

GRSI COVID Response Series

Workshop 1: Meeting the immediate needs of sponsors and sponsored refugees

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 // 15:30 – 17:30 EST

This was the first Workshop in the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative's COVID Response Series. The series aims to connect our global partners and exchange strategies to address key issues facing community sponsorship in the time of COVID-19. This first workshop focused on how our partners are meeting the immediate needs of sponsors and sponsored refugees.

39 participants from nine countries attended the call.

Participants discussed the challenges they are facing in supporting sponsors and sponsored refugees in their communities. They also shared the good practices, communication strategies, and online resources they are employing to meet these challenges.

Some shared challenges included:

- Supporting sponsorship groups who have just received newcomer families in a time of social distancing;
- Communicating effectively, quickly and sensitively with refugee newcomers and sponsors; and
- Supporting and motivating sponsors who are waiting on refugee arrivals.

Some key strategies were:

- Rolling out accessible and innovative online learning resources to sponsors and newcomers;
- Pursuing responsive, targeted communication strategies to get vital messages out quickly; and
- Creating new morale-boosting and support ideas for sponsorship groups to help newcomers.

Participants shared a number of online tools and resources they have built to support these strategies. You can review all of these online tools and resources in our [online portal](#).