



Frequently Asked Questions Private Sponsorship of Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans

I heard that the U.S. government is allowing the private sponsorship of refugees now. How can Exodus help me sponsor someone from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, or Venezuela?

The Biden Administration recently announced a private sponsorship model that allows nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela to more easily enter the United States if they have a supporter in the United States. This supporter should agree to provide them with financial support for the duration of their humanitarian parole.

This program does not run through private refugee resettlement agencies like Exodus, and Exodus cannot connect individuals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, or Venezuela with private sponsors.

I want to sponsor someone I know from one of these countries. How can Exodus help?

Exodus cannot connect individuals from these countries with private sponsors. For information about how to become a sponsor, visit <https://www.uscis.gov/CHNV>.

What do I need to do if I want to be a sponsor?

Anyone who wants to become a private sponsor will need to meet the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident; hold a lawful status in the United States such as Temporary Protected Status or asylum; or be a parolee or recipient of deferred action or Deferred Enforced Departure;
- Pass security and background vetting, including for public safety, national security, human trafficking, and exploitation concerns; and
- Demonstrate sufficient financial resources to receive, maintain, and support the individual(s) they are agreeing to support for the duration of their parole period.

Exodus cannot assist with the preparation of private sponsorship applications. The most up to date information about this program will always be found on <https://www.uscis.gov/CHNV>.



I sponsored someone from one of these countries and I want to know what Exodus services they are eligible to receive.

If the individual or family you have sponsored has already arrived in the United States, please have them contact Exodus by calling 317-921-0836. Please do not contact Exodus before the family arrives.

The services that an individual from Haiti or Cuba is eligible for may be different than those that an individual from Nicaragua or Venezuela is eligible for. This is because the United States has, for several years, allowed people arriving from Cuba and Haiti to qualify for some services from resettlement agencies like Exodus.

Some Haitians and Cubans arriving in the United States qualify as a “Haitian Entrant” or as a “Cuban Entrant.” For more information on who qualifies as a Haitian or Cuban Entrant, please visit [this website](#).

Haitian and Cuban entrants may be eligible for English classes, assistance applying for public benefits (Food Stamps, Medicaid, Cash Assistance) if eligible, and a health and mental wellness program that assists individuals with getting connected to care. If a Haitian or Cuban entrant has a work permit, Exodus may be able to assist with employment services. Please note that there is a significant waitlist for assistance for these services.

Exodus cannot provide housing assistance to Haitian or Cuban entrants.

Nicaraguans or Venezuelans may be eligible for some assistance through our services for asylum seekers program. Please have them contact our office for more information.

I want to help the family or individual I sponsored apply for public benefits. How can I do that?

For information on how to apply for public benefits, you can visit <https://fssabenefits.in.gov>

I live in Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, or Venezuela and I am looking for a sponsor. Can you sponsor me or help me find a sponsor?

Exodus is a local refugee resettlement affiliate, and in our role we do not connect people with private sponsors. For more information about this program, your best resource is <https://www.uscis.gov/CHNV>.



This sounds overwhelming, but I'd still love to work with Exodus to help sponsor a refugee.

Our community support teams might be a great option for you! Community support teams are groups of 10 to 20 individuals who come alongside a newly arrived refugee family to help them adjust to life in our community, but they do so in partnership with Exodus. Groups typically work with a family during their first 90 days in the U.S. but may also be placed with a recently arrived family who would benefit from support. Find out more by visiting [our website!](#)

I still have questions! Who can I contact?

For more information about sponsoring individuals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, or Venezuela, visit <https://www.uscis.gov/CHNV>.

For information about becoming part of a community support team, contact Cassandra at csanborn@exodusrefugee.org.