

GNT CO-SPONSOR

WELCOME PLAN GUIDE



For GNT Coordinators: [Click Here to Access Template Link to Edit](#)

STEPS TO COMPLETE WELCOME PLAN

- 1 Complete GNT Orientation and Knowledge Check Course
- 2 Download GNT Welcome Plan and follow this guide's instructions on how to complete
- 3 Once complete, fill out the team application online and attach the Welcome Plan

Purpose of Welcome Plan Guide

World Relief will review the application and once approved, the team will be invited to the next training session. After attending the training session, teams will need to fulfill all of the requirements covered in the training in order to be placed with a refugee family. We recommend that you read the GNT Manual before you apply.

The following information is meant to be used to assist your team in completing the Welcome Plan form that is to be attached to the application.

Your Community Group

World Relief would like to get to know your team better. The first part of the welcome plan asks questions related to the composition of your group.

Question #5

Please note that each team must have a core group of 8-12 volunteers that commit to the 6-12 months. However, we understand that there may be other individuals that have specific skills needed for one or several resettlement tasks (a truck to move furniture or available to transport to appointment for one month, etc.) but can't commit to the longer timeframe. These additional volunteers will need specific roles and/or tasks assigned and will also need to complete the volunteer screening process.

Question #7

It is helpful to remember that individuals in the group can take over more than one area of responsibility or there can be more than one person assigned to a particular area, as some areas/roles require more capacity. This will also vary by the size of the group.

Location and Services

In our experience, refugees fare best in sustainable communities, where they have access to public transportation, employment opportunities, English classes, and affordable housing. Please take time to analyze your community to accurately assess how sustainable your community is to resettle refugee families.

Talk to your city or visitor's center regarding obtaining a map of the city that can aid your team in identifying ideal locations in your planning efforts to start mapping out the neighborhoods that are most suited for resettling a new family.

Housing

Please research 2, 3, and 4BR affordable apartments or houses. Due to large family sizes, it is likely that you'll need at least 3BRs.

What World Relief means by affordable:

We ask that GNTs find apartments that refugees will have good chance of being able to afford on their own at the end of the financial assistance period (3-6 mos.). To help, your GNT coordinator has provided the following information, according to your area:

- 2BR for \$ _____/month
- 3BR for \$ _____/month
- 4BR for \$ _____/month

We call these rates the "World Relief Standard," because these are the maximum rental rates for apartments World Relief secures for newly arriving refugees in order to ensure stability post financial assistance.

Talk to landlords in the area who are offering affordable apartments. Ask them: Would you be willing to rent to a refugee family? Would you consider a 6-month lease?

Client Per Capita

Each arriving refugee is allotted a "client per capita" amount of \$1275.00 from the federal government as resettlement funds. \$1075 must be spent on the allotted client with the remaining \$200 kept as "flex funds" to be spent on other more vulnerable newcomers, as needed. Regardless of resettlement location, this is not a lot of money to start a new life in the U.S. So, it is important that these funds be spent on the most important pieces of resettlement to lead the newcomer to a place of stability and a pathway to integration.

Important Note: This money does not belong to the newcomer. The U.S. government gives the money to World Relief and entrusts World Relief to use it to support the newcomer in the way they feel is most efficient.

Avoid Free Temporary Housing (specific to refugees enrolled in a federal program)

Although free temporary housing opportunities may seem ideal, rent-free arrangements are very problematic: First, they pose challenges with regard to the disbursement of federal funds that must be spent within 3 months of a refugee's arrival. Equally important, rent-free housing is not a realistic introduction to the American rental market and will likely create delayed understanding of cost of living and self-sufficiency. It's better to offer below-market rental rates than to offer housing that is rent-free. Exceptions can be made in case of emergency.

Neighborhoods

Talk to people in the neighborhoods you've identified with affordable apartments (residents walking down the street, people working in local businesses.) Ask them how safe they feel and how welcoming the neighborhood is (crime rates, etc.) Ask how they would feel about having refugees from other countries as their new neighbors.

Important Note: Do not make any rental commitments until you are assured of the arrival of the family.

Public Transportation

When looking for appropriate housing, it is crucial to consider accessibility of transportation. All housing locations should be within a 10-minute walk of public transportation. It is also important for refugee families to be able to take public transportation or walk to affordable grocery stores that take SNAP (food stamps)/ EBT cards.

When considering rental properties, please take these simple steps:

- Go to Google maps, enter the address of the potential rental property, click on Directions, and add any destination address in the nearest downtown population area with businesses, shopping, etc.
- Click on 'Transit' (the tram symbol) and see what options appear. A business area with shopping and groceries should be within 20 minutes of the family's home on public transportation.
- Consider times and frequency of public transportation options.

English Language Classes

Insert Helpful Local Information

Schools

Insert Helpful Local Information

Early Childhood Education/Childcare

Insert Helpful Local Information

Healthcare

Insert Helpful Local Information

Healthcare

Insert Helpful Local Information

Employment

Insert Helpful Local Information

Interpreters

When reaching out to potential interpreters, please keep in mind that your group will need to have access to interpreters on a regular basis, especially during the first three months. The Good Neighbor Team should not rely on the refugee case's family or friends for interpretation.

Interpreter Hourly Rates

Certified - _____/hr.

Non-Certified - _____/hr.

Cultural Resources

Insert Helpful Local Information

Disability Resources

Insert Helpful Local Information