

# UNITING FOR UKRAINE AND THE SPONSOR CIRCLE PROGRAM

## Uniting for Ukraine

On April 21, 2022, the United States announced a key step toward fulfilling President Biden's commitment to welcome Ukrainians fleeing Russia's invasion. Through [Uniting for Ukraine](#) (U4U), Ukrainians can come to the United States (U.S.) on a temporary basis if they have a fiscal sponsor (referred to by the United States government as a supporter). The fiscal sponsor agrees to provide the Ukrainian with financial support for the duration of their stay in the United States, which could be up to two years.

To serve as a supporter you must complete a Declaration of Financial Support ([FORM I-134](#)), indicating that you will receive, maintain, and support each individual named in the application. The supporter must name a beneficiary on their application and file a separate application for each beneficiary they will sponsor. Each beneficiary must also submit an application to Uniting for Ukraine.

**Supporters do not need to be related to a Ukrainian seeking refuge.** Anyone can apply to become a supporter under Uniting for Ukraine. To apply to be a supporter you need to be living in the United States with lawful status and have identified a Ukrainian beneficiary.

Once the supporter and beneficiary apply, the supporter will be vetted by the United States government to ensure their ability to fiscally and safely support Ukrainian beneficiaries. Financial supporters must be verified and found eligible by the United States government before the Ukrainian beneficiary can complete the application process.

## U4U Process Overview

### 1. Financial Support

The supporters will file a Form I-134, Declaration of Financial Support, with USCIS through the online myUSCIS web portal to initiate the Uniting for Ukraine process.

### 2. Submit Biographic Information in myUSCIS

The Ukrainian beneficiary will be required to confirm their biographic information in myUSCIS and attest to completing all eligibility requirements.

### 3. Complete Vaccination Requirements

Individuals who seek authorization to travel to the United States via the Uniting for Ukraine process will need to confirm prior vaccination against measles, polio, and COVID-19.

### 4. Approval to Travel to the United States

Ukrainians will receive a notice to their myUSCIS account confirming whether they are authorized to travel to the United States to seek parole. If approved, this authorization is valid for 90 days and Ukrainians are responsible to secure their own travel via air to the United States.

### 5. Seeking Parole at the Port of Entry

Each individual will be inspected by United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and considered for parole for a period of up to two years and may have conditions placed on their parole.

### 6. Approved for Parole

Individuals will generally be paroled into the United States for a period of up to two years and are eligible to apply for employment authorization.

# Sponsor Circle Program for Ukrainians

For sponsors who want support in navigating the sponsorship process, there is the Sponsor Circle Program for Ukrainians. [The Sponsor Circle Program for Ukrainians](#) (SCPU) was created to enable Americans to directly support Ukrainians with humanitarian parole status in adjusting to their new lives in the United States in a structured and supported manner.

It is anticipated that sponsorship will be most intensive in the first six months. During this time, SCPU certified Sponsor Circle will have access to resources and ongoing support that will provide them and the newcomers they are supporting with information and resources to better create a supportive sponsorship.

The services Sponsor Circles will provide include: provision of initial housing and furnishings, assistance with identifying long-term housing, help with applications for available public benefits, navigation of the public transport system, access to an initial health screening, registration for Selective Service (for males over 18), enrollment in school (for children), enrollment in English language training, and support in securing employment.

## Sponsor Circle Program Process Overview

### 1. Establish a Group

Our experience with sponsorship has shown that sponsorship is most successful when the responsibility is shared. Find 4 friends in or near the welcoming community who are 18 years of age or older to join you in forming your circle. You can see a sample sponsor group structure [here](#).

### 2. Background Checks

Make sure every circle member completes the required [background check](#) (background check policy linked [here](#)).

### 3. Knowledge Check

Make sure that at least one member of your circle completes the [sponsor circle course and knowledge check](#).

### 4. Welcome Plan

Complete a [welcome plan](#) sharing how you will support the newcomers you will sponsor.

### 5. Code of Conduct

Make sure every sponsor circle member signs a [Code of Conduct Agreement](#).

### 6. Fundraise

Fundraising can help you generate the financial and in-kind resources needed to support newcomers. Often, members of your community are eager to give. [This fundraising guide](#) can serve as a useful support.

### 7. Submit your application

Submit your application for sponsor support [here](#).

### 8. Keep Going!

Supporting someone who is adjusting to a new environment can take time and rarely unfolds as expected. Newcomers have unique journeys and may seek to achieve different goals on different timelines. Sponsorship is hard work. But it's worth it!