

A photograph of a woman with blonde hair and a young girl with brown hair, both wearing orange blankets, looking at a smartphone together. A yellow and blue horizontal bar is positioned above the text.

Uniting For Ukraine

April 2022

BACKGROUND

More than five million Ukrainians have fled into neighboring Eastern European countries, triggering one of the largest and fastest refugee emergencies in recent decades, according to the United Nations refugee agency.

NEW SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The U.S. announced a new Ukrainian refugee-sponsorship program, launching Monday, April 25, 2022. The program is a path to taking in 100,000 Ukrainian refugees who fled their country after Russia's invasion.

Under the program, called **Uniting For Ukraine**, U.S. citizens and groups will be required to attest to their financial ability to sponsor Ukrainian refugees, while Ukrainians must apply to the program already paired with a private sponsor.

If approved, Ukrainians will be allowed into the country on temporary humanitarian grounds under a program known as *Humanitarian Parole* for up to two years.

Many Ukrainian refugees aren't seeking permanent resettlement, so unlike the traditional refugee program, this new process gives Ukrainian refugees flexibility to return to their home country as soon as possible.

Officials with the Department of Homeland Security have estimated Ukrainian people should be able to come to the U.S. about one week after applying, and as soon as Uniting for Ukraine is functional.

In addition to having an approved sponsor, the refugees must have several vaccinations and undergo basic security vetting.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Private citizens who are interested can find more information at www.welcome.us.

Sponsors can apply starting April 25, 2022.

Applications will be vetted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Once approved, sponsors will receive notification of their case arrival and additional details.

THE BUREAU OF REFUGEE SERVICES IS HERE TO HELP

BRS will assist with webinars and training sessions that will help sponsors understand what resettlement entails, and the duties and responsibilities of sponsors through this official capacity. BRS will also share what resources are available to sponsors and refugees to help during this process.

For assistance in becoming a sponsor, please contact the State Refugee Coordinator at msucesk@dhs.state.ia.us