**Statement of Outcomes for C21968 Capacity Building for Community Sponsorship Scheme**

**Introduction**

The Community Sponsorship scheme was launched on 19 July 2016. The scheme allows community groups, charities and faith groups to support refugees directly. [Apply for community sponsorship - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-full-community-sponsorship)

In 2018, the Home Office invested in the growth of Community Sponsorship by awarding £1 million of grant funding to the community sponsorship capacity building organisation – RESET following a competition. RESET have been responsible for providing training and support directly to community groups. We have awarded further grants to RESET to provide continuity of support to Community Sponsorship. The latest Direct Grant Award will expire at the end of March 2022.

We are now looking to re-compete this via a competition and award to a Capacity Building Organisation(s) for the Community Sponsorship scheme from April 2022 onwards.

**Funding**

The intention is to award a grant agreement(s) for 2 years (2022/23 to 2023/24) with an option to extend for a further year (2024/25) dependent on performance against critical success factors.

The Home Office will award funding of up to **£500,000** across the two Lots in total for the first year (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023). Funding for further years is dependent on the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement.,

It is expected that funding awards made by the Home Office will be supplemented by philanthropic investment secured by the successful Bidder(s) to enhance delivery of the stated outcomes.

**Purpose**

The purpose of funding a Community Sponsorship Capacity Building Organisation(s) is twofold;

1. To support community groups to deliver high-quality resettlement support for refugees resettled through Community Sponsorship, leading to successful integration outcomes for both refugees and local communities; and
2. To grow the number and diversity of organisations and individuals involved in the scheme, through mobilisation, awareness-raising, and recruitment.

**Outcomes**

Funding has been identified to deliver five (5)outcomes - bidders should be aware of the weightings given to each of the outcomes in the document Evaluation Guidance.

Successful bidders should seek to enhance delivery of these outcomes through securing additional philanthropic funding.

Bidders must be able to submit proposals to deliver a combination of or all the

following five (5) outcomes identified to help build capacity in the Community

Sponsorship scheme across the United Kingdom:

1. Support community groups to prepare and deliver high-quality resettlement and integration support for refugees throughout their Community Sponsorship journey.
2. Provide training which addresses the needs of groups and relevant stakeholders, including local authorities.
3. Help increase the numbers and diversity of Community Sponsorship groups and catalyse the growth of the scheme.
4. Support the evaluation of the Community Sponsorship scheme to inform a better understanding of what works and why.
5. Connect people and organisations and cultivate opportunities for partnering with others nationally and internationally to increase awareness, participation, and growth of community sponsorship schemes.

**Location and Geographical Scope**

Bidders must have a UK-wide reach across England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. We would expect bidders to target new communities across the UK for growth of the scheme.

**Overview of the Funding**

The Home Office is seeking to award funding to an organisation or organisations that can demonstrate:

* expertise in refugee resettlement and integration;
* expertise in delivering training and support;
* experience of working with central and local government
* an ability to engage with and mobilise a broad and diverse range of community groups including faith groups, and ‘whole of society’ actors; and
* an ability to secure philanthropic funding to enhance the delivery of the stated outcomes.

Bidders can submit proposals seeking to deliver combinations of some of the outcomes as detailed below – either in Lot 1 or Lot 2, below or all of the outcomes (Lots 1 and 2) described below;

**Lot 1: Outcomes 1,2 and 4**

Outcome 1: Support community groups to prepare and deliver high-quality resettlement and integration support for refugees throughout their Community Sponsorship journey;

Outcome 2: Provide training which addresses the needs of groups and relevant stakeholders, including local authorities;

Outcome 4: Support the evaluation of the Community Sponsorship scheme to inform a better understanding of what works and why

**Lot 2: Outcomes 3 and 5**

Outcome 3: Help increase the numbers and diversity of Community Sponsorship groups and catalyse the growth of the scheme.

Outcome 5: Connect people and organisations and cultivate opportunities for partnering with others nationally and internationally to increase awareness, participation, and growth of community sponsorship schemes

Recognising the variety of outcomes sought and the range of expertise required may not encompass a single organisation, and the benefits of having a single focal point for community groups and Government, we would encourage organisations to work in partnership in a multi-disciplinary consortium approach, reflecting the community-led nature of the Community Sponsorship scheme and the spirit of collaboration between stakeholders in which the scheme has developed to date.

In the event that, following evaluation of quality and cost, a single Bidder proposal does not represent the best delivery model the Authority will award the Funding to more than one Bidder who will be expected to work closely and collaborate with each other for the duration of the Funding (“Funding Period”).

The lead organisation in any consortium will determine – and effect – the type and extent of the legal relationship(s) required between itself and its partners.

It is expected that the successful Bidder(s) will be able to commence delivery of the stated outcomes from 01 April 2022.

**Structure of Proposals**

Proposals must demonstrate:

* the overall approach to supporting the scheme and achieving the outcomes;
* detailed plans (incl. timescales, resources, costs etc) for mobilising and commencing delivery from April 2022 for up to two years the ability to engage with a wide range of community groups and organisations;
* governance arrangements;
* risk management arrangements;
* a fully costed budget (incl. resource, equipment, accommodation/property, travel and subsistence, consumables/supplies, subcontracting, expert fees, indirect costs etc);
* continuous improvement plans; and
* value for money.

**Due Diligence Requirements**

During the process, organisations (including Lead and Partner(s) in consortiums) whose proposals are shortlisted will be subject to due diligence checks; financial, commercial and extremism.

**Mobilisation Plans**

Bids will need to include detailed mobilisation plans describing how the proposal will achieve a timely commencement of delivery against outcomes. This should be a comprehensive plan detailing critical success factors and key milestones.

**The Community Sponsorship scheme**

Community Sponsorship was established in response to the desire of civil society to support refugees and is an example of effective government and civil society collaboration. The scheme enables community groups to come together to provide housing and integration support to refugee families resettled in the UK. Since the scheme began, more than 500 refugees have been resettled by over 100 community sponsor groups delivering positive outcomes for refugees and the wider community. Before receiving a refugee family, community groups must first apply to the Home Office for approval to operate as a community sponsor, demonstrating their ability to support and safeguard a vulnerable refugee family. Community groups must attend training and the local authority must also consent to a group applying to become a sponsor.

The Home Office currently operates a number of resettlement schemes. These include;

* The UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS);
* Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS);
* Community Sponsorship Scheme; and,
* Mandate Resettlement Scheme.

Our resettlement schemes play a key role in the global response to humanitarian crises:  saving lives and offering stability to refugees most in need of protection. Local authorities, community sponsorship groups and civil society organisations all play a vital role in helping those arriving here to feel welcome and to adjust to a new life in the UK.

Refugees resettled through the Community Sponsorship Scheme complement those resettled to local authorities through the UKRS, underlining the critical role that communities can play in the global response to humanitarian crises. Through the New Plan for Immigration the Government has underlined it commitment to the growth of Community Sponsorship. The Home Office will work closely alongside the successful Bidder to increase the number of refugees resettled through the scheme and to explore ways to encourage stronger partnerships between local government and sponsor groups.

Community Sponsorship enables community groups to become directly involved in supporting the resettlement of refugees in need of protection in the UK. The scheme allows considerable scope for innovation and there is a growing body of evidence to demonstrate that community sponsorship leads to positive outcomes for refugees, the groups and wider communities that support them. The model of having a ready-made community welcoming a resettled family can ease the integration of resettled families, allowing them to become more self-sufficient through, for example, learning English, or gaining employment experience. There has also been consistent feedback from stakeholders that the impact of sponsorship is reciprocal, with volunteers reporting that they find the experience hugely rewarding.

The UK is recognised as an international leader in community sponsorship and is at the forefront of supporting other states to develop their schemes. We have already provided support to Ireland, Germany and Portugal and are regularly asked to provide advice and support more widely. We are working closely alongside our Canadian colleagues, the GRSI (Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative), and together we co-chair the Global States Network bringing together representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Brazil, Ireland, Canada, Portugal and Spain to share best practice, consider new approaches and support emerging schemes.

Examples of possible delivery outputs have been provided in the Annex A. Bidders may include some or all of the below suggestions for delivery. Bidders are also encouraged to be innovative and offer additional proposals based on their experience and expertise, taking into account that the delivery of some of these outcomes may be interconnected.

**ANNEX A**

 **LOT 1 OUTCOME EXAMPLE DELIVERY OUTPUTS**

1. Support community groups to prepare and deliver high-quality resettlement and integration support for refugees throughout their Community Sponsorship journey.
2. providing practical support and guidance to community groups interested in the Community Sponsorship scheme, through application form clinics, pre-application guidance, signposting to existing resources and networks;
3. disseminating good practice through a range of mediums that are accessible to the diverse range of community groups;
4. linking community groups with mentor sponsors;
5. providing quality assurance of applications;
6. supporting engagement with local authorities and Strategic Migration Partnerships;
7. providing post-arrival support through visits;
8. providing ongoing support for prospective and approved community sponsors through email and telephone support;
9. ensuring that all support offered leads to improved integration outcomes for resettled refugees.
10. Provide training which addresses the needs of groups and relevant stakeholders, including for local authorities.
11. producing and sharing guidance, e-learning, videos, webinars, thematic information sheets, case studies, newsletters, etc; maintaining and developing a range of online resources that are tailored to intended audience and open to all;
12. designing and delivering training/information-sharing workshops/events for community sponsors preparing to apply (pre-approval), before the refugee family arrive (post-approval, pre-arrival), and after the family arrive (post-arrival);
13. developing resources which support refugee families from the time of arrival towards successful integration and self-sufficiency
14. Develop and implement a clear strategy to increase the numbers and diversity of Community Sponsorship groups and catalyse the growth of the scheme.
15. developing networks to support the establishment, management and growth of more diverse Community Sponsorship groups;
16. developing a communications strategy to raise awareness through promotional initiatives such as public events, publications, advertising and media activity;
17. working with national, regional and local organisations including local authorities to secure support for community sponsorship
18. consideration to be given to celebrity / high-profile endorsements
19. strengthening and encouraging sector-wide volunteer recruitment strategies;
20. identifying community initiatives aimed at scaling up the numbers of groups
21. growing and supporting lead sponsors
22. working with stakeholders to support the development of pathways offering educational or employment opportunities to sponsored refugees
23. Support the evaluation of the Community Sponsorship scheme to inform a better understanding of what works and why.
24. supplementing existing Government-led evaluation by gathering and sharing evidence of the impacts of Community Sponsorship on refugees and local communities;
25. conducting research projects on specific aspects of Community Sponsorship, such as how community networks support refugees’ outcomes (e.g. employment), and the impact that Community Sponsorship has on local communities;
26. gathering and disseminating evidence and data on integration outcomes which lead to self-sufficiency
27. incorporating the experiences of refugees and refugee community organisations into the design, development and delivery of the scheme;
28. seeking customer feedback and acting on it;
29. identifying and disseminating best practice and using this knowledge to improve training and mobilisation.
30. Connect people and organisations and cultivate opportunities for partnering with others nationally and internationally to increase awareness, participation and growth of community sponsorship schemes.
31. mapping resources and services relevant to supporting refugees by area, and making this information available to prospective sponsors;
32. connecting local community groups with each other and with relevant organisations (e.g. housing providers, English language providers, businesses, etc), to form partnerships that can offer Community Sponsorship;
33. eliciting new offers of support for refugees by engaging a diverse range of organisations, from businesses to sports clubs and beyond;
34. raising the profile of Community Sponsorship internationally and supporting the work of our international partners through knowledge sharing and structured engagement;
35. bringing together groups & lead sponsors into networks;
36. strengthening partnership working between local authorities and civil society.