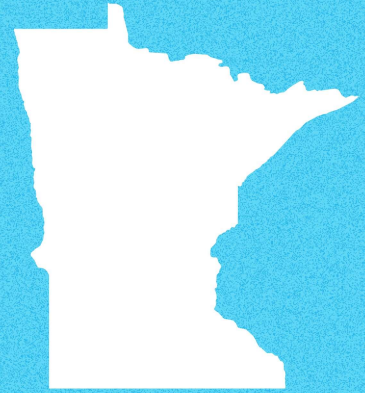


*WELCOMING
THROUGH
SPONSORSHIP:*
A BRIEF INTRODUCTION



ALIGHT

Hello hello!

We're so glad you're interested in sponsorship. This document provides a brief introduction to the model and process. Inside, you'll find resources, checklists, and tips for the process. This is a growing document; more resources will be available in the coming weeks. This document is meant to as a general introduction to supplement the trainings you'll attend held by Alight.

If sponsorship seems right for you, complete an interest form at the end of this event or reach out to Alight's Sponsorship Program Lead, Steph Koehne, at Steph@wearealight.org. From there, we will provide information on next steps.

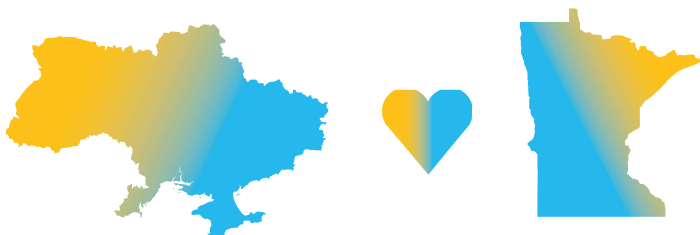
This effort will take a community—if you know others who may be interested in sponsorship, please have them contact us. We'd love to share more! If you have questions about anything in this document or want to discuss sponsorship in general, please reach out.

Ready to dive in?

**Contact Steph Koehne
Steph@wearealight.org**

Table of Contents

All About Sponsorship with Alight -	3
Sponsorship Process Map -	4
Tips and Resource Overview -	5



Uniting for Ukraine

Seven million Ukrainians – most of them women, children and the elderly – have fled Ukraine since February in the wake of Russia’s invasion. 99.9% of those who’ve fled have found safety and support in European countries, at least 2 million of them in neighboring Poland. Through the **Uniting for Ukraine** program, the United States joins European countries as a safe haven for Ukrainians and has created a pathway for 100,000 Ukrainians to come to the United States for an initial two-year period.

For a Ukrainian family to come to the United States, they must first have a sponsor in the United States who agrees to support them and help them get on their feet during their stay. **Alight is working to pair amazing Minnesota sponsor groups with Ukrainian families arriving in the U.S.**

Alight’s Response for Ukrainians

Alight has been on the ground in Poland since the end of February, meeting Ukrainians on their journey, helping them process their new reality and navigate to the support they need. Building both on our recent resettlement work with Afghan families and our Guiding work in Poland, Alight is welcoming new arrivals from Ukraine to Minnesota. Minnesota has an incredible legacy of welcoming new neighbors with warmth. Alight is excited to work with Minnesotans to show – yet again – that the Land of 10,000 Lakes knows what we’re doing when it comes to helping newcomers feel cared for while building connections and getting to know their new surroundings.

Over the next few months, Alight is recruiting sponsor groups willing to welcome and help Ukrainians settle in the U.S. **While becoming a sponsor is a commitment of time and attention, it’s also one of the most meaningful ways you can help a family** who’s had to leave their lives behind and move to a place where they may not understand the language and don’t know our systems and processes.

In partnership with Welcome.US, Alight is providing sponsor groups with orientations and trainings prior-to and after their Ukrainian family’s arrival – to prepare them for their welcoming role. **Alight staff will be available to answer questions and guide sponsors**, and we’ll provide a hub of materials to help.

What Does It Mean To Be A Sponsor Group?

Being a sponsor group means paving the pathway for a family by filing an I-134 form with the US Government. It includes preparing for a family’s arrival by fundraising and organizing day-one details before they travel to Minnesota. And when the family arrives, it’s about being there at the airport to welcome your family and helping them get settled in a new home. It means guiding them through government services and appointments, getting kids enrolled in school, and adults enrolled in language courses. And it means helping adults find a job, find daycare for little ones, and navigate public transportation so they can get to where they need to go.

The sponsorship process:

1.

Attend an information session.

If you're reading this document, you likely already have! Gain information on what it means to sponsor, including connecting with a family, fundraising, and a preparing for a family's arrival.

3.

Connect with a family via Welcome.US and complete your I-134 Document(s).

We'll help you set up your Welcome.US connection profile, which is how you'll find a family to sponsor. When you do this, **be sure to mark down that you're working with Alight** so we can help along the way. While you wait to connect with a family, get all your I-134 documents prepared (tax return, employment letter, etc). You will submit the I-134 after matching with a family.

5.

Prepare for Arrival!

Make a day-one plan; decide who will meet the family at the airport, where they'll stay, and what will be ready for them. Keep in touch with the family throughout this stage. Make them feel welcome!

2.

Decided Sponsorship is for you?

Great! Gather your group and identify a sponsor group lead. Then, fill out your interest form and submit to Alight. We'll give you all you need to get started, including a link to a simple background check.

4.

Fundraise and strategize with your group!

Make a plan, budget, and connect with community organizations that will help support the Ukrainians upon arrival. There are many resources available to Ukrainians under Uniting for Ukraine; identify them before arrival to ensure no opportunities are missed.

Guidance on Supporting Newcomers

Establish a Group: Sponsorship is most successful when responsibility is shared. Consider pulling together a group of at least five people, with one person serving as sponsor group lead.

Create a Budget: Ukrainians who are granted humanitarian parole will be eligible to apply for employment authorization. However, it may take time for them to gain that authorization and find work. As a sponsor, you will offer support in the first months after arrival. You will assist them in securing initial housing and ensure they have essential furnishings, household goods, and food. Create a budget to estimate the resources you will need to provide this support.

Fundraise to Meet that Budget: Fundraising can help you generate the financial and in-kind resources needed to support newcomers. Members of your community are likely eager to give!

Make a List of Early Tasks: In addition to providing the newcomer with critical financial support, you will also need to connect them with relevant services (such as health care and education), and support their integration, by assisting them as they learn English and secure employment. You'll find a detailed list at the end of this document.

Keep Going! Supporting someone who is adjusting to a new environment can take time and rarely unfolds as expected. Newcomers have unique journeys and may seek to achieve different goals on different timelines. Sponsorship is hard work. But it's worth it!

Resources Available to You

You will have access to a growing collection of tools, including the following resources:

Initial Sponsor Service Checklist – Supports preparation for the newcomer's arrival by having an easy reference for what critical services are typically needed within the first 90 days of arrival.

Sample Sponsor Group Structure – There are many ways to structure a sponsor group. This resource offers a template structure, with typical roles and responsibilities outlined.

Sample Budget Template – Helps capture initial and ongoing estimated living costs and supports a newcomer in establishing a balanced budget.

Sponsor Fundraising Tips and Tools – Provides guidance for groups in raising necessary resources for the newcomer.

Tips for Securing Housing – Provides guidance on how to secure temporary and permanent housing for the newcomers.

Sample Home Supply Checklist – Helps sponsor groups prepare the home for the arriving newcomers.

Sample Pantry Checklist – Lists items recommended to be included in the newcomer's pantry upon arrival.