



Frequently Asked Questions Ukrainian Refugees

I know a Ukrainian who is in the United States right now and I have heard that they are eligible for benefits through the Office of Refugee Resettlement. How can Exodus help with this?

Exodus can help Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees who entered the US after February 24, 2022 enroll in our Refugee Support Services program (RSS). RSS assists clients with employment and self-sufficiency, English classes, translation and interpretation services, some case management, and more. Ukrainians with humanitarian parole are eligible to apply for mainstream benefits, including TANF, Medicaid, SNAP, and SSI, and may be eligible for the following ORR benefits:

- Refugee Cash Assistance
- ORR Matching Grant Program
- Refugee Medical Assistance
- Medical Screening

For more information about these benefits, please visit the office of refugee resettlement's website: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees>

Exodus currently has a waiting time for those hoping to enroll in our RSS services, regardless of their country of origin. At this time, our next available time to enroll new clients is after August 1, 2022. Please contact Exodus after August 1 for available appointments.

I am sponsoring someone through the Uniting for Ukraine program. How can Exodus help?

As a sponsor through the Uniting for Ukraine program, you have specific responsibilities to provide things like housing and financial support for the family or individuals you are sponsoring. Please check the [Uniting for Ukraine website](#) for more information about your responsibilities. When the family or individuals you are sponsoring arrive(s), they can contact Exodus directly to find out if they are eligible for any Exodus services. This will vary on a case-by-case basis.

I have a friend or family member currently in Ukraine or a surrounding country. How can I help them?

The UN's refugee agency, the UNHCR, has a website with information for those currently in Ukraine or a neighboring country who are seeking information about what they should do next: <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/42841-information-for-persons-under-unhcr-mandate.html>



The Department of Homeland Security also recently announced the [Uniting for Ukraine](#) program, which allows Ukrainians to apply for humanitarian parole, a temporary legal option that allows them to remain in the country for two years. Ukrainians who want to come to the United States using this option will need a sponsor.

Sponsors will need the name of the specific Ukrainian they want to sponsor. To qualify as a sponsor, an individual must be lawfully residing in the United States, and must show that they are capable of providing financial support for the family they are trying to welcome.

Anyone sponsored through this program will need to be able to arrange and pay for their own travel to the United States and must travel to the U.S. within 90 days of having their humanitarian parole approved.

For more information about becoming a sponsor, please visit the [Uniting for Ukraine website](#).

[I have family members who are eligible to come to the United States through the Lautenberg program. How can I bring my family members to Indiana?](#)

The Lautenberg amendment allows members of historically persecuted religious groups (Jews, Evangelical Christians, and Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox religious adherents) from the former Soviet Union to reunite with family members in the United States.

If you believe your family member may be eligible to come to the United States through the Lautenberg program, please call the Exodus office at 317-921-0836 for more information about how Exodus can help. Only resettlement agencies like Exodus can assist with resettlement through the Lautenberg program.

[Someone I know from Ukraine is currently here in Indiana. What are their options?](#)

If this individual was present in the United States before April 11, 2022, they will be eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), a temporary status that allows individuals from vulnerable countries to remain in the United States without fear of deportation. This status will be granted for up to 18 months, and could be renewed depending on decisions made by the Biden administration. However, Ukrainians cannot officially apply for this status yet.

If the individual you know arrived in the United States after April 11, 2022 and wants to remain in the United States permanently, they may be able to file an application for asylum, which can be filed with a private attorney.

[I am in Ukraine, looking for a sponsor through the Uniting for Ukraine program. Can you help me?](#)

Exodus is not making matches for American sponsors and Ukrainians through the Uniting for Ukraine program.



How can Exodus help me bring my friend or family member to the United States?

Exodus is a local resettlement agency whose focus is assisting refugees after they have already arrived in Indiana and are working to build new lives here in our community. Once Ukrainian refugees begin to arrive in the United States, we will work to help welcome them to our community with open arms, just as we welcome refugees from countries all over the world.

Exodus is currently able to help assist people in reuniting with family members through the Lautenberg program. Resettlement through the Lautenberg program is only possible by working with a local refugee resettlement agency such as Exodus. For more information, please call the Exodus office at 317-921-0836.

At the moment, Exodus does not have the ability to assist in filing I-130s, humanitarian parole applications, applications through the Uniting for Ukraine program, or asylum applications for Ukrainians, but you may be able to seek the assistance of a private attorney to file these forms.

I have a spare bedroom in my house and I would love to help by hosting a Ukrainian refugee. What do I need to do to host a refugee family?

Thank you for wanting to help provide housing for refugee families! However, Exodus does not typically place refugees with host families. Instead, we help each newly arriving refugee find an apartment or house to rent so that they will be able to start their new lives here in Indiana. If you are a landlord with a property available for rent, please keep an eye on our social media pages and website to learn more about when we are seeking assistance with housing refugees.

I have heard there might be orphans arriving in the United States because of the conflict in Ukraine, and I am interested in adopting a child who has lost their parents to this conflict. Can Exodus help me adopt or serve as a foster parent for these children?

Indiana does not currently have a refugee foster care program, and Exodus does not assist with adoptions or foster care placement. It also appears that children travelling without a parent or guardian will not be eligible for parole under the Uniting for Ukraine program.

I still have questions! Who can I contact?

You can contact Exodus by visiting <https://www.exodusrefugee.org/contact-us/>