



United for Ukraine FAQs

United for Ukraine:

- While we do not track the number of Ukrainians who have arrived in the province, the Government of British Columbia says more than 11,000 Ukrainians have settled in BC since the start of 2022.
- United Way British Columbia - working with communities in BC's Interior, Lower Mainland, Central & Northern Vancouver, helped 531 British Columbians apply to become hosts to around 400 displaced Ukrainians in 2022 through its initiative United for Ukraine.
- Since United for Ukraine launched, the 211 British Columbia helpline has assisted over 675 callers inquiring about supports and service for displaced Ukrainians. As well, the website had over 24,500 unique pageviews.

How many more Ukrainians are we expecting to arrive?

- Almost 950,000 Ukrainians have applied under the Canadian-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) with over 615,000 approved. To date, 134,221 have already arrived in Canada. [Source](#)
- The CUAET application period has been extended until July 15, 2023 with arrival period until March 31, 2024.
- More than 11,000 Ukrainians have arrived in British Columbia since the escalation of the war in Ukraine.

What happens when Ukrainians first arrive?

- Ukrainians arriving at international airports are welcomed by volunteers who provide information, resources, and direction.
- Depending on previous arrangements or situation, Ukrainians:
 - may have accommodations through a non-profit organization, Church, or family member and will proceed to that location.
 - don't have accommodations arranged and are taken to a hotel that is set up for arrivals.
- As many Ukrainians come to BC with next to nothing, hygiene kits are essential to helping them when they first arrive. Activity kits are also welcomed for children.
- Hotels are immediate and temporary accommodations. Ukrainians will soon need to find other lodgings after their arrival.
- During their time at the hotel, many volunteers may be involved in providing food services, translation, assistance with paperwork, and starting the settlement process.

What is the most need for Ukrainians?

- The need for safe and secure housing is the most important one for Ukrainians. This includes both short-term and long-term accommodations.

How do we help Ukrainians with housing when housing is a critical need in BC?

- The housing crisis is a complex issue involving all levels of government. The crisis is one that will not be solved overnight and requires a concerted effort by communities, community leaders, and governments to begin addressing.
- United Way BC is a non-profit organization that works to better communities through vital connections. It is not a housing provider or organization that has a role in addressing the housing crisis.
- United for Ukraine is a response to an immediate need for Ukrainians fleeing a war in their home. Its role is to welcome Ukrainians and create connections that allow them to settle into their new communities, including a vetting process to provide safe and secure housing.

Why Ukrainians and not other refugees?

- Ukrainians coming into Canada under CUAET are not classified as refugees and, therefore, do not have the same supports, benefits, or rights as refugees.
- Though their situations are very similar, displaced Ukrainians and refugees arrive in Canada under different programs that provide different levels of support. Refugees can access services and supports that are currently unavailable to displaced Ukrainians.
- United Way BC was invited by the provincial government to support the integration of displaced Ukrainians into local communities. In coordination with other non-profits, agencies, and partners, United Way BC provides a compassionate response for arriving Ukrainians as they become new neighbours.

How does someone become a host?

- Becoming a host through United Way BC's Housing Vetting Process involves two-steps:
 - Completing and submitting a Criminal Record Check
 - Completing and submitting the [Housing Intake Form](#).
- The process can take from four to ten days. If additional steps, like fingerprinting for the Criminal Record Check is needed, it may take up to four weeks or longer.
- United Way BC does not participate in the matching process; it only provides a screening process for agencies to use when matching hosts and arriving Ukrainians.
- The settlement agency will contact the potential host after their submission has been processed.

What is expected from a host?

- Hosting a family fleeing the war in Ukraine is a decision not to be taken lightly. The first few weeks will be difficult for Ukrainians, and many may be in shock. Time is required to begin adapting to a new reality, and hosts will need to be cognizant of this need.
- Hosts are not obliged to provide food and other necessities; however, they should have basic food in the fridge and hygiene products available.
- Agreements and expectations may vary depending on the matching/settlement agency. Many include the following requirements or understandings:
 - Signed agreement between hosts and Ukrainians
 - Established and agreed upon House Rules
 - Confidentiality Forms
 - Home inspections
- Settlement agencies will also manage individual cases after finding accommodations.
- Any concerns of conflicts between a host and Ukrainian will be mediated by the settlement/matching agency.

How long is someone expected to be a host?

- The length of time for hosting is up to the host and the agreement made with displaced Ukrainians and the settlement agency.
- Whether on a longer term or short term, any assistance in housing a displaced Ukrainian is helpful.
- Longer term accommodation is preferable. It can take anywhere from three weeks to three months for someone to adapt after a traumatic experience. Providing accommodations from six months to a year helps displaced Ukrainians to acclimatize to their surroundings and start organizing their paperwork and settle into their new community.

What supports are there for hosts?

- United Way BC offers Information Sessions to answer questions potential hosts may have about hosting, expectations, and the process. Upcoming sessions are:
 - April 14, 2023 6:30 p.m. [Register Here.](#)
 - May 12, 2023 6:30 p.m. [Register Here.](#)
- In addition to information sessions, United Way BC also offers virtual trauma training for hosts. These webinars outline the stages of regulating and resolving the impact of trauma and provides protective steps for enhancing helper well-being. Participants will learn key principles and strategies for working with refugees, displaced individuals and trauma, and be better equipped to help them recover, adapt, and flourish in the next phase of their lives.

Where can people go for more information or resources?

- After arriving in BC, Ukrainians are encouraged to call 211 and speak with a Resource Navigator who will provide information on community and government supports

available to help them adjust to living in British Columbia. [211](#) is available 24/7/365 and language interpretation is available.

- Anyone interested in donating or volunteering may wish to visit [iVolunteer](#) to learn about opportunities supporting Ukrainians seeking safety and belonging.
- For general information about United for Ukraine, visit www.uwbc.ca/ukraine.
- For information about settling in the province, please visit the [Government of British Columbia's website](#).