

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

How many Ukrainians are expected to be helped under the sponsorship scheme route?

There will be no limit or cap on the sponsorship route. The UK will welcome as many Ukrainians, with their immediate family members, as wish to come and for whom there are sponsors. This is a huge humanitarian crisis, and the government are urging the British public to come forward and help where they can.

When will sponsors and Ukrainians be able to apply for the sponsorship scheme?

Phase One of the scheme will open on Friday 18 March for visa applications from Ukrainians who have named people willing to sponsor them. (The scheme is open to Ukrainians and to their immediate family members).

People wanting to be sponsors who do not know anyone personally fleeing Ukraine can register their interest in being a sponsor from 14th March.

How is the scheme going to be delivered?

For the UK to make this scheme a success we need a national effort – with devolved governments, charities, faith groups, businesses, councils and communities all working together to provide much needed support to those arriving in the weeks and months ahead.

The government are asking people in the UK to offer accommodation for at least 6 months.

Alongside the generous offer of accommodation sponsors will be making, the government are providing a substantial level of funding to local authorities to enable them to provide much wider support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into our communities.

Under this scheme people will have access to public services, work and benefits.

2. For sponsors

Anyone registering online on via the government website will be kept updated. The guidance will include information on the checks that will be undertaken on both sponsors and people seeking to come to the UK, information around the status of the arrangement people will be entering into (including expected accommodation standards), and the role of local councils in providing wider support. The government will also provide a full support pack for sponsors, with signposting to relevant services and where they can get help.

Can I offer my room out?

Anyone in the UK (of any nationality and any immigration status providing they have at least six months leave to remain in the UK) with a spare room, or separate self-contained accommodation that is unoccupied can come forward to help. Accommodation must be available **for at least 6 months**, be fit for people to live in, and suitable for the number of people to be accommodated.

Named individuals can offer residential rooms or unoccupied self-contained residential units to a specific person or people. In the future the government will work to help organisations to also sponsor individuals, but we are starting the first phase of the scheme with named individual contacts.

Will I need to inform Eastlight?

If you are wishing to help in the Homes for Ukraine scheme you are allowed but must not sub let the whole of your home. You must continue to live in and be the only person responsible for the conditions of the Tenancy Agreement.

You must contact Eastlight once you have been confirmed by the government to be a sponsor and have the details of the individuals moving into your home so we can update our records. You can contact us by one of the following means;

Telephone - 0330 128 0330

Email – Customer.services@eastlighthomes.co.uk

In person - Eastlight House, Charter Way, Braintree, CM77 8FG.

You must not exceed the government's 12-month time period unless government instruction changes.

Will I be able to state any preferences?

In Phase One of the scheme, it will be for you as a sponsor to match with a particular named person or a named family. You should consider what sort of support you are best able to provide and who you are most comfortable to support. Everyone who applies to this scheme will be subject to a range of checks, including those in the sponsoring household and those coming to the UK.

Will I be paid rent?

No. You should not charge any rent. The government appreciate people's generosity and do know that there will be costs associated with helping out, and so are offering an optional 'thank you' payment of £350 per month to people who can accommodate one or more household (subject to the accommodation they have).

The thank you payment is limited to one payment per residential address. You will continue to receive payments for as long as you sponsor somebody for up to 12 months. This payment will be made in arrears.

Eligibility checks will be carried out which may include a visit to your home (not by Eastlight).

Will the person I am supporting be eligible for benefits and/or to work?

All those from Ukraine coming to the country under the scheme will be able to apply for benefits and to seek and take up employment.

Am I expected to provide meals too or just accommodation?

Just accommodation. However, there is nothing stopping sponsors offering meals should they wish to.

You will not be expected to cover the costs of food and living expenses (although you may wish to offer this philanthropically).

Will I be expected to provide any other support?

There are other organisations who will be able to offer support on things like access to benefits, registering with a GP, school placements etc. The government will provide guidance with links to such organisations so you can help to sign post. They will also be asking local councils to provide wrap-around support for your guests and are providing new funding for the councils to do so.

What checks need to be done?

Those arriving will have met standard security checks. Sponsors will also be subject to checks.

Those in the sponsoring households will also be subject to security checks and may be subject to safeguarding checks too. Checks may be carried out on a rolling basis.

Your council will want to check that the accommodation you are offering is appropriate in the circumstances.

I'm interested, where do I register?

There is a short form on the government website here [Register to Support Homes for Ukraine - Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities - Citizen Space](#). You will be kept updated after recording your interest.

If you already have a named contact whom you wish to sponsor you should get in touch with them directly and prepare to fill in a visa application with all of their details and yours. The visa application route will go live on Friday 18 March.

What security checks will I have to do?

Security checks for both you and your sponsor will be undertaken as part of the visa application process. Biometric checks will be made after you arrive in the UK to avoid delays.