



Refugee Community Co-Sponsorship Program Overview

WHAT EXACTLY DOES CCS DO?

As a refugee resettlement agency, we guide newly arrived refugees through the process of initial resettlement, providing them with support on their journey towards self-sufficiency. Simply stated, we work with landlords around the valley to find them housing, arrange furniture and household supply donations within the community, get them set up with temporary government benefits, set up health screenings and medical appointments, assist in finding jobs, and provide them with a case manager to teach them how to do these things instead of simply doing it for them.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY CO-SPONSORSHIP?

This program involves the greater community in the resettlement of newly arrived refugees. Community co-sponsors are groups of volunteers who work alongside CCS Refugee Resettlement staff and provide direct services to help integrate newcomers into their communities. Co-sponsors are responsible for eight tasks that support refugees in their journey to self-sufficiency. Co-sponsor volunteers also work with their own community network to help collect donations for the client they will be mentoring.

WHAT IS MY ROLE AS A VOLUNTEER IN ALL OF THIS?

Your role as a co-sponsor varies depending on how your co-sponsor team decides to break up responsibilities. You may be responsible for helping find housing, soliciting donations, teaching English, or something else. Each volunteer should utilize their own experience and expertise to determine which of the eight core services they would be best equipped to take on.

WHAT KINDS OF THINGS WILL I BE WORKING ON?

Activities may vary depending on the family's needs, but here are the eight core services a co-sponsor team agrees to take on:

- *Assist CCS in locating safe, sanitary, and decent housing*
- *Set up housing with essential furnishings*
- *Stock the pantry with groceries/food assistance*
- *Provide a culturally appropriate, warm, ready-to-eat meal*
- *Enrollment in English language program*
- *Seasonally appropriate clothing for work, school, and everyday use*
- *Transportation Assistance (e.g., to and from job interviews and training)*
- *Cultural orientation provision and assessment*



DO I NEED TO DO THIS ALONE?

No! Community Co-sponsorship is a network of volunteers working together as a partner with CCS's Refugee Resettlement team. It is unique because community members can participate at different levels of involvement making it the perfect opportunity for large and small groups. The three levels of involvement are listed below.

- **Co-Sponsor Core:** Five community members will act as the “core co-sponsors”. These individuals will complete the full volunteer onboarding, including training and a background check.
- **Co-Sponsor Care:** Five to ten additional community members who want to participate, but either don't have the time to volunteer as a “core” or are better equipped to provide behind the scenes support. “Care” members will support the “Core” in completing the core services.
- **Co-Sponsor Community:** The Co-Sponsor Community is comprised of up to 250 community members who assist by donating in-kind or financial support. This may be the Core Co-Sponsors' faith community, neighborhood, or another supporting group

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO QUALIFY FOR THIS POSITION?

- Must be 18+ years old
- Complete the Volunteer Orientation and on-boarding
- Complete position training
- Pass a criminal background check

WHAT IF I WANT TO BRING MY KIDS AND THEY ARE UNDER 18?

That is great! In fact, it is even encouraged if your client family's kids will be home at the time of the visit. If an adult with a completed background check is present, go ahead and bring them!

IS DRIVING REQUIRED?

Yes, at least 2 members of the co-sponsorship group need to be cleared to drive with clients in their vehicle. To drive for CCS, you must have a current driver's license and the amount of bodily injury coverage you have must be equal to or greater than \$50,000/\$100,000.

WHERE DOES THIS ALL TAKE PLACE?

Currently, most of our clients live in Salt Lake County. As a co-sponsor volunteer, most of your activities will take place at your client family's home and around the city. It is important for our clients to also get to know Salt Lake. We highly encourage you to go to visit a local park or community event together.



CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY
SERVICES

WHAT KIND OF TIME COMMITMENT IS THIS?

Co-sponsors will spend 3-6 hours per week with the clients. Ideally, this will last for a full year. We want to provide our clients with as much stability as possible as they adjust to life here in Utah, which requires your commitment and dedication to this position.

WHAT UPFRONT COSTS SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT?

Providing financially is not required, but co-sponsors do agree to collect in-kind donations of items that are needed to cover any core services. Additionally, a \$53.25 donation is requested to cover your background check during the onboarding process. If you are unable to afford this fee, please contact us for assistance.

WHO IS MY SUPERVISOR?

Jeremy Gidney, the Volunteer Supervisor, will be your supervisor. If you have any questions about what has been explained, please do not hesitate to contact him by phone at (385)-409-1090, or by email at jgidney@ccsutah.org. Also, you will have case manager support, which will be determined once you have been assigned a family.

The last thing to note... **THANK YOU FOR BECOMING A CCS VOLUNTEER!**