

Thinking About Hosting Ukrainians – Q & A

1. Do hosts receive a stipend from the government for hosting a family?

No. The Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) offers Ukrainians a 3-year open work visa. More expedient than the refugee immigration process, the CUAET visa requires that Ukrainians find their own way here, housing, and employment. Hosts do not receive any financial support from the government. Guests can apply for emergency support of \$500/ week for six weeks.

2. How long should a hosting agreement last?

Situations vary. Some applicants have a good command of the English language and will not need more than a couple of months to get established. Others, may have more challenges to overcome and require a long-term commitment. We recommend discussing this with your potential guests up front, establishing boundaries. Some people offer 3 months, with the possibility of extending if everything goes well.

3. Can I stipulate who, and how many people I want to host?

Absolutely! Be honest about what will work with your personal situation.

4. What extra expenses might a host incur?

When planning to host, it is important to take into account that as these are guests in our homes, we will be taking on the added cost of groceries, and extra utility usage. There will also be the cost of medical examinations required for each family member within 90 days of their arrival. Costs range from \$140 to \$275 depending on age.

5. If I offer to host, will I have the opportunity to communicate with my guests before they arrive?

Yes. Once an offer has been accepted, you and your guests will be introduced through a group chat. From there, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and build a rapport, and even video chat.

6. What supports are in place for hosts?

As a community, we will support one another along the way, sharing information, and employing other volunteer services: drivers, ESL courses, family helpers, and so on. If you have a need, just ask.

7. What happens if the situation doesn't work out?

If there is a problem for either the host or the guest, we are here to help address it. As part of a larger community, there are opportunities to move a guest to a more suitable situation.

8. What if I decide to host, but don't have the necessary furnishings to support the guests I am receiving?

Just post a shoutout to our community about what you need, or try your local Everything Free Facebook page.

9. If I decide not to host, but still want to get involved, is there a role for me?

There are so many ways to get involved, including (but not limited to):

- taking a family on an outing
- offering to prepare dinner for a host
- driving to appointments or work (especially in rural areas)
- fundraising for gift cards to help support hosts and guests (food, clothing, entertainment)
- helping to move furniture, or set up accommodations
- minor repairs for host families
- offering to share a coffee and chat with a newcomer just learning the language

Still have questions? Don't be afraid to ask. That's what we're here for.

Information about the CUAET visa here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2022/03/canada-ukraine-authorization-for-emergency-travel.html>