

HOST HOME FAQs



Who will I host?

A family who has refugee or humanitarian parolee status. In 2022, guests were primarily from Afghanistan, the Congo, Sudan, and Columbia.

How long will I host for?

We ask for 2 weeks up front.

Do I need to be home the whole time I am hosting?

No. We ask you to be there to welcome the guests and give a tour of the house. It is helpful for you to be there during their first few days so you can show them appliances and norms in your house. If you do not want guests staying in your home while you're on a trip, let your World Relief WNY contact know.

How often will I host?

It's hard to say how often a new arrival that is a good fit for your space will arrive. Generally, host homes receive a request to host every couple of months. If you live close to the World Relief office, can host 4+ people, and are responsive to the coordinator, you are more likely to get frequent requests, but we need and utilize all our host home volunteers.

What does the guest need while they are staying with me?

Guests will need a private bedroom, bathroom, and bed space for each person. They will also need space to store food, freedom to cook and eat, and the ability to wash and dry their clothes. Beyond this, it is optional to spend time with your guests, show them around your community, and aid in transportation if you wish.

What do the guests eat?

Of course, this varies depending on heritage. You can find suggested grocery guidelines in the Volunteer Toolkit for ideas. Note that if you have guests from a Muslim country, they will probably eat Halal meat (Kosher meat also fulfills the requirements), which excludes pig products. You can find halal meat by googling "halal meat near me" and looking for the halal or Kosher mark on meat at the mainstream grocery store.

Who is helping the guests?

A variety of people! U.S. Tie: a friend or family member, often immigrated in recent years, may show your guest grocery stores, community resources, and help with apartment search/furniture. World Relief Staff: Over the 90-day resettlement period & beyond. Please note that most of these services take a few weeks to enroll in.

- Caseworkers DO: respond to specific needs and requests from their client and work on ongoing applications on behalf of the client in all social support services.
- Caseworkers DON'T: do daily or weekly check-ins or visits, deliver services faster than the government offices allow, favor one client's requests over another.

What if I don't feel safe while I'm hosting?

While we have not had this situation happen, if you do not feel comfortable you can ask the guest to leave the house at any time and call your WR contact.