

What is Sponsorship?

Sponsorship means assuming financial responsibility for a person who is not a permanent resident, so they do not become a “public charge.” Generally, it requires completing [Form I-864](#), the affidavit of support. Financial responsibility ends when applied for, or when the migrant(s) attains citizenship or is credited with 40 quarters of work. Responsibility ends if one party dies, or if the individual sponsored ceases to be a lawful permanent resident and departs the United States.

What types of sponsorships are there?

The rules, forms and processes vary for each type of sponsorship.

Type of Sponsorship	Requirement of Sponsor	Useful Links
Family-based	Citizen or Permanent Resident	Visa Info for Families and Travel visa to immigrate
Adoption	Citizen, 25 yrs old. Pass Background checks	Inter-country adoption and What to expect after adoption
Employer	Permanent job offer	Visa when hiring permanent foreign workers and Foreign labor certification and Visas for workers
Financial	Citizen or Permanent Resident or group. Provide support at 125% of poverty level	Sponsoring Migrants and About Affidavit of Support

What is a Community Support Network?

[Amnesty International](#) and The [Refugee Council](#) speak of Community Sponsorship. Sponsoring groups are made up of individuals who can raise funds and provide in-kind services to refugees, asylees, asylum-seekers and other forcibly displaced populations. ***This is different from official sponsorship.*** As resettlement is local, so sponsorship is an opportunity for a community to become directly involved in embracing specific newcomers into the community. Housing, friendship, language assistance, transportation, job coaching, other direct services and



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between \$4,000-\$15,000 is typically part of this initial 3-18 month leg-up for foreign newcomers in a community.

How do you sponsor someone for detention parole?

Having a sponsor is part of the requirements for parole from detention. The sponsor will attest to ICE, in writing, that: (1) they will provide a home to live in once out of detention (2) they will provide financial support (3) they will ensure that the detainee will attend court hearings. ICE courts rarely grant parole if the sponsor is not a US citizen according to the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) advice. Having a sponsor and a community network are also important for parole, per the [Santa Fe Dreamers Project](#). The [Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project](#) also offers advice on getting bonded out of detention.

Can a sponsored immigrant be deported?

Sponsorship can help a migrant from becoming a “public charge” which is among the grounds for deportation. Having the right to be in the United States – even a Green Card – still depends upon the migrant following rules determined by law as well as by policies followed by Homeland Security. Since immigration is governed by Civil code rather than Criminal, migrants who are detained may not have a legal right to an attorney in a hearing governing their case. **Know your rights!** <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights/>

Which public services are available to sponsored resident migrants?

Some publicly-funded services will be available to the migrant, but not all. Some States are covering services not funded federally, such as health coverage for children and/or pregnant women. Eligibility for services is determined not only by federal laws, but also state and local regulations. Lawful permanent residents with Green Cards, refugees, or those with asylee status, Cubans, Haitians, certain abused or trafficking survivors may qualify for certain benefits.

Per the [National Immigration Law Center](#) (NILC) Health and Human Services programs for which ‘not qualified’ immigrants may *not* apply include: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly

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Food Stamps), Nonemergency Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needed Families (TANF, formerly Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Medicare, Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, Child Care and Development and the Fund, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

On May 23, 2019, President Trump issued a memorandum regarding the legal obligations of sponsors for their immigrant family members. Sponsors are required, with minimal exceptions, to agree to reimburse the government for the cost of certain “federal means-tested public benefits” such as: Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), SNAP, SSI, and TANF. DHS and State Department regulations went into effect on February 24, 2020. The [Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility](#), although contested, may continue to be implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Can an immigrant get a Social Security Number (SSN)?

Only non-citizens authorized to work in the US can apply for an SSN. Sponsorship does not affect this authorization. Lawfully admitted noncitizens can get many benefits and services without an SSN. An SSN is not required to get a driver’s license, register for school, get private health insurance, apply for credit cards, school lunch programs or subsidized housing. Alternative unique identifiers should be available in organizations that use SSN for identification. See the Social Security Administration: <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10096.pdf>. Employers can also help in obtaining a visa so that a foreigner who is vital to their business can work legally. That said, many jurisdictions do not penalize employers who hire workers without SSNs, as it doesn’t make sense for workers to contribute to social security benefits that they may never collect.



Sponsoring Immigrants 2020



If you or your organization are considering sponsoring people coming into the United States or requesting parole from detention

*All information is subject to change on this volatile topic.
Follow links to federal documents in the digital version.*



Welcoming the Stranger

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25