

Sponsorship under the Uniting for Ukraine Program



Bilingual International Assistant Services

bilingualstl.org

connect@bilingualstl.org



- Clinical Mental Health and Social Services for Immigrants/Refugees in St.Louis
- Immigration/Citizenship Assistance
- Mental Health Counseling
- Health Insurance Counseling
- Benefits Assistance
- Senior Programming / International Senior Center
- Survivors of Torture Programming
- Language Services (Interpretation/Translation)

All services low-to-no cost to clients.

Welcome Neighbor STL



WelcomeNeighborSTL.org

Facebook: Welcome Neighbor STL

Sign up to Volunteer with us!

- Family Partnering Program for Refugees in St. Louis
- Culinary Training for Refugees / Supper Club & Catering Events
- **START (St. Louis Teens Aid Refugees Today) - Volunteer Opportunities for Teens**
- ESL / Tutoring Program
- Donation Drives - Grocery Store Gift Cards / Uber Gift Cards
- Meet & Greet Events, Family Picnics w/ Refugee Families
- Different Volunteer Opportunities Each Month Depending on Need

North America for Ukraine (NA4U)

Facebook: North America for Ukraine (USA and Canada)



- Bridging the gap for resettlement support in the United States & Canada.
- Providing assistance with the immigration process, host matching, employment opportunities and general resources.
- Support Ukrainians through the entire process of resettlement.

Definitions

- ▶ Sponsor - Person in the US who is volunteering to support one or more Ukrainian beneficiaries in the US under the Uniting for Ukraine(U4U) program and submits the official USCIS paperwork. Usually also acts as the host until the Ukrainian is able to live independently.
- ▶ Beneficiary - Ukrainian who is applying for humanitarian parole under U4U
- ▶ Humanitarian parole - allows an individual who may be inadmissible / ineligible for admission into the US to be in the US for a temporary period for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit
- ▶ Host - Person who provides living quarters and other support but does not complete the official USCIS paperwork
- ▶ Paper Sponsor - Person who submits the official USCIS paperwork when a Beneficiary already has a place to stay and support, e.g., reuniting with family members who do not qualify as official Sponsors. (NA4U vets these potential beneficiaries to ensure they do have support.)
- ▶ USCIS - US Customs and Immigration Services

Why Sponsor?

How often do you hear about horrible things in the world and think - “I wish there was some way I could help!”

The war in Ukraine may not be front and center in our news cycle right now, but it’s devastating to those in the line of fire and nearby

Currently there are hundreds more Ukrainians seeking sponsors than there are sponsors seeking Ukrainian beneficiaries

Sponsorship is a great way to make a lasting impact in the world

You’ll make new friends - not just the Ukrainians you sponsor, but other local sponsors and their beneficiaries, and Ukrainians who are already established in the area

Program Steps to Sponsorship

1. Sponsor finds an individual or family to sponsor^a
2. Sponsor completes some forms and submits the package online^b
3. USCIS approves the sponsor and notifies the Ukrainian beneficiary
4. Ukrainian beneficiary completes additional forms and submits online
5. USCIS approves the beneficiary and issues travel authorization

(a) North America for Ukraine will help with this - <https://forms.gle/FfsWSJ1oWSNpcjvA6> - if you're a sponsor from the St. Louis metro area, use code "WNSTL" after last name in the last name field, e.g., "Smith WNSTL"

(b) <https://www.uscis.gov/i-134>



**CHANGE A
LIFE.**

BECOME A SPONSOR.

North America for Ukraine needs families to adopt a Ukrainian family or individual to provide an opportunity for independence in the USA.

On April 25th the DHS announced the pathway for Ukrainians to seek refuge in the USA through the "Uniting for Ukraine" (U4U) program.

U4U requires Ukrainians to be sponsored by an eligible citizen in the USA.

QR code links to the NA 4
Ukraine sponsorship
matching form



Scan to learn more!

Requirements for Sponsorship - Immigration Status

An individual who holds lawful status in the United States or is a parolee or beneficiary of deferred action or Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) who has passed security and background vetting and demonstrated sufficient financial resources to receive, maintain, and supports the individuals whom they commit to support for the duration of their stay in the United States.

Examples of individuals who meet the supporter requirement:

- U.S. citizens and nationals;
- Lawful permanent residents, lawful temporary residents, and conditional permanent residents;
- Nonimmigrants in lawful status (that is, who maintain the nonimmigrant status and have not violated any of the terms or conditions of the nonimmigrant status);
- Asylees, refugees, and parolees;
- TPS holders; and
- Beneficiaries of deferred action (including DACA) or Deferred Enforced Departure.

Requirements for Sponsorship - Income

- ▶ Sponsor must have income \geq 125% of the poverty level for the total of their own dependents plus the number of beneficiaries they will sponsor.
- ▶ Sponsor defines how and the extent to which they will support their beneficiaries
- ▶ Sponsorship is not a legally enforceable contract^a but a moral responsibility

(a) <https://www.soundimmigration.com/no-uniting-for-ukraine.../>

Required Sponsor Income

125% of the 2022 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Persons in family/household	125% of the poverty guideline
1	\$16,887
2	\$22,887
3	\$28,787
4	\$34,687
5	\$40,587
6	\$46,487
7	\$52,387
8	\$58,287

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,900 for each additional person.

I-134 Sponsorship Financial Question

Do you intend to make specific contributions to the support of the beneficiary named in this Form I-134?

- Yes
- No

Explain the contribution. For example, if you intend to furnish room and board, state for how long. If you intend to provide money, state the amount in U.S. dollars and whether it is to be given in a lump sum, weekly, or monthly, and for how long.

0/500

Benefits available under U4U program

- ▶ Medicaid^a
 - ▶ SNAP / Food stamps^a
 - ▶ TANF - Temporary Aid to Needy Families
- (a) In St. Louis, make an intake appointment at International Institute of St. Louis 314-773-9090 ext. 178, Abbas Fazely. SNAP and Medicaid can be approved in a few days to a week or so.

These will all be retroactive to date of arrival.



Providers: EBT, de...

Everything you need...

GET

★★★★★ 166K



Beneficiary Requirements

- ▶ Ukrainian citizen and immediate family members (including non-Ukrainians)
- ▶ Valid Ukrainian passport
- ▶ Currently outside the United States^a
- ▶ Resident of Ukraine through February 11, 2022 (may have been outside country on vacation, work, etc. but official residence Ukraine)
- ▶ Pass biographic and biometric security checks

(a) Ukrainians inside the US may be able to change their immigration status - that's a different topic

The Matching Process

- ▶ Submit a form on the NA4U website to be matched with Ukrainian(s) seeking a sponsor

<https://forms.gle/FfsWSJ1oWSNpcjvA6>

- ▶ If you live in the St. Louis area, please enter “**WNSTL**” after your last name in the last name field
- ▶ NA4U volunteers
 - ▶ Identify potential matches
 - ▶ Perform background check on sponsor
 - ▶ Review Ukrainian’s social media for red flags (usually not possible to do a full background check)
 - ▶ Facilitate video walk-thru of sponsor’s residence / accommodations for Ukrainian(s)

Matching Process

- ▶ Sponsorship - NA4U is prioritizing Ukrainians that are still in Ukraine or are in a nearby area and are in danger of losing their accommodations
- ▶ Paper sponsorship - NA4U is prioritizing reuniting Ukrainians with family in the US

What Sponsorship May Look Like

- ▶ Support in completion of various paperwork, e.g., work authorization forms and school enrollment
- ▶ Taking them where they need to go - TB test, IISTL, new SIM card, etc.
- ▶ Fielding incoming phone calls until your guest is comfortable speaking English on the phone
- ▶ Finding clothes and personal items for your guests - ours arrived with one small backpack each - our subdivision has been great about providing some basics (we got permission from our beneficiary before we posted in our subdivision group)
- ▶ Introducing them to other Ukrainians - or to your extended family - or letting them retire to their rooms while they adjust and even grieve for their lost lives

Sensitivity to Refugee Experiences and Culture

- ▶ Constant translation is exhausting!
- ▶ Jet lag
- ▶ May need time alone - may want to jump and join activities
- ▶ May be difficult to deal with English conversations in larger groups
- ▶ Form support group to share support tasks or costs
 - ▶ Welcome Neighbor
 - ▶ Local church
 - ▶ Friends
- ▶ Expect to explain the “house rules” more than once
- ▶ Try not to infringe on independence

Support from Ukrainians in the STL Area

Facebook groups



Help refugees in St. Louis! >



Group by Natalie Lind

**Ukrainians in Missouri/
Українці в Міссурі >**



Ukrainians of Missouri >

After Arrival

- ▶ Make an intake appointment at a local benefits office or the International Institute of St. Louis (IISTL 314-773-9090, ext. 178 Abbas Fazely, 3401 Arsenal St. 63118) to apply for benefits
 - ▶ SNAP (food stamps)
 - ▶ Medicaid
 - ▶ TANF
- ▶ If applying other than at IISTL, be prepared to justify your eligibility - print and take along
 - ▶ <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees>
 - ▶ “Certain Ukrainian individuals, or non-Ukrainian individuals who last habitually resided in Ukraine, who are also referred to as Ukrainians within this fact sheet, have been or will be granted humanitarian parole by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in response to Russia’s war on Ukraine. Ukrainian humanitarian parolees paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023, are eligible to apply for main-stream benefits, resettlement assistance, and other benefits available to refugees (with the exception of the initial resettlement program customarily referred to as Department of State’s Reception and Placement program), until the end of their parole term. These individuals’ spouses or unmarried children under the age of 21 who are paroled into the U.S after September 30, 2023, are also eligible to apply for these benefits.”

After Arrival (STL specific)

- ▶ Appointment for IGRA TB test (Quantiferon blood test not skin prick) (within 2 weeks)
 - ▶ Affinia at 2200 Lemp - ask for nurse Antoinette 314-797-6424 / 314-797-6423
 - ▶ Tell her your date of arrival and she will do her best to schedule test by due date
 - ▶ Probably covered by Medicaid - may have to apply for reimbursement after the fact
 - ▶ Submit results on USCIS site or make attestation there
- ▶ Refugee health visit at Affinia 3930 S. Broadway 63118 - Dr. Prater / nurse Rebekah Sheldon 314-898-1747
 - ▶ No charge
 - ▶ Probably 2 month waiting list
- ▶ Dentists
 - ▶ Crider accepts Medicaid - St. Charles, Lincoln, Warren Counties 636-695-6050
 - ▶ [Give Kids a Smile](#) has periodic free dental clinics for immigrants - call and schedule ahead

After Arrival

- ▶ Work Authorization form [I-765](#)
 - ▶ Requires \$410 fee unless you also submit form I-912 Request for Fee Waiver
 - ▶ Use terms “humanitarian parole” for lines 24 & 25 and (c) (11) for line 27
 - ▶ You will need your beneficiary’s I-94 form - [use this link](#)
 - ▶ Fill out the form online, print, and submit PAPER document (mail or Fedex / UPS)
 - ▶ Include a copy of your beneficiary’s I-94 form
- ▶ Fee waiver form [I-912](#)
 - ▶ Include copy of benefits letter

Mailing address for I-765 & I-912

The mailing address is independent of the city and state of residence. Only from the postal delivery service:

U.S. Postal Service (USPS):

USCIS

Attn: AOS

P.O. Box 805887

Chicago, IL 60680

FedEx, UPS, and DHL deliveries:

USCIS

Attn: AOS (Box 805887)

131 South Dearborn-3rd Floor

Chicago, IL 60603-5517

After Arrival

- ▶ English classes
 - ▶ Check local school districts and churches
- ▶ Driver's license (written test may be available in Russian in Missouri)
- ▶ Beneficiary update address in USCIS account within 10 days

References and Resources - US Government Sites

- ▶ Uniting for Ukraine (US government site) - <https://www.uscis.gov/ukraine>
- ▶ General and specific information about sponsorship (US government site) <https://ukraine.welcome.us/>
- ▶ [USCIS webinar for sponsors](#) on how to complete the I-134 form
- ▶ [USCIS webinar for beneficiaries](#) on how to complete the I-134 form
- ▶ Benefits for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees>
- ▶ Where to apply for benefits
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/map/find-resources-and-contacts-your-state>

References - Financial Assistance for Airfare

- ▶ <https://miles4migrants.org/>
- ▶ [Veterans Rebuilding Life](#)
- ▶ [American Airlines Miles for Social Good](#)

References and Resources

- ▶ Coordination Council for Refugees (CCFR) is a non-profit with a focus on coordinating refugee related resources, information and organizations.
<https://ccfrusa.org>
- ▶ Resources for Ukrainian refugees in the United States. Information about Temporary Protected Status, Health Insurance, Legal Aid, Medical Aid, Temporary Housing, and more. (English/Russian/Ukrainian)
<https://www.refugees.novaukraine.org>
- ▶ This is a file maintained by an individual that contains a variety of information on the U4U program and sponsorship (English and Ukrainian)
<https://tinyurl.com/bdf7cemr>

References and Resources

- ▶ Anxiety Canada

<https://www.anxietycanada.com/>

- ▶ PTSD in Military Veterans

<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/ptsd-trauma/ptsd-in-military-veterans.htm>

- ▶ IO Emotional Support Hotline

<https://ukraine.iom.int/iom-emotional-support-hotline>

- ▶ Resources for supporting the mental health of Ukrainian refugees

[Psychology Today link](#)

Contact Information

- ▶ Sponsorship and matching - Start with the NA4U sponsorship form and you will be contacted by a volunteer, probably within a week
- ▶ [NA4U Facebook group](#) - post general questions here for a quick response
- ▶ My email - but really, you'll probably get a faster answer posting in the group above
 - ▶ kathleen@na4ukraine.org

Questions?

