

IRC RESETTLEMENT, ASYLUM, AND INTEGRATION

UKRAINIAN HUMANITARIAN PAROLEES IN THE U.S.



INTRODUCTION

International Rescue Committee (IRC) Quarterly Updates by the IRC Headquarters Resettlement team within RAI aims to keep Ukrainian American community groups informed of IRC's activities and key programmatic updates regarding the Ukrainian response in the U.S. Information shared in this newsletter is about Ukrainian arrivals in the U.S., partnership opportunities, and program developments. You are receiving this newsletter because you and/or your organization was identified as being involved in the Ukraine response in the U.S. Feel free to share with your contacts. If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please reach out and we will respond to your request. We look forward to connecting with you.

Questions? Contact Karen.Duncan@rescue.org

U4U Supporter and Sponsor Concern Reporting

The federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has created a **U4U Supporter Concern Tracker** to document the reasons supporters are retracting their agreed-upon support. IRC reports concerns to ORR on a regular basis. Areas of concern include:

- Supporter unable or unwilling to continue support because of the client's needs
- Supporter unable or unwilling to continue support due to a change in the supporter's circumstances
- Conditional Withholding of Support
- Concerns Related to Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence
- Concerns Related to Commercial Sexual Exploitation/Sex Trafficking
- Concerns Related to Labor Exploitation/Forced Labor
- False Promises/Support Not Provided
- Household Conflict/Interpersonal Conflict
- Inadequate/Hazardous/Unsafe/Unsanitary Living Conditions

Questions and concerns can be sent to Jessica Shih, jessica.shih@rescue.org or Sarah Sims, sarah.sims@rescue.org.

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ARRIVALS

Ukraine Report (as of January 17th, 2023)

- 200,745 Uniting for Ukraine supporter applications filed.
- 141,648 U4U beneficiaries approved for travel.
- 105,072 U4U arrivals paroled into the United States.

Number of UHPs served at IRC: 141

Direct assistance distributed through IRC: \$47,391.05

PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES

Initial Resettlement Services (IRS)

Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs) are now eligible for Initial Resettlement Services (IRS) as well as Supplemental Case Management (SCM), and Intensive Case Management (ICM) where applicable. Program staff in [our local IRC offices](#) are available to assist UHPs with these services. Examples of services included in IRS are: health screenings, housing, food and childcare assistance, and assistance with public benefits such as SNAP, TANF, Medicaid and WIC. IRC can also provide referrals to medical and mental health specialists, immigration services, ESL, and employment services. UHPs should contact the local IRC office for more information and to make an appointment with a UHP focused caseworker.



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

As part of the [National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants](#), IRC is developing culturally and linguistically-accessible materials related to the health requirement of humanitarian parole. IRC has a limited number of small grants available (between \$2,000 and \$5,000) for community based organizations to disseminate this materials to Ukrainian parolees and their sponsors. If you would like to find out more about these grants, please contact Elizabeth.Farmer@rescue.org.

USCIS UPDATES

Employment

Congress has recently passed laws relating to certain Ukrainian parolees that have included language providing that parolees covered by the legislation "...shall be eligible for resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157)..." USCIS is providing the benefits of employment authorization incident to status normally accorded to refugees and a no-fee initial (and replacement of an initial) EAD to Afghan and Ukrainian parolees so that they receive the same treatment as refugees.

For parolees, their unexpired Form I-94 is an acceptable receipt they may present to their employer to show their identity and employment authorization for the purposes of Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification. More information, including [how to make an expedited EAD request](#), can be found on the [USCIS website](#).

Uniting for Ukraine

Starting Jan. 6, 2023, supporters must submit Form I-134A, Online Request to be a Supporter and Declaration of Financial Support, if they are a potential supporter of a Ukrainian or their immediate family member as part of Uniting for Ukraine.

They should not file Form I-134, Declaration of Financial Support, if they are a potential supporter of an individual under Uniting for Ukraine.

If they submitted Form I-134 online before Jan. 6, 2023, under Uniting for Ukraine, your case will continue to process and no further action is required. They should not also submit a Form I-134A.

Parole Status

USCIS is working on developing consistent guidance regarding UHP's whose parole is about to expire in the coming months. They advise UHPs to not take any action at this time and wait for future guidance. We will send more information as soon as we receive it.





IRC Wichita staff, volunteers, and UHPs

IRC EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Ukrainian Christmas Celebration

In Wichita, Kansas, the IRC's local office has been supporting displaced Ukrainians as they settle into their new lives—helping them access aid, housing, transportation and more.

IRC Wichita support includes celebrating new neighbors and all that they bring. On Friday, January 6th, the Wichita team put together its first-ever traditional Ukrainian Christmas celebration.

As executive director Yeni Silva reminds us: "We cannot just ... talk about the negative aspects of the reasons why [refugees] leave, but also what they bring with them, which is all these beautiful traditions and being able to show us how they celebrate."

Sponsor Circles

This fall, the IRC supported three Sponsor Circles working with Ukrainians, located in Utah, Texas, and Virginia. IRC staff provided weekly technical assistance to these volunteers to help them serve the over 20 Ukrainians they are sponsoring. Should you be interested in forming a Sponsor Circle to support a Ukrainian family, please reach out to Grace Gaskill, grace.gaskill@rescue.org.

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP FOR UKRAINIANS

Co-Sponsorship: an opportunity for local community members to directly help newly arrived Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees navigate their new lives in the U.S. Co-sponsor groups work in partnership with the IRC to provide initial resettlement services and community integration support to Ukrainian families for a 6-month time period. All Co-sponsor groups receive initial training and one-on-one support from local IRC offices.

Sponsor circle: a community group of at least five people that has been certified through the [Sponsor Circle Programs for Afghans and Ukrainians](#) to be directly matched with an Afghan or Ukrainian parolee case. This program falls outside the traditional model of refugee resettlement. Sponsor circles are community-led, they commit to providing services and financial support. They are overseen by the Community Sponsorship Hub and its partner organizations.

Co-Sponsorship in Texas

While delivering a basket of Thanksgiving goodies, an IRC volunteer in Lubbock, Texas met a Ukrainian family of three and felt an urgency to do more. With the help of IRC Abilene Community Sponsorship Coordinator, Zhanna Krasemann, they formed a co-sponsorship team of eight members from Broadway Church of Christ.

The IRC provided training and information on public benefits, safeguarding, setting boundaries, etc. The co-sponsorship team provided donated household items such as kitchen items, a couch, blankets, and Christmas presents.

They have assisted with trips to the grocery store, medical appointments, and workforce training. One of the team members is a retired teacher and she started an ESL class at the church for the family and others.

Krasemann said, "The level of wrap around care provided for this family has been extraordinary."

If you would like to learn more about Co-Sponsorship for Ukrainian humanitarian parolees at the IRC, please contact Hannah Scully, hannah.scully@rescue.org.



RESOURCES



U4USL: Uniting for Ukraine Support Line

The Uniting for Ukraine Support Line provides resources and referrals to programs for Ukrainian humanitarian parolees. Ukrainian humanitarian parolees can call U4USL at any time between 9am-5pm ET Monday – Friday, (407) 591-3963 or via email at U4USL@loyalsource.com. They have helped over 780 individuals with questions, resources, and referrals.



Settle In

Settle In provides information about the United States refugee admissions program and life in the United States with webinars, articles and podcasts available in Ukrainian and Russian. Links to printable information flyers can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Settle In webinars:

- **February 8th 3 p.m. EST: Taxes: Part 1** - they'll discuss different types of taxes, what taxes pay for, and how we pay taxes throughout the year.
- **February 14th 11 a.m. EST: How to use Settle In to support newcomers in navigating their new U.S. communities.**
- **February 15th 3 p.m. EST: Taxes Part 2** - they'll explain how to prepare for yearly tax return filing including who needs to file, what documents you should have, where to go to get your taxes completed, and how to avoid tax-related scams.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AT THE IRC

- Help the IRC support refugee families in crisis with a donation: [Donate now.](#)
- [Take action.](#) Tell President Biden that you are ready to welcome refugees today.
- Look for IRC [volunteer opportunities](#) assisting refugees in the U.S.
- Participate in [co-sponsorship](#).
- Find out other ways to support the IRC's refugee resettlement work across the U.S.: [See where we work.](#)

If you would like to explore specific partnership opportunities, contact Karen.Duncan@rescue.org.



Legal Information Network for Ukraine

Legal Information Network provides legal information for those displaced by the war in Ukraine who are seeking to enter or remain in the United States.

Upcoming LINU webinar:

- **February 6th 4 p.m. EST: Employment webinar** - this webinar is targeted at both potential employees and employers, who are interested in hiring newly arrived Ukrainians. Experienced immigration attorneys will discuss types of visas and paths to green cards and will include valuable information for both potential employers as well as employees.



CORE

The Cultural Orientation Resource Exchange (CORE), a technical assistance program, connects and supports refugee resettlement staff and volunteers globally to deliver effective Cultural Orientation which helps refugees and Special Immigrant Visa holders achieve self-sufficiency in the United States.



Welcome.US

Welcome.US is a new national initiative built to inspire, mobilize, and empower Americans from all corners of the country to welcome and support those seeking refuge here.

