



Refugee Welcome  
Collective

## Fundraising as a Community Sponsorship Group

The agency with which you are partnering may have a minimum and/or maximum financial requirement to be a community sponsor group. This figure may have been calculated by a myriad of factors such as cost-of-living, average family size, and National Resettlement Agency regulations.

Funds raised will be used for rent, utilities, groceries, medicine, and other living necessities.

While these funds usually go directly to the client(s) with which you are matched, some agencies may stipulate a portion of the funds raised go to a “pool” of funds used for clients without a community support group. Please note you also may not be able to give funds directly to the family you are paired with, but to the agency which then manages the distribution and appropriate documentation.

Be aware of your agency’s procedures surrounding community sponsorship group donation/fundraising. Questions to ask might be:

- Does the agency have any promotional materials groups can use to fundraise?
- When is the financial requirement due?
- What is the agency procedure for indicating the group identity on a donation?
- Is the group responsible for collecting funds to give in one installment or can group members donate individually?
- If group members donate individually, how do they designate their group membership?
- Can the financial requirement be paid online?
- How does the agency process tax-deductible donation receipts?
- What happens if you want to donate or give money directly to the client? Should it always go through the agency?



When raising funds, consider the following in preparing to make “the ask”:

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- What is the agency procedure for indicating the group identity on a donation?
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## Example

We need to raise \$2,500 for an Afghan family of five that is due to arrive next month. The money will be used to support them with rent and utilities until the family is able to obtain employment. Tax deductible donations can be made directly to the agency by mail or online. Please mark our group name as “Sample Church” on the check or in the notes section of the online donation. The mailing and web address can be found on the cards you can pick up when you exit the chapel. For more information see our group leader, Susie Sample.

### **Fundraising Method Considerations:**

1. Hosting a special fundraising event
  - Screening a documentary on refugees
  - Inviting a speaker from the agency
  - Hosting an international themed dinner/bake sale
2. Accepting online donations through your organization’s website, Facebook, or GoFundMe
  - Remember to keep confidentiality requirements
3. Consider reaching out to local businesses
4. Announce a planned collection at a group meeting or service