

## Connection Conversation Guide

The following questions are intended to be conversation starters for sponsors to consider when determining a sponsorship match. For sponsors who want support in navigating the sponsorship process, there is the Sponsor Circle Program.

If you aren't already connected to a beneficiary in need of support, you can register with [Welcome Connect](#), a platform that connects those seeking refuge in the U.S. and people who want to sponsor newcomers and help them rebuild their lives. There are other ways to connect with potential beneficiaries. You may reach out to national and local partner organizations that can help match you with someone entering the U.S., in particular groups in your area to see if they can connect you to a beneficiary who is seeking a sponsor. Some examples include churches, faith communities, and diaspora organizations. If you are a certified Sponsor Circle, you can also reach out to your Sponsor Circle Umbrella.

### Conversation Starters for Sponsors and Beneficiaries

**Sponsors can start this conversation by sharing the following:**

Sponsors may wish to begin the conversation by sharing a bit about themselves, including:

- Share about yourself, your family or sponsor group (if applicable).
- Share why sponsoring is important to you.
- Share what you like about your community and what makes it special or welcoming.

Sponsors may wish to ask beneficiaries the following questions:

- What kind of location in the U.S. are you looking to move to? Do you hope to be in a large city or small town, what kind of work are you hoping to obtain, what kind of home/living situation were you thinking your family would be in?
- Have you ever lived outside of your home country?
- How many people would you like me to sponsor to the U.S.?
  - If you are bringing children with you, what are their specific needs that you would need support with?
  - If you are bringing any pets with you, please describe them. These details are important for housing placement.
  - Do any members of your family have unique health issues or medical issues that would need immediate attention upon arrival? Or that require specific support or resources within the community?
  - Do you smoke or have any underlying health conditions that need attention? These details are important for housing placement.
- What is your work experience? And what types of jobs are you hoping to find in the U.S.?
- Do you have any specific goals or aspirations that you would like to accomplish in the U.S.?
- At what point would you want to return to your home country? What would you want to see happen to feel comfortable returning home?
- Is there anything else you'd like to share?



*If you are hosting the beneficiaries in your home, here are additional important conversation points:*

- If you have pets, if you smoke, if you have an underlying health condition, describe these to the beneficiary.
- What else about your home or home life should a beneficiary know?

**The following questions are intended to be conversation starters for beneficiaries to consider when communicating with a potential sponsor.**

**Beneficiaries can start this conversation by asking the sponsor the following:**

- Why is welcoming important to you? Why are you excited to sponsor?
- What is your family or home life like? Do you smoke, do you have pets, do you have health conditions or other challenges that I need to consider?
- Share what you like about your community. What makes your community special?
- What are the main sources of employment in your community?
- What is the average monthly expenses (i.e. for housing and utilities) in your community?
- What types of resources are available in your community for newcomers?
- Are there any associations or organizations in your community affiliated with my nationality?
- What level of support can we expect you will be able to provide? Will you be able to help us identify and navigate local resources, services, and programs we may be eligible for?
- What possible challenges do you anticipate? How will we work together to address them?
- Discuss how you might maintain good communication about what is working and what is not in terms of your sponsorship relationship.

### **Next Steps after Connecting**

It will be for you as a sponsor to apply with a specific named person and any immediate family members applying with them. You should consider what sort of support you are best able to provide and who you are most comfortable to support.

Ready to apply? Collect the necessary information and documentation for yourself and the beneficiary, and fill out your online sponsorship application on [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' \(USCIS\) web site](#) and review the [Sponsor Circle Program next steps](#). It is required that any application has both a sponsor and a beneficiary named, so you must connect with and confirm sponsorship with a beneficiary in advance of applying.