



FAQ for Potential Financial Sponsors

Please note, this information should not be construed as legal advice and does not create an attorney/client relationship. If you have further questions or want to learn more about the obligations of sponsors, please contact outside counsel.

What is Humanitarian Parole?

Humanitarian parole is a specific type of request for permission to enter the United States. Someone may seek humanitarian parole if they have a compelling emergency and there is an urgent humanitarian reason or significant public benefit to allowing the person to temporarily enter the United States.

Why are financial sponsors needed?

The U.S. government does not wish to be responsible for financially providing for people who enter the country on humanitarian parole. Therefore, each person seeking humanitarian parole needs to demonstrate that, in a worst case scenario, they have someone who has agreed to financially support them.

Who can be a financial sponsor?

Anyone can be a financial sponsor so long as it can demonstrate they would be able to support the person seeking humanitarian parole. VECINA is limiting financial sponsors to U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents (green card holders) or U.S.-based organizations.

Can an organization serve as a financial sponsor?

Yes! An employee from the organization would need to sign the form and a letter on behalf of the organization.



How much money will I ultimately spend?

It is very unlikely that you would ultimately spend any money out-of-pocket. We would love for you to pay the filing fees (\$575 per person) for the individuals you are sponsoring, but it is not required. There are many organizations stepping up to provide food, housing, and other basic needs as people arrive, so it is unlikely these obligations would fall to you. Anecdotally and historically, experts have not seen the U.S. government seek reimbursement from financial sponsors.

What financial information do I have to share?

The following is a list of financial documents that are helpful to submit with the application. Not all are required, but submitting as many as possible is usually best:

- Most recent tax return or tax return transcript
- Most recent W-2 or 1099
- 3 recent pay stubs or letter from current employer confirming position and salary
- 3 months recent bank statement showing available funds.

For organizations:

- Most recent tax return or 990
- 3 months recent bank statements showing available funds.

What other documents do you need from me?

All financial sponsors will need to sign a Form I-134. You will also need to provide proof of your U.S. citizenship or permanent residency, which could be one of the following:

- Birth certificate
- Passport
- Naturalization certificate
- Front and back of green card

If you are serving as the applicant/requestor/petitioner as well as the financial sponsor, additional documentation is required (see below).



What is the applicant/requestor/petitioner and how does it differ from being a financial sponsor?

The applicant, requestor, or petitioner is the person who is filing the humanitarian parole application. This can be the person who is seeking entry into the United States or someone requesting permission to enter on their behalf.

What additional documents or items are required to be an applicant/requestor/petitioner?

If you'd like to request humanitarian parole on behalf of someone else, this usually requires a letter from you explaining why you are requesting entry, as well as a signed form I-131. If you are working with VECINA, our volunteers can assist you in preparing these documents.

If you serve as an applicant, you will receive correspondence from the government, including possibly receipt notices, approval notices, requests for evidence, and/or notices to pick up travel documents.

Can an individual or organization serve as both the financial sponsor and the requestor?

Yes

Can the financial sponsor and the requestor be different people/organizations?

Also yes

If I sponsor a humanitarian parole applicant, will that guarantee they can come to the United States?

Unfortunately, no. With the ever-changing environment in Afghanistan, VECINA believes this is currently the best way to focus our efforts, but an application for humanitarian parole does not guarantee that it will be granted. Additionally, a granted humanitarian parole application does not guarantee that an individual will be able to leave Afghanistan.



How do I sign up to financially sponsor a humanitarian parole applicant?

You can sign up to be a financial sponsor on VECINA's website.