

Transforming
Lives

Welcome Corps Information Session

May 25, 2023

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

HOSTED BY:

Seattle's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs
Washington's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance



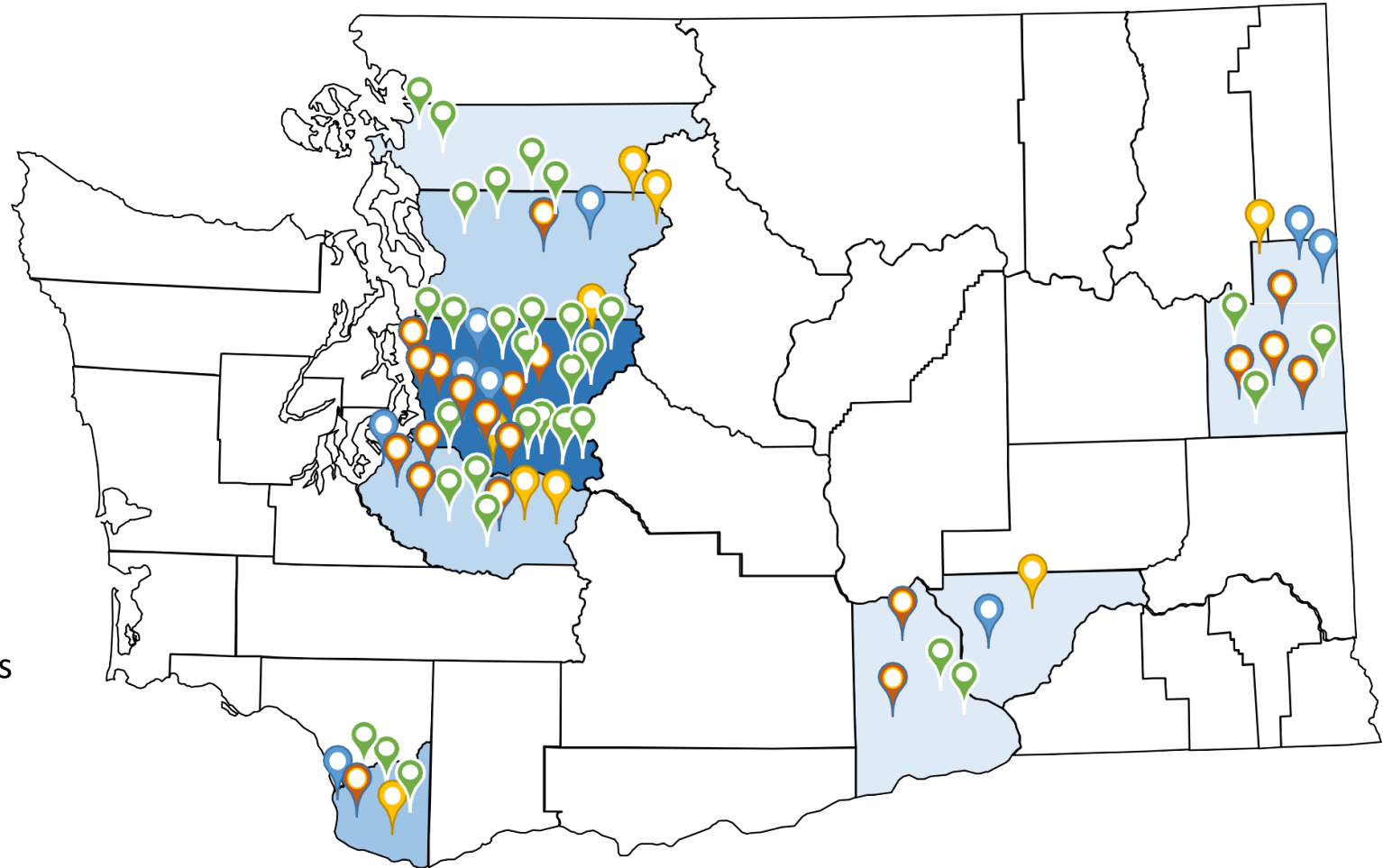
Welcoming refugees is a collective effort.

WA Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

invests federal and state funding into local community across Washington to provide services and resources that help refugees and humanitarian immigrants achieve economic stability and supports long-term integration.

Partners with more than 65 organizations:

- Refugee Resettlement Agencies
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Ethnic Community-Based Organizations
- Public Health Departments and Health Clinics
- Community Colleges
- Other State Agencies



Refugee Health & Wellness



Employment & Training



Immigration Assistance & Naturalization Services



Whole Family Programs

AGENDA

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome	Hamdi Mohamed <i>Seattle's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program• Welcome Corps Overview	Colleen Tighe <i>U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome Corps Partners• How can I get involved?• Resources	Beth Frank <i>Welcome Corps Director Community Sponsor Hub</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long-Term Services	Adrienne Young <i>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to Avoid Scams	Jay Gairson <i>Immigration Attorney</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions and Answers	Sarah Peterson <i>Washington State Refugee Coordinator WA Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance</i>

Are You Having Technical Difficulties?

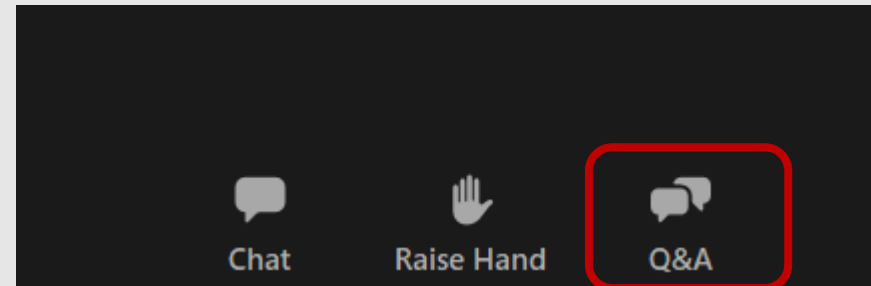


Contact Hamed Hakimkhel

Email: hamed.hakimkhel@dshs.wa.gov

Please note that interpretation is available in Amharic, Arabic, Oromo, Somali, Tigrinya.

- Everyone is joining on MUTE
- Use Question Box





Hamdi Mohamed, Director
Seattle's Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs

Transforming Lives



U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program

Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
U.S. Department of State



U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program

Offers resettlement in the United States to persons overseas who have been persecuted or have a well-founded fear of persecution based on one of the five statutory grounds: **race, religion, nationality, political opinion, membership in particular social group.**



U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

USRAP Partners

- Department of State/PRM
- Department of Homeland Security/USCIS
- Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Refugee Resettlement
- UNHCR, IOM
- Seven Resettlement Support Centers (RSCs)
- 10 Resettlement Agencies
- Welcome Corps organizations
- State and local governments
- Social service organizations
- Volunteers (incl. refugees)





U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

WELCOMECORPS
OVERVIEW



U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

ABOUT THE WELCOME CORPS

- Launched the Welcome Corps in January 2023 to accomplish the following objectives:
 - Expand and deepen the role that Americans can play in the resettlement process.
 - Increase domestic capacity to support and welcome increased numbers of newcomers.



U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

WELCOME CORPS PHASES

- **Phase 1 (Matching Component):** Approved cases already in theUSRAP pipeline will be selected and matched with approved Private Sponsor Groups.
- **Phase 2 (Identification):** Private Sponsor Groups or Organizations will be permitted to identify refugees overseas to be referred to theUSRAP through a new Priority 4 (P-4) category and apply to support their resettlement.

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP HUB



PRM

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

WELCOMECORPS

Program Overview

Operational Infrastructure for the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program

A Public-Private Partnership

- A program of the Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM)
- Implemented by a consortium of organizations with expertise in refugee protection, resettlement, and welcome



**COMMUNITY
SPONSORSHIP
HUB**



WELCOMECORPS

Opportunities for Communities to Engage in the Welcome Corps



Private Sponsor Groups



Private Sponsor Groups

- **Eligibility:** Local groups of at least **five adults**, who raise **\$2,375** per newcomer being supported and commit to:
 - **90 days of support providing core sponsorship services,**
 - **Completing 30- and 90-day reports and 6-and 12-month surveys**
- **Application** includes:
 - **Complete PSG application form**
 - **Third-party background checks for all members**
 - **Mandatory training** and knowledge check
 - **Development of a Welcome Plan**
 - **Commit to code of conduct** and to provide **core services**



Core Private Sponsorship Services

PSGs required to provide services similar to **Reception & Placement** program services, including:

- Airport reception
- Financial support
- Housing
- Basic necessities
- Essential documentation
- Public benefits and services
- Health and mental health services
- Education and childcare
- Language acquisition
- Interpretation and translation
- Cultural connections
- Community and cultural orientation
- Employment
- Transportation
- Transition from sponsorship
- Reporting and feedback



Recruitment Partners



Recruitment Partners

- These are informal partners that support in outreach and mobilization, particularly in Phase 1, equipping potential sponsor groups in navigating the application process and preparing for sponsorship.
- This is a great way for organizations to get involved with the Welcome Corps, contributing to growing the movement, and equipping communities with the information and tools they need to engage successfully with sponsorship.
- Information and a sign-up form for recruitment organizations is available here:
<https://welcomecorps.org/information-for-organizations/recruitment-organizations/>



Private Sponsor Organizations



Private Sponsor Organizations

Private Sponsor Organizations (PSOs) are organizations that recruit, support, and oversee private sponsor groups as they prepare for, receive, and guide refugee newcomers arriving through the Welcome Corps. Organizations may be locally based or work in coordination with local partners or local networks.

PSOs coach Private Sponsor Groups in carrying out [core private sponsorship services](#), including making connections with local community organizations and services. They also support Private Sponsor Groups in navigating the sponsorship process, including group dynamics and supporting refugees from diverse experiences and backgrounds. Learn more about the role of Private Sponsor Organizations here: <https://welcomecorps.org/information-for-organizations/private-sponsor-organizations/>



Private Sponsor Organizations

- **501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) status**
- Agree to **support and oversee** minimum of 50 affiliated and/or unaffiliated PSGs per year
- Complete required PSG **baseline training**
- Demonstrate **financial health** via provision of audited financial statements
- Demonstrate **organizational capacity** to be an effective PSO with staff to support and oversee PSGs
- Sign a **Memorandum of Understanding**
- Complete Welcome Corps PSO **onboarding**



PSO Responsibilities

- **Recruit** PSGs and/or accept matches to unaffiliated PSGs
- Provide pre-arrival **application and preparation support**
- Provide **post-arrival mentorship** to PSGs
- Solicit, receive, and review **30- and 90-day reports**
- **Intervene on issues of concern** and alert CSH
- Receive and **communicate case updates**



PSO Supports

Available throughout
sponsorship process

- **Access to training and resource materials and tools**
- **PSO Council**
 - Support onboarding and mentorship of new PSOs
 - Raise and address challenges
 - Inform ongoing program design
 - Support the development of policies and procedures
- **Lead PSOs**
 - Identified for different states
 - Attend state quarterly consultations
 - Share updates with PSO Council
- **Individualized Support**
 - CSH to address challenges and liaise with ORR, SCORR and ARHC as appropriate

Information & Resources



Key links

- Welcome Corps website: www.welcomecorps.org
 - All pages include a drop-down to select language
- Application steps for PSGs: <https://welcomecorps.org/get-started/>
- FAQs: <https://welcomecorps.org/resources/faqs/>
- Resources for sponsors: <https://welcomecorps.org/resources/>
- Information for refugees: <https://welcomecorps.org/resources/for-refugees/>
- Information for organizations interested in becoming involved: <https://welcomecorps.org/information-for-organizations/>
- Toolkit: <https://welcomecorps.org/resources/org-recruitment-toolkit/>



PSG Supports

Available throughout
sponsorship process

- **Application support**
- Mandatory and supplemental **trainings**
- **Resources**, including **checklists**, **reference guides** for supporting core services and eventually state-specific resources
- **App to support PSGs** in tracking and coordinating their activities.
- **Forum for PSG peer support**
- Connection to **Refugee Welcome Collective** or assignment to a **Private Sponsor Organization (PSO)** based on affiliation, location and capacity
- **Guidance throughout** the process, including a 60-day transition reminder



Refugee Supports

Available throughout
sponsorship process

- **Direct support from trained PSG** for 90 days to deliver core private sponsorship services
- **Cultural orientation materials via CORE** available to sponsor groups for use with refugee newcomers
- **Mainstream and ORR benefits and services** available during and following initial 90-day sponsorship period
- **Resources**, including a **Welcome Corps Journey Guide** developed for newcomers and sponsors
- **A monitored concerns phone line and email address** to which refugees can report concerns at any time



Contacts

Questions about PSOs

- Welcome Corps PSO Application
psapplication@welcomecorps.org

General information and public mailbox

- Welcome Corps Contact
contact@welcomecorps.org

Fraud

- Welcome Corps Fraud
Fraud@welcomecorps.org

Thank you!

A group of three business professionals (two men and one woman) are smiling and looking at tablets together. The woman in the center is holding a tablet, and the man on the left is pointing at it. The man on the right is also holding a tablet. They are all wearing glasses and business attire. The background is a light, neutral color.

Thank you!

Sarah Peterson, MSW

Office Chief for Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

Email: sarah.peterson@dshs.wa.gov