



Community Sponsorship in San Jose and Oakland

Elgiva Wood



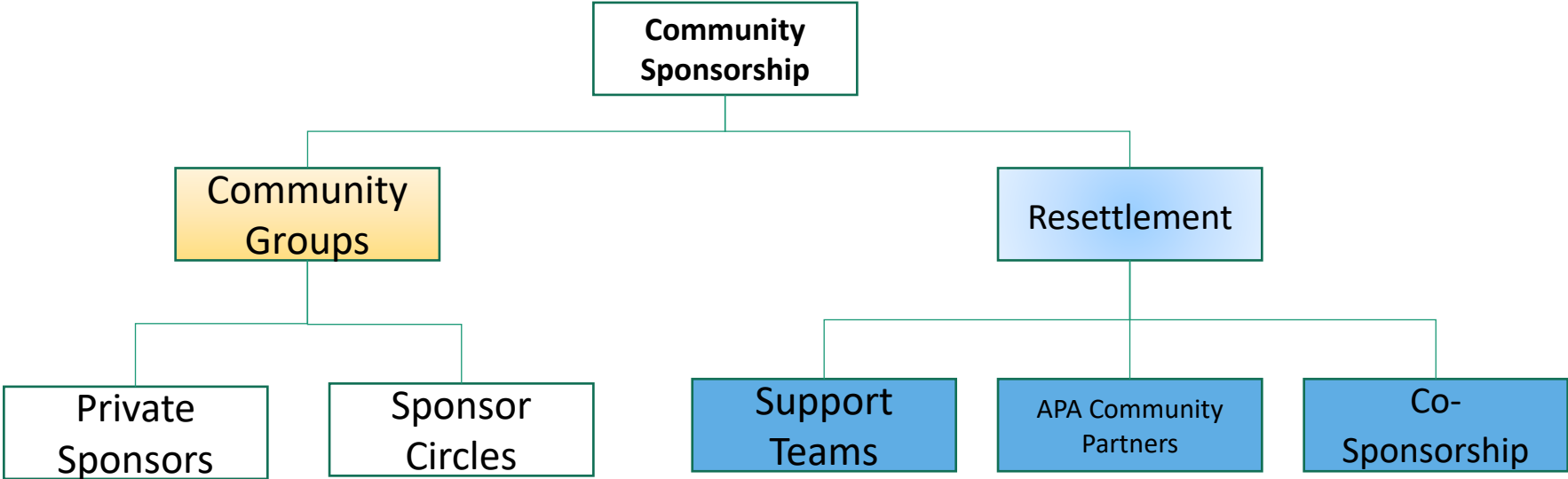
Agenda

1. What is Community Sponsorship/Co-Sponsorship?
2. Who are IRC clients?
3. Responsibilities of Co-Sponsorship: Team vs. IRC
4. Next steps to Co-Sponsoring a case
5. 4 FAQs
6. Q&A

What is Community Sponsorship?

- An umbrella term for refugee resettlement by the community
- Established and successful in Canada and some regions in the USA
- Complements and/or assists work of resettlement agencies
- Various models (e.g. Sponsor Circles, Support Teams); IRC piloting Co-Sponsorship form of sponsorship in San Jose and Oakland
- Co-Sponsorship = a community group is established and partners with a resettlement agency to serve a case that is assigned to the agency

What Does Community Sponsorship Look Like?



Resettlement: R&P Clients

- R&P=Reception and Placement
- Refugees who are and SIVs (Special Immigrant Visa holders) who are located
- Client cases that are assured and arrive at/received by a resettlement agency
- Receive R&P services for 90 days
- Eligible for public benefits and other Resettlement Agency services
- Refugees apply for permanent residence; SIVs arrive with permanent residence

Responsibilities of a Co-Sponsor Group:

- Sign a Co-Sponsorship Agreement with the IRC (non-legally-binding)
- Background checks for all members
- Fundraising: \$2,500 for their assigned case, and \$2,500 for IRC Co-Sponsorship program, plus additional donations/in-kind goods
- Team performs core resettlement services for client case over the 90-day resettlement period
- 6-month commitment (extendable to 12 months)

Co-Sponsorship Team: Core Services

Assisting clients,
attending to basic
needs.

Emphasis is on client
empowerment and self-
sufficiency.

Safe, Sanitary, Affordable Housing	Basic furnishings	Airport Pickup & Initial Food	Intake Interview
Application for benefits	Apply for Social security card	Access to Immigration Services	Employment Enrollment
English Language Classes	Health Screening	School Enrollment	Other public benefits – WIC, SSI
Home Visits	Cultural Orientation	AR-11	Status check and close out

Responsibilities of IRC

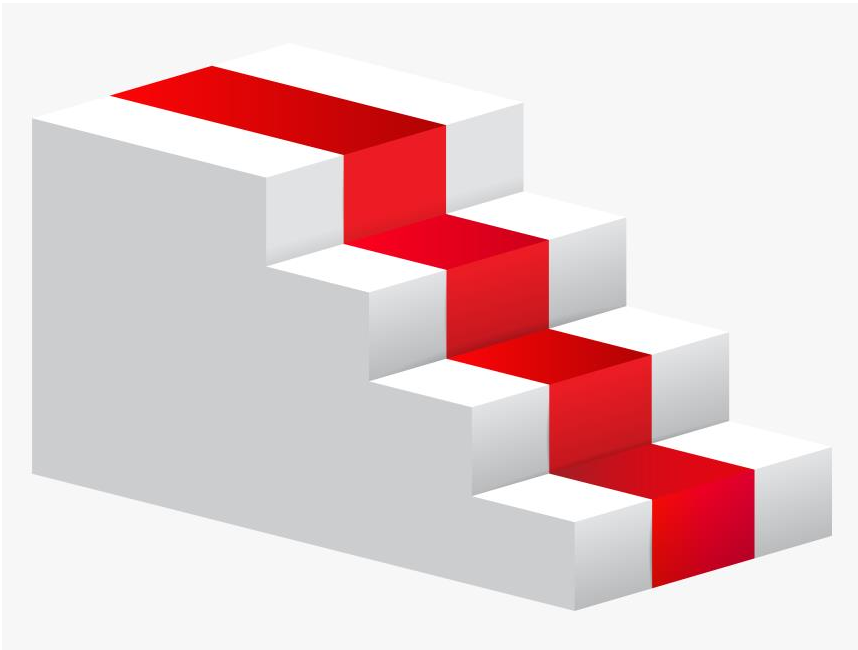


- Provide training and guidance to team
- Monitor progress in providing services according to Cooperative Agreement with Dept. of State/PRM
- Maintain client case file

Steps to Becoming a Co-Sponsor with IRC

1. Form a group (friends, neighbors, co-workers, members of faith-based organizations, book groups) of 6+ members
2. Start Raising money (\$5,000 total)
3. Submit an application to volunteer with IRC

Even More Steps.....



4. Submit background check (up to 10 business days processing)

5. Schedule and attend trainings

6. Sign Co-Sponsorship Agreement

7. Team sends funds to IRC office

FAQ #1: What is the Time Commitment Involved with Co-Sponsorship?

- Depends on individual and role in the team
- Situation of clients a factor
- Most core services provided in first 30 days
- A team = approximately one full-time staff member in this period

Divide and Conquer!

Team members take on specific area of responsibility:

Welcome/social team, education, health, finances



FAQ #2: What Means Do Refugees Have When They Arrive?

- Initial Resettlement Grant : A one-time payment of \$1,025-\$1,225 per person provided by federal government
- Benefits: Medi-Cal and CalFresh; Public Cash assistance (CalWORKS/TANF) or Matching Grant
- Co-Sponsorship cases: \$2,500 from Co-Sponsors

It is **not** an expectation that Co-Sponsors will co-sign leases, pay rent, provide monetary assistance, or give free housing. If you wish to offer any of these things, this may be permitted, but only for a limited period of time. Avoid “over-giving,” as this can cause unhealthy power dynamics, strained relationships, and can ultimately impact a client case in their progress toward self-sufficiency.

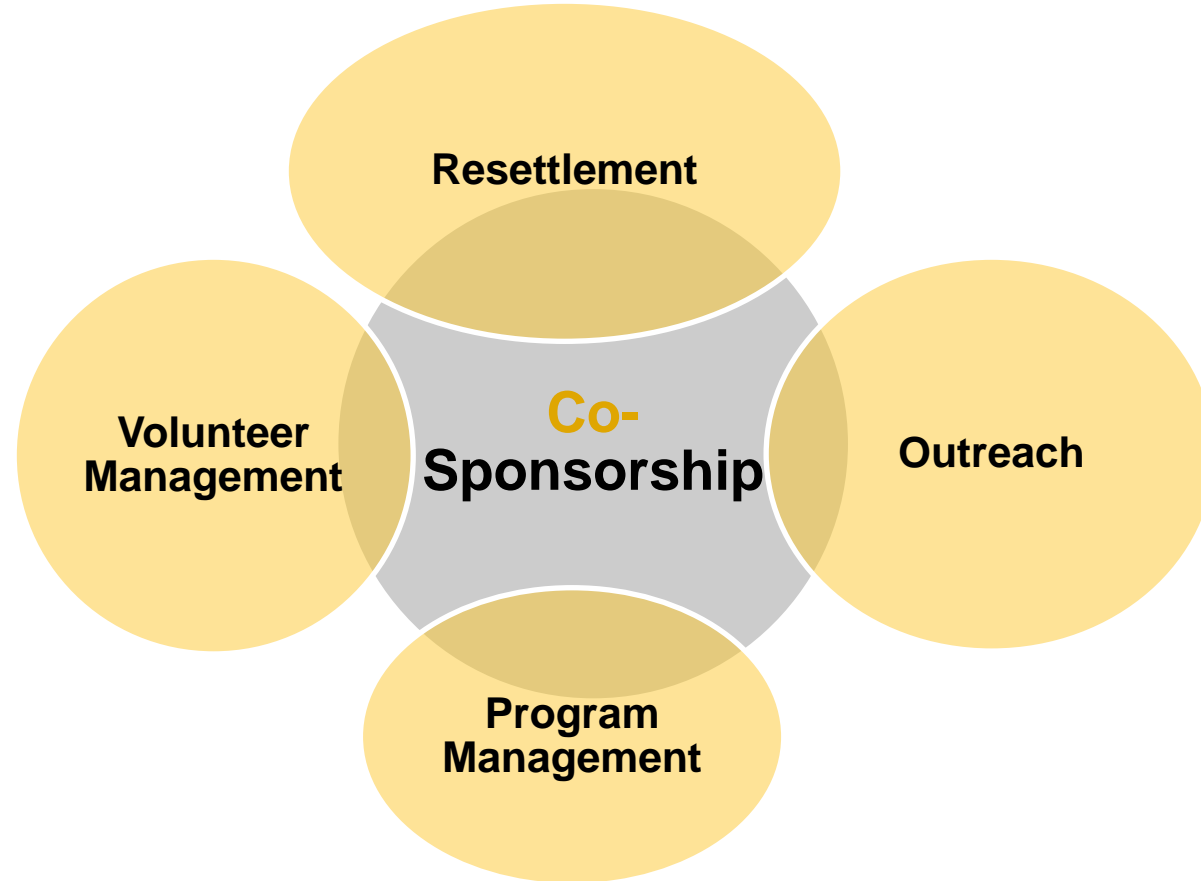
FAQ #3: Why does IRC ask Co-Sponsors for money?

- ❖ New program and contributions help build infrastructure
- ❖ Program to be 50% self-sustaining by year 2
- ❖ Supports other clients
- ❖ IRC support and expertise
- ❖ Exciting update: We have a donor who has offered to match contributions!

FAQ #4: Can I Sponsor Ukrainian Refugees?

- The government so far has only announced private opportunities for sponsorship of Ukrainians through Uniting for Ukraine. There is currently no pathway to partner with a resettlement agency to Co-Sponsor people from this country, but that situation might change.
- To find out more about Uniting for Ukraine, visit: <https://ukraine.welcome.us/> or <https://www.dhs.gov/ukraine>
- The IRC advocates for all nationalities who have fled persecution.

Components to **Co-Sponsorship**





Questions?