



▶ COMMUNITY SPONSORS

▶ FORMING YOUR GROUP

SECTION 2

Community Sponsors

Community Sponsors

A [Community Sponsor](#) is an organization, association or corporation that sponsors refugees under the [Private Sponsorship of Refugees](#) program. Unlike Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs), community groups that would like to submit a Sponsorship Undertaking as a Community Sponsor are not required to be incorporated under federal or provincial law.

Community Sponsors must:

- ▶ have the financial capacity to fulfill the sponsorship;
- ▶ provide evidence of ability to provide necessary emotional/social supports to refugees and their families; and
- ▶ be based in the community where the refugee is expected to live.

Once approved, Community Sponsors do not have a limit on the number of sponsorship applications that they can submit per year, as long as they can demonstrate financial and settlement capacity. Each time they wish to sponsor, Community Sponsors need to undergo a financial and settlement plan assessment by [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada \(IRCC\)](#).

Community Sponsors can only sponsor persons who have been recognized as refugees by either the UNHCR or state authorities in the country of asylum, and have proof of refugee status documentation.

[Please note that a temporary policy announced by IRCC on December 19, 2016, which allowed Community Sponsors to sponsor some Syrian and Iraqi applicants without formal refugee recognition, ended January 25, 2017.](#)

Forming your Group

Consider who you need to have as a member of your group. For example,

- ▶ How much **money** can your organization contribute? How much will need to be contributed by others?
- ▶ Is there a family member here in Canada who can also contribute to the sponsorship?

- ▶ Do you know others in your community who have been involved in **previous sponsorships** or other refugee related work who may be able to help with processing, provide donations or assist with the settlement of the newcomers?

As you consider the requirements of the sponsorship and look for contributions, you will most likely begin to find others who will want to join you in the partnership of sponsoring.

Although the sponsorship will be submitted in the name of a community group, it will be necessary to prove that there is a group of **volunteers** to help with the sponsorship. The community group must provide evidence of financial capacity, but they must also show that there are people who will meet the refugee upon arrival and provide the necessary settlement support.

Community Sponsors may choose to formally partner with an individual such as a relative of sponsored refugees living in Canada, or with another organization, to raise funds and carry out settlement duties. This type of formal partner is called a **co-sponsor**. A community sponsorship can include multiple cosponsors as part of the sponsoring group, but the primary sponsoring organization is referred to as the Community Sponsor.

Keep in mind that even when another organization or an individual is identified as a formal partner in the sponsorship the ultimate liability rests with the Community Sponsor that submits the sponsorship.

The person with authority over or ownership of the organization's finances (for example, the owner, the president or the executive director) must sign the Sponsorship Undertaking to confirm that they approve of the sponsorship.

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

Refugee Sponsorship Training Program
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