national RA's responsibility to allocate and assure cases to the IP's community partners and disburse per capita funding to the IP for distribution to the IP's community partners. In the event that a community partner is unable to complete or continue resettlement services, the RA will reassume direct responsibility for the case for the remainder of the service period.
  - Church World Service (CWS) is the first national RA to work with IPs, such as Samaritan's Purse, Lions Club, and Islamic Relief, which is recruiting community partners to welcome Afghans through its national network of churches. Through IPs, PRM aims to enable national organizations to directly partner with national RAs to generate new resettlement capacity.

## 2) Community Sponsorship through Local Affiliates and Community Partners

At the local level, community groups of any size can partner with local affiliates of all nine national RAs through **Community Sponsorship**. Community sponsorship has a long history in the R&P program, with each national RA offering unique community sponsorship programs and models that vary widely in their scope, requirements, and implementation. PRM is seeking to expand welcome, empower local communities, and increase resettlement capacity by facilitating the growth of community sponsorship.

- **Community Sponsorship** is defined as an umbrella term that describes different models of resettlement whereby certain program beneficiaries are paired with community groups which commit to provide clearly defined in-kind and/or financial contributions as well as volunteer services to support the welcome and integration of beneficiaries in a local community. These community groups can take many forms including local clubs, university communities, faith-based institutions, or community groups, sports teams, book clubs, and many more.

Community sponsorship can take different forms, depending on whether it operates through the APA/R&P Programs or outside of these programs as noted below:



Through the APA/R&P programs, community groups can work with a local affiliate or community partner through one of two forms of community sponsorship:

- **Co-Sponsor** refers to a community group that has accepted, in a non-legally binding written agreement with a local affiliate or community partner, the responsibility to provide, or ensure the provision of, the majority or all of APA or R&P services in partnership with a local affiliate or community partner. Co-sponsors are overseen by the local affiliate or community partner.
- **Support Team** refers to a community group that has committed to providing less than a majority of APA or R&P services to certain program beneficiaries in partnership with the local affiliate or community partner. Because, in most cases, support teams are not assuming as much responsibility as co-sponsors they are not required to sign a written agreement. Like co-sponsors, they are overseen by the local affiliate or community partner.

### 3) Community Sponsorship Opportunities Outside of APA/R&P Programs

PRM has also created new opportunities for community groups to engage in community sponsorship outside of the APA and R&P Programs. For instance, a community group may be in an area located far away from a local affiliate. These forms of community sponsorship are:

- **Sponsor Circle** refers to a community group of at least five individuals which has been certified through the Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans to be directly matched with an Afghan parolee case. Sponsor circles commit to providing services and financial support that are comparable to the APA Program. The Sponsor Circle Program is community-led and operates outside of the APA Program. Sponsor circles are overseen by the Community Sponsorship Hub (CSH) and its partner organizations.
- **Private Sponsor** refers to a community group that will accept primary responsibility for providing reception and integration support to refugees through the new private sponsorship pilot program that PRM anticipates launching in 2022 separately from the R&P Program. This pilot program is currently being designed and not yet operational.

## Appendix

The following table provides an overview of all the different avenues for community engagement in resettlement as summarized in this fact sheet.

<b>OVERVIEW OF AVENUES FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN RESETTLEMENT</b>				
<b>Avenue</b>	<b>Type of Community Actor</b>	<b>Partnership with</b>	<b>Level of Responsibility</b>	<b>Written Agreement</b>
<b>THROUGH APA/R&amp;P PROGRAMS</b>				
<b><i>COMMUNITY PARTNER</i></b>	Local community group or organization	National RA	Provide <b><u>all</u></b> APA or R&P core services	Signed agreement with national RA
<b><i>INSTITUTIONAL PARTNER</i></b>	National community organization	National RA	Oversee its own community partners to provide <b><u>all</u></b> APA or R&P services	MOU signed with national RA
<b><i>CO-SPONSOR</i></b>	Local community group	Local affiliate or community partner	Provide <b><u>majority</u></b> of APA or R&P core services	Signed agreement with local affiliate or community partner
<b><i>SUPPORT TEAM</i></b>	Local community group	Local affiliate or community partner	May provide <b><u>less than a majority</u></b> of APA or R&P core services	Not required
<b>OUTSIDE OF APA/R&amp;P PROGRAMS</b>				
<b><i>SPONSOR CIRCLE</i></b>	Local community group certified through Sponsor Circle Program	Sponsor Circle Program (overseen by the Community Sponsorship Hub)	Provide <b><u>all</u></b> services similar to what is required in APA	Signed agreement with Sponsor Circle Program
<b><i>PRIVATE SPONSOR</i></b>	Local community group	TBD	TBD	TBD