



Refugee Welcome
Collective

Uniting for Ukraine Talking Points

The United States is committed to welcoming up to 100,000 Ukrainians fleeing war. These Ukrainians will enter the U.S. through multiple pathways, with a heavy reliance on the Uniting for Ukraine program. Other possible pathways include immigrant and nonimmigrant visas, the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP), and individual humanitarian parole.

Uniting for Ukraine Program Overview

- To enter through the Uniting for Ukraine pathway, Ukrainians must have a U.S.-based supporter. Supporters are individuals who “receive, maintain, and support” Ukrainians and pass security and background vetting. Organizations may provide this support, but one individual will serve as the named supporter.
- Ukrainians in this pathway may be paroled into the U.S. for a period of up to two years and are eligible for work authorization.
- Congress passed [legislation](#) to provide certain government benefits to paroled Ukrainians and third country nationals. These individuals are eligible to receive resettlement services from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). ORR benefits include refugee cash and medical assistance, job training and employment services, English language classes, Matching Grant (MG), assistance enrolling children in schools, and other integration and support services. Eligibility also includes access to programs like Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). You can learn more [here](#). Please note that these individuals are not eligible for Reception & Placement (R&P) services administered by the Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).
- Uniting for Ukraine is a U.S. Government initiative. Information is provided on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) website. Forms and additional information are available through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) [here](#).



Talking Points for Welcoming Community Inquiries

This is a possible response for community inquiries. Responses will vary depending on an agency's local and national levels of engagement with the Uniting for Ukraine pathway, as well as the local agency's ORR services offered.

At [Agency], we expect to and are prepared to welcome Ukrainians to our community. We welcome community support as we receive new Ukrainians in the coming months, with increasing Ukrainian arrivals in the coming year.

What you can do:

Organize with us and your local community by joining our email list, liking us on Facebook, and registering for the next volunteer and sponsor training or informational event on [Month Day]. You will be kept up-to-date on needs and opportunities as we welcome Ukrainians and other refugees and newcomers to our community. We currently have [current opportunities for any newcomer group] opportunities for engagement.

For follow-up questions:

Separate from [Agency]'s programs, the U.S. Government is inviting individuals and organizations to serve as sponsors or "supporters" for eligible Ukrainians. The Department of Homeland Security website provides an overview, and forms and instructions are available on the U.S. Customs and Immigration Services website. Ukrainians welcomed through this program will not receive initial case management services through [Agency], but [Agency] may assist with [any applicable ORR or other services].

Next steps:

We encourage you to engage in whatever way is most urgently needed and what works best for you. Can you join us by [current Agency call-to-action, immediate need, upcoming info session or orientation, or join email list]?

Helpful Resources

Department of Homeland Security

Information source on the Uniting for Ukraine program, including an overview of who is eligible and the necessary steps for approval. The Frequently Asked Questions cover issues such as work authorization, travel, and supporter details. The page also provides links to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website and includes a chat feature for inquiries.



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USAHello

This is a good resource for inquiries from Ukrainian community members and their advocates. This online information center provides translated information for Ukrainians in the U.S. and abroad on humanitarian parole and Temporary Protective Status (TPS), and can be a reference for benefits and local U.S. resources.

Welcome.US

Interested community members can view the Intro to Sponsorship. Resources such as Sponsor Group Structure & Roles or Initial Sponsor Service Checklist, developed in partnership with Community Sponsorship Hub, are also available here.

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This is an online hub featuring a multimedia Resource Library containing resources available for community engagement in Ukrainian welcome, such as Home Supply Lists, Fundraising Guide for Community Sponsors, etc.

Next Steps for Community Sponsorship Staff

- Update your community engagement opportunities and broadcast them to provide interested community members with a consistent source of opportunities to engage.
- Plan Ukraine online informational event ending with opportunities to engage call to action. Examples of general resources that could be shared are USCRI's Backgrounder: [The Russian and Ukraine Crisis](#) or this brief PBS short history [video](#).
- Have a resource or request to share? Contact info@refugeewelcome.org.

Sources

- 117th Congress (2021-2022). (2022, May 12) [H.R.7691 Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022](#).
- Office of Refugee Resettlement. (n.d.). [ORR Benefits at a Glance](#).
- US Department of Homeland Security. (2022, May 4). [Uniting for Ukraine](#).