

**HIAS**  
**IMMIGRATION**  
**& CITIZENSHIP**

**JCFS**   
**CHICAGO**



**REFUGEE**

**CO-SPONSORSHIP**



## ABOUT HIAS IMMIGRATION & CITIZENSHIP

HIAS Immigration & Citizenship has supported immigrants and refugees for over a century.

Founded to assist Eastern European Jewish immigrants in the early 1900s, the program has expanded over time to address the needs of various immigrant groups from around the world regardless of religion, race, or national origin. HIAS was particularly instrumental in the resettlement of Jews from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) from 1970 – 1990 and in the last 40 years, has assisted over 40,000 immigrants and refugees from the FSU, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Latin America.

Today, as part of JCFS Chicago's family of services and an affiliate of the national HIAS organization, HIAS Immigration & Citizenship is proud to provide an array of comprehensive refugee resettlement, immigration, and citizenship services to hundreds of individuals, helping them transition from strangers in a new land to contributors in their communities to proud American citizens. Our work is fueled by the Jewish values of *Tikkun Olam* (the repair of the world), and the Torah mandate to welcome the stranger.



## WHAT IS REFUGEE CO-SPONSORSHIP?

Each refugee resettled in the United States is sponsored by a resettlement agency – that’s us! Co-sponsorship is an opportunity for HIAS Immigration & Citizenship to work in partnership with individuals, congregations, and organizations to ensure that each family’s needs are met, that their integration into their new community goes smoothly, and that they are on their way to self-sufficiency.

When refugees first arrive in Chicago, often with nothing more than a single suitcase, they are overwhelmed by a new language, new culture, and new environment. Together, we can help them understand and adjust to all that is around them and provide critical financial and social-emotional support.

In essence, co-sponsorship changes the lives of the refugees—and impacts yours in the process.

## WHAT IS EXPECTED OF CO-SPONSORS?

### We ask that each co-sponsor:

1. Raise funds for HIAS Immigration & Citizenship’s Welcome Campaign, with a goal of \$10,000.\*
2. Set up their assigned family’s apartment prior to arrival.
3. Mentor their assigned family for a minimum of 6 months post-arrival.\*\*

### This includes:

- Providing or purchasing furniture, household goods and setting up the family’s apartment before their arrival (list attached). Note that large furniture items including a sofa, beds, dressers, and dining table and chairs can be provided by HIAS Immigration & Citizenship.
- Welcoming the family at the airport upon arrival.
- Arranging for the family’s first meal and stocking their pantry with culturally appropriate foods. HIAS will provide support in understanding which foods are culturally appropriate.
- Assigning 6-8 volunteer mentors to offer welcome and encouragement on the family’s path to self-sufficiency. Activities include assistance with simple English language learning, public transport, grocery shopping, laundry, financial literacy, technology, accessing community resources and supporting the family with general acclimation and problem solving.

*\* We receive some government funds to help a refugee family become independent but there is always a gap. The HIAS Immigration & Citizenship Welcome Campaign provides financial assistance to fill this gap, as well as supports the activities and services of HIAS’ Refugee Resettlement program. The \$10,000 goal is flexible and we can work with you on a different amount if needed.*

*\*\* While engaging in all 3 pillars (1. fundraising, 2. apartment setup and 3. mentoring) is optimal, co-sponsors may participate just with fundraising and apartment setup only or fundraising and mentoring only.*



## WHAT CAN CO-SPONSORS EXPECT FROM HIAS IMMIGRATION & CITIZENSHIP?

**We are here to support your co-sponsorship efforts. You can count on us to:**

- Provide consultation as you create your co-sponsorship team and assign responsibilities.
- Provide training on best practices for working with your assigned family.
- Find housing for your assigned family, connect them to English language programs and employment services, enroll them in public benefits, and enroll school-aged children in school.
- Provide you with sales tax-exempt letters and donation templates if you need to purchase items for your assigned family.
- Provide fundraising materials and guidance.
- Facilitate background checks for each volunteer.

**Additionally, we can:**

- Offer programming to help foster understanding of the global refugee crisis and the role that individuals and communities can play in welcoming today's refugees.
- Connect you to other individuals, congregations, or organizations who are also interested in or committed to co-sponsorship of a refugee family.

### **WHY CO-SPONSOR A FAMILY WITH HIAS IMMIGRATION & CITIZENSHIP?**

HIAS Immigration & Citizenship is the only Jewish refugee resettlement program in the Chicagoland area. We want to create a movement of Jewish welcoming inspired by Jewish values as well as the history and experiences of Jewish refugees who came before us. Mark Hetfield, President and CEO of HIAS National says: *“We once helped refugees because they were Jewish. Now, we help refugees because we are Jewish.”*

Join us!

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Contact Elana Boiskin, Community Engagement Specialist, at [ElanaBoiskin@JCFS.org](mailto:ElanaBoiskin@JCFS.org) or 847.745.5405

# APARTMENT SET UP: FURNITURE AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

The quantity of items with an asterisk\* will vary based on the number of people in your assigned family. The items in *italics* must be new. All other items can be gently used.

## Kitchen

- Plates and bowls\*
- Drinking glasses\*
- Mugs\*
- Silverware and silverware divider\*
- Cutting knives
- Cutting board
- Set of mixing bowls
- Set of pots and pans
- Set of baking pans
- Colander
- Set of cooking utensils (spatula, ladle, etc.)
- Minimum of 3 large serving bowls and dishes
- Measuring cup and spoons
- Can/bottle opener
- Tea kettle
- Food storage containers (varying sizes)
- Dish rack
- Kitchen towels* and potholders
- Pressure cooker – [see here](#)
- Large stock pot

## Cleaning Supplies

- Broom & dustpan*
- Mop & bucket*
- Large garbage can with lid*
- Garbage bags*
- Paper towels*
- Sponges*
- Dish soap*
- All-purpose spray*
- Laundry basket*
- Laundry soap*

## Children/Babies

- Stroller (umbrella stroller preferred)
- Car seat (not expired)
- Pack n' Play
- Diapers*
- Wipes*
- Baby blanket*
- Backpack/school supplies
- Age-appropriate books & toys

## Other

- First aid kit
- Thermometer
- Batteries
- Calendar
- Pens, pencils
- Small fire extinguisher
- Iron, ironing board

## Bathroom

- Shower curtain with hooks*
- Set of towels (hand, wash, bath)\**
- Garbage can (small)
- Bars of soap\**
- Shampoo and conditioner\**
- Moisturizing lotion*
- Deodorant\**
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste\**
- Disposable razors and shaving cream\**
- Feminine supplies (pads)\**
- Plunger*
- Toilet brush*
- Toilet paper*
- Kleenex/facial tissues\**

## Furniture

- Dressers\*
- Dining table and chairs\*
- Couch
- Armchairs
- Coffee table
- Nightstand\*
- Lamps\*

## Bedroom

- Hangers (40-50)
- Blankets/comforters\**
- Sheets and pillowcases\**
- Pillows\**
- Alarm clock

## Optional Items

- Vacuum cleaner
- TV
- Radio
- Basic toolkit
- CTA bus passes
- Postage stamps
- Bilingual dictionary
- Light bulbs
- Water bottles*
- Reusable grocery bags
- Umbrella\*
- Sewing machine