

The Group Lead

Your role as Sponsor Group Lead: You are the main sponsor on the Form I-134a (form that needs to be filled out to apply as a sponsor and grant travel authorization). As a lead, you will make sure your group is organized, that newcomers are comfortable, oversee the sponsorship journey, check in with your teammates and make sure key activities are running on time.

The 7 Topic Areas

Legal

Working within the US government system can be confusing at times, but it is critical that all required paperwork is always submitted on time. Ensuring that all legal requirements are met is fundamental to helping newcomers stay legally and compliantly in the US and have access to important benefits. We've put together a checklist for legal tasks, but remember that this information can change and each person's circumstance may be a bit different so please make sure to check the government website and any paperwork you receive to find up to date information on the required documentation for your particular case.

Finance & Employment

Before the arrival of newcomers, this section is largely focused on budgeting and fundraising to make sure your group is financially prepared for the journey. Once newcomers have arrived, the focus of this section will shift from fundraising to securing their ongoing, independent financial stability. This includes helping with budgeting, banking, and searching for employment opportunities for true financial freedom and independence.

Healthcare

Healthcare can be tricky, but helping newcomers navigate the US healthcare system is extremely helpful and important. In the early stages, your role is largely helping individuals and families enroll in benefits, helping them address immediate health issues and schedule an initial comprehensive medical exam. Later, healthcare independence comes from having a healthcare network established for ongoing care for the whole family as well as knowing how to address emergency situations.

Education & Language

Education spans across all ages in the household; from children's enrollment in school, young adults navigating their developing career paths, and adults further developing English as a second language. These are all skills that can help better set them up for success in the future.

Housing, Clothing & Food

Housing is one of the most essential pre-arrival tasks in order to give newcomers a comfortable and safe landing space. Housing will be a major component in resettlement sponsorship as it begins with a safe place at arrival and ends with a comfortable, affordable, safe, and appropriate long term housing set-up. This section includes support for accessing necessary food and clothing as well as providing guidance so newcomers can feel comfortable acquiring these on their own in the future.

Transportation & Communication

Access to communications (like phone and internet) are essential for successful and independent resettlement, right from the start, and the freedom to travel and communicate independently and confidently is a major component in gaining independence in a new location.

Happiness & Community – for ALL team members to do!

Happiness in the form of joy and delight is an important, yet often overlooked, aspect of moving somewhere new. As a sponsor, you can add delightful moments and encourage meaningful connections that can help newcomers feel more welcome and add important bits of joy to their day. Community is a major aspect of successful integration in a new location and you can become a key facilitator in making those connections.