

Welcome Teams Community Partners



ABOUT WELCOME TEAMS

Welcome Teams are community groups who are matched with refugee newcomer(s) through First90. The teams commit to walking alongside newcomers for 3 months with the goal that each refugee who arrives to the U.S. will feel the warm welcome of his/her local community. Welcome Teams help newcomers integrate into their new community through mutual relationship building, the exchange of cultures, teaching life skills, and assisting the First90 office with providing core services for the Reception and Placement Program.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

Anyone who is 18+ years of age can apply

HOW TO FORM A WELCOME TEAM

1. Connect with First90 Staff
2. Read through the Welcome Team Volunteer Guide
3. Form a team of 4 to 6 people
4. Select 1 team leader
5. All team members must complete the online application and onboarding, including clearing the background and motor vehicle record check
6. All team members must complete a local office training
7. Sign the Welcome Team Agreement and wait to be matched

WELCOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

While assisting First90 with the core services of a newcomer's first 90-days of arrival is one element of the Welcome Team experience, the main goal of a Welcome Team is to offer a way to facilitate long-term reciprocal relationships. This could look like many different things, but spending time together, supporting, and empowering the newcomers as they learn to navigate and make a home here is so important to the role that a Welcome Team plays. The First90 office will provide training and continuous support throughout a Welcome Team's commitment to ensure that every team is equipped and prepared to do this well.

COMMITMENT

- A minimum 3 month commitment
- Team roles to help clarify expectations
- Flexible availability within a team

CONNECTION

- Goals are to provide friendship and support that lead to a path of self-sufficiency and integration for newcomers
- Utilize connections and resources to help newcomers navigate opportunities available to them

COLLABORATION

- In partnership with First90, reinforce First90 instruction and services that support the 9 stability factors: Housing, language classes, employment services, transportation assistance, community connection, physical and mental health, financial management, school/parenting, and immigration legal services.