

Overview of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program



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RSTP

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Audio

Telephone

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Agenda

PART 1

What is the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program?

PART 2

Who can sponsor refugees?

PART 3

How do I sponsor a “specific” refugee?

PART 4

How do I sponsor a refugee that I have not yet “identified”?

PART 5

What are my settlement responsibilities?

Canadian Refugee Resettlement

Canadian Resettlement Program:	Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR)	Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR)	Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)	Government Assisted Refugees (GAR)
Funded by:	Private sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 months income support from government ➤ 6 months income support from sponsors 	Government	Government
Settlement Support by:	Private sponsors	Private sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Initial settlement support by Government-funded organizations, then by Private Sponsors 	Government-funded organizations
Referred to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) by:	Private sponsors	UNHCR	UNHCR	UNHCR
Are the refugees known to the sponsor?	Yes	No	No	No

What is the Private Sponsorship of Refugees?

The resettlement of a refugee to Canada, in which financial costs and settlement support are provided by private groups or organizations.

- Sponsoring groups must provide **financial support for 12 months** or until the refugee becomes self-sufficient (whichever comes first).
 - Exception: To sponsor refugees through the BVOR program, sponsoring groups must provide financial support for 6 months.
- Sponsoring groups must provide **settlement support for 12 months**



Who can sponsor refugees?

Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH)



&

Constituent Group (CG)

Co-sponsor

An incorporated organization that has signed an Agreement to sponsor refugees with the Government of Canada

A group that has been authorized by a SAH to sponsor refugees under its Agreement

A person or group that has been authorized by a SAH to sponsor refugees under its Agreement



Group of Five

Five Canadian citizens or permanent residents

Community Sponsor

Any organization, association or corporation

What are the differences between these groups?

Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) (and their Constituent Groups & Co-sponsors)

Already have an agreement to sponsor

Can sponsor Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) & Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) cases

Limitations on number of refugees that can be sponsored (except for Syrians and Iraqis)

Refugee applicants **do not** need to already have refugee status & proof of this status

Groups of Five & Community Sponsors

Assessed as sponsors with each application

Cannot sponsor BVOR & JAS refugees

Will be able to sponsor Syrian BVOR cases; more details will be available in the coming weeks

Number of refugees that can be sponsored depends on group's capacity

★ Refugee applicants **must** already have refugee status & have proof of this status ★

Temporary Exemption: Syrians and Iraqis do not need refugee status or proof of status

Which group should you choose?

Do you have a specific refugee or refugee family that you would like to sponsor?

Yes

Do they have a refugee status recognition document?

Yes

You can sponsor through a:

- ✓ Group of Five Sponsor
- ✓ Community Sponsor
- ✓ SAH

No

You can only sponsor through a:

- ✓ SAH
- * Temporary exemption for Syrians and Iraqis

No

Try to find a SAH. Ask them if you can work with them to either:

Connect you with:

- A) the family member of a refugee here in Canada who needs sponsorship assistance
- B) a refugee that has contacted them.

Sponsor a **BVOR or JAS** case

Sponsoring a “specific” refugee

Canadian Refugee Resettlement

Canadian Resettlement Program:	Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR)	Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR)
Funded by:	Private sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 months income support from government ➤ 6 months income support from sponsors
Settlement Support by:	Private sponsors	Private sponsors
Referred to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) by:	Private sponsors	UNHCR
Are the refugees known to the sponsor?	Yes	No

How do you sponsor a refugee you already know?

Does the Principal Applicant have:

- ✓ “Refugee Status”
- ✓ Proof of this refugee status (a refugee status recognition document) that was issued to them by either the UNHCR or a government?

Yes

You can sponsor through a:

**GROUP OF FIVE,
COMMUNITY
SPONSOR
or
SAH**

No

Try to find a SAH.

Ask them if you can sponsor the refugees under their Agreement with CIC

*** As of Sept. 19, Syrian and Iraqi asylum seekers without refugee status can be sponsored by any sponsoring group**

How does someone get “refugee status”?

1. Usually, through an **interview** in the country that they are living in now to determine whether they meet the refugee definition. This process is conducted by either:

- a) **The Government of the country**
- b) **The UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency)**
- c) **No one**

2. Sometimes, refugee status is determined on a “*prima facie*” basis (a group declaration)

- Since 2012, to be sponsored by a Group of Five or Community Sponsor, the Principal Applicant **MUST** have a **REFUGEE STATUS RECOGNITION DOCUMENT** unless they are Syrian or Iraqi, as there is currently a temporary exemption of this regulation for Syrians and Iraqis.
- Groups of Five or Community Sponsor applications without a copy of this document are not accepted by CIC (unless they are for Syrian or Iraqi refugees)

What is a “refugee status recognition” document?

- A document that indicates that a person has been **determined to be a refugee** by the UNHCR or by a foreign government.
- Proof of “refugee status”
- Refugee status recognition documents should not be confused with “UNHCR registration documents”

Without proof of “refugee status,” asylum seekers can only be sponsored by SAHs, with the temporary exception for Syrians and Iraqis

Who can sponsor without a refugee status recognition document?

Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH)



&

Constituent Group (CG)

Co-sponsor



Principal refugee applicant does **NOT** require a refugee status recognition document



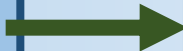
Group of Five



Principal refugee applicant requires a **refugee status recognition document**
(Temporary Exception: Syrian and Iraqi refugee applicants)



Community Sponsor



Who is eligible to be sponsored?

Someone who:

- ✓ Has a sponsoring group in Canada
- ✓ Is outside of their home country
- ✓ Is not in Canada
- ✓ Is unable or unwilling to return to their country
- ✓ Cannot locally integrate where they are currently living (cannot stay there, do not have rights similar to the rights of citizens, etc.)
- ✓ Fits the definition of:

Convention Refugee Abroad Class:

OR

Country of Asylum Class:



Well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion

Seriously and personally affected by civil war or armed conflict, or suffered massive violations of human rights

Who is “admissible”?

Before being accepted to come to Canada, the following checks will be conducted:

- ✓ Medical check
- ✓ Security check
- ✓ Criminality check



What are the financial costs of sponsorship?

Sponsors must financially support the refugee for one year, or until they become self-supporting, whichever comes first.



Sponsorship Cost Table

Family Size	12 Months of Income Support	Start-up Costs	Estimated Total Annual Settlement Cost (\$)
1	9,800	2,800	12,600
2	16,800	4,400	21,200
3	17,700	5,300	23,000
4	20,000	7,000	27,000
5	22,500	7,200	29,700
6	24,500	8,000	32,500
Additional member	1,550	1,000	2,500

In-Kind Deduction Table

Family Size	Shelter	Clothing	Furniture	Start-up Costs (Household Needs)	School Start-up Costs	Food Staples
1	6,000	500	1,500	325		175
2	7,100	1,000	2,000	350		250
3	7,800	1,375	2,500	375		325
4	8,400	1,750	3,000	400		400
5	9,600	2,125	3,500	425		475
6	9,600	2,500	4,000	450		550
For additional member, add	900	375	500	25	150/per child between ages 4-21	75

The Sponsorship Process

Sponsors

- Sponsors collect info & gather documents
- Sponsors complete forms & assist refugee applicants to complete forms
- Mail complete application package to *Centralized Processing Office in Winnipeg (CPO-W)*

CPO-W

- Screen application
- Create file
- Approval
- File will be sent to Visa Office (VO)

VO

- Review application
- Interview
- Initiate medical, security, criminality checks
- Approval
- Arrange for travel (IOM)

Application Forms

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/processing/the-refugee-sponsorship-application-forms/>

The Refugee Sponsorship Application Forms

Share 3 Print

All of the following forms must be completed, signed and dated and submitted together to the [Centralized Processing Office in Winnipeg](#) along with all required supporting documents.

The [Application for Refugee Sponsorship](#) contains all the required forms including those that must be completed and signed by the Refugee Applicant.

To be filled by the sponsoring group:

[Instruction Guide](#)

For Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) and their Constituent Groups (CGs)

1. Document Checklist (IMM 5437)
2. Undertaking/Application to Sponsor (IMM5373)
3. Sponsor Assessment (IMM5492)
4. Settlement Plan (IMM5540)
5. **Optional:** Use of a Representative (IMM 5476)

For Groups of Five

1. Document Checklist (IMM 5437)
2. Undertaking/Application to Sponsor
3. Sponsor Assessment (IMM5492)
4. Settlement Plan (IMM5573A)
5. Financial Profile (IMM 5373B) *
6. **Optional:** Use of a Representative (IMM 5476)

For Community Sponsors

1. Document Checklist (IMM 5437)
2. Undertaking/Application to Sponsor

To be completed by the refugee applicant:

[Instruction Guide](#)

- Document Checklist (Appendix A)
- Application for Convention Refugees Abroad and Humanitarian Protected Persons Abroad (IMM 6000):
 - Generic Application Form for Canada (IMM 0008)
 - Additional Dependents/Declaration (IMM 0008DEP)
 - Schedule A – Background/Declaration (IMM 5669)
 - Schedule 2 Refugees Outside Canada (IMM 0008 SCHEDULE 2)
- **Optional:** Use of a Representative (IMM 5476)

Instruction Guides!

Average Processing Times - Overseas

Last quarterly update: July 10, 2015

Average processing times can
be found here:

[www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/
times/perm/ref-private.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/times/perm/ref-private.asp)

Syrian refugee applications are being expedited

Africa and Middle East	
Visa Office	Processing Times IN MONTHS (based on a complete application package)
Abu Dhabi – United Arab Emirates	51
Accra – Ghana	51
Amman – Jordan	19
Ankara – Turkey	45
Beirut – Lebanon	11
Cairo – Egypt	52
Dakar – Senegal	–
Nairobi – Kenya	59
Pretoria – South Africa	61
Rabat – Morocco	–
Tel Aviv – Israel	36

Sponsoring a refugee that you have not yet “identified”

Try to find a SAH.
Ask them if you can work with them to either:

Connect you with:

- A) the family member of a refugee here in Canada who needs sponsorship assistance
- B) a refugee that has contacted them.

Sponsor a
BVOR or **JAS**
case

What is the Blended VOR Program?

- Designed to **resettle** refugees identified by UNHCR and submitted to Canadian visa offices



- Refugees undergo eligibility and admissibility process → many are **travel-ready**
- Must be matched with a sponsor before they can travel to Canada

FAQ on Referrals

Q: Can refugees be referred to UNHCR or the Canadian visa offices for resettlement under this Program?

A: No

Refugees are referred by the UN Refugee Agency directly to Canadian visa offices abroad

How else is BVOR different?

- ❖ Above & beyond SAH allocations
- ❖ Blended cost model
- ❖ Full healthcare coverage (IFH)
- ❖ Faster travel times (1-4 months)



Projected Numbers

- Implementation: over a **3-year** period
- Final target: **1,000** sponsored refugees per year

Year	2013	2014	2015
# of persons	200-300	400-500	800-1000

Who can you sponsor?

In 2015 the aim is to resettle 800-1000 refugees from various populations, including:

- **Syrian, Iraqi and Iranian**
- **Eritrean, Ethiopian**
- **Congolese, Burundian**
- **Sudanese, Somali, Ugandan**
- **Burmese, Bhutanese**
- **Colombian**



Sponsorship Process

Profile requested
from refugee sponsorship
representative



**Profile placed
on hold**

**~ 1 week to
decide**

Sponsorship Process

Case chosen
Matching Centre has been alerted

Sponsors will receive the details needed to complete the following forms:

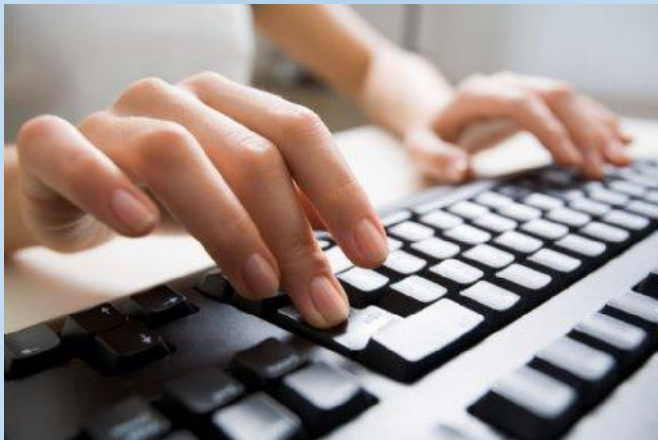
- ✓ Document Checklist
- ✓ Undertaking/Application to Sponsor
- ✓ Sponsor Assessment (if applicable)
- ✓ Settlement Plan (if applicable)



➤ *These forms must then be sent to CPO-W*

What happens next?

- Sponsors receive the NAT with detailed information about refugees' arrival dates
- Local CIC contacts sponsors after the refugees' arrival for RAP & IFH registration



Sponsors are encouraged to send the refugees a welcome letter & request their contact info!

Why is it “blended”?

“Blended” refers to it being a cost-sharing arrangement between CIC and private sponsors

CIC

Income Support:
Resettlement
Assistance
Program (**RAP**)

- Months 2-7 of
sponsorship



Sponsors

Remaining costs
throughout the
period

+ Start-up

What does RAP cover?

- ✓ Food and incidentals
- ✓ Basic shelter
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Maternity dietary allowance (if applicable)



→ *The Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) is based on provincial social assistance rates.*

CIC Financial Guidelines

Sponsorship Cost Table

Family Size	12 Months of Income Support*	Start-up Costs	Estimated Total Annual Settlement Cost (\$)
1	9,800	2,800	12,600
2	16,800	4,400	21,200
3	17,700	5,300	23,000
4	20,000	7,000	27,000
5	22,500	7,200	29,700
6	24,500	8,000	32,500

* For BVOR, half of this amount.

Settlement Responsibilities

For the duration of the sponsorship period:

- *Reception*



- *Housing & basic necessities*
(covered in the first 6 months by RAP support)

- *Settlement assistance*

- *Emotional & moral support*



Profiles Available

There are hundreds of refugees
waiting to be sponsored:

- Eritrean
- Ethiopian
- Iraqi
- Burundian
- Sudanese
- Burmese
- Congolese
- Somali
- Ugandan
- Bhutanese
- Young single men & women
- Women at risk
- Families of 2-4
- Families of 6+
- X-referenced

Contact me for more details!

THANK YOU!

Felisa Ponce

Refugee Resettlement Project Worker

1-877-290-1701, ext. 403

fponce@rstp.ca

***Lend a helping hand and
sponsor refugees through the
Blended VOR Program!***



How can I work with a SAH?

Ask them to authorize you as a Constituent Group (CG) or Co-sponsor

Step 1:

Figure out who you want to sponsor, how much money is/will be available, and how many people will be involved in the sponsorship.

Step 2:

Find a SAH and ask them if they are able to authorize you as a Constituent Group (CG) or Co-sponsor.

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/list-sponsors.asp>

Step 3:

Gather information about what the SAH requires from you to be a CG or Co-sponsor (SAHs have different structures and requirements)

Step 4:

When you find a SAH that you want to work with that authorizes you as a CG or Co-sponsor, start the application forms.

What are sponsors' settlement responsibilities?

Provide settlement support for the duration of the sponsorship period, such as...

Welcoming them at the airport

Orienting them to life in Canada

Arranging temporary accommodation

Helping them to find permanent accommodation

Apply for IFH

Apply for health card

Enroll children in school

Apply for Child Tax Benefit

Enroll in English classes

Find doctor, dentist, other health services

Apply for a Social Insurance Number

Find a job

Connect with a settlement agency

Provide emotional and moral support

Open a bank account

Question & Answer Period



**Refugee Sponsorship Training
Program (RSTP)**

www.rstp.ca

info@rstp.ca

1-877-290-1701