



# Planning and Organizing for Co-Sponsorship

## Consider Co-Sponsoring a Refugee Family!

Co-sponsorship is a shared commitment between AAA and a community group to help a refugee family resettle in San Diego, become self-sufficient, and thrive.

### Criteria for Co-Sponsorship

- Ability to raise at least \$3000 to provide 9- months of support.
- Nest a Home (Gather donations to fully furnish the family's apartment. Mattresses must be new.)
- An excellent Co-Sponsorship Team Coordinator who will serve as the team's liaison with AAA.
- A strong well-organized core team (of at least 7 including the coordinator) with diverse skills who can commit to walking alongside a refugee family for the first **9 months** after their arrival. The core team (along with support volunteers recruited by them) will need to devote certain hours/week base on the family needs between them for the first few months, after which the amount of time required will gradually decrease. Organizing your group into committees led by members of the core team will provide a helpful way to divide tasks and keep the goal of respectful accompaniment. Committees should include:
  - **Housing & Welcome:** Assists in securing an apartment (optional), gathering household and furniture items and setting up the home.
  - **Transportation:** Coordinates transportation needs and teaches the family how to access and navigate public transportation.
  - **Health:** Assists the family in tracking and attending follow-up medical and dental appointments, as well as understanding the basics of the U.S. medical system.
  - **School & Education:** Assists parents/guardians in enrolling children in school and understanding the school system. Supports adults in family with English language acquisition through conversational English. Can support children with homework assistance/tutoring.
  - **Cultural Adjustment:** Assists the family in understanding the community (finding the grocery store, library, parks etc.) Teaches the family elements of American culture and life that they might need help with (appliances, caring for the home etc.).
  - **Jobs and Finance:** Collaborate with employable individuals and the AAA staff to understand budgets, assist with employment readiness, and network for employment.

## Getting Started

1. *Organize your Team*  
Use the [Organizing for Co-sponsorship Worksheet](#) to start getting together a team and think through all of the required aspects of the Co-Sponsorship commitment.
2. *Attend Initial Trainings*  
All members of your Co-Sponsorship Team (core team members and support volunteers) will need to attend the following 2 preparatory trainings. Individuals can sign up to attend trainings as you recruit for your team. Alternatively, if your team is already formed, you can request for us to hold trainings specifically for your group at a time that works for you.
  - a. Training 1: General Orientation to learn about who refugees are and how they arrive in the United States, as well AAA's programs, services, and volunteer policies.
  - b. Training 2: Partnering with Case Manager at AAA to better understand how to walk alongside a refugee in their integration journey. (You will not receive the links to sign up for this training until you have completed Training 1.)
3. *Submit Co-Sponsorship Application*  
Use the information from the Organizing Co-Sponsorship Worksheet to complete the [Co-Sponsorship Application](#). Submit to [anchalee@alliance-for-alliance.org](mailto:anchalee@alliance-for-alliance.org).
4. *Background Checks*  
It is important for each team member 18 years of age and older who will be interacting directly with the family to submit a background check as part of the application process.
5. *Attend a Co-Sponsorship Training (Training 3)*  
Once your team is set and your Co-Sponsorship Application has been approved, we will organize a team training at our office where we will delve into the nuances of what Co-Sponsorship entails.
6. *Sign Co-Sponsorship Agreement*
7. *Arrival and period of committed involvement with refugee family (9 months)*

AAA assigns families to Co-Sponsors based on family needs, co-sponsor resources, and availability at the time AAA receives an arrival notice. We anticipate that this entire preparation process will take a Co-Sponsor Team anywhere from 2 months to one year to complete, and that it could take up to another 6 months after completion before they are matched with a newly arriving family.

*Throughout your journey of forming a team, developing resources, and completing your application, please reach out to us with any questions. We are excited to partner with you and want to support you in this process!*

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