

Handbook for Sponsoring Groups

Foreword

This handbook for the Private Sponsors of Refugees is envisaged to act as a hands-on material for groups who are already sponsoring refugees or intend to engage in the Private Sponsorship of Refugees. The handbook provides detailed information on Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program and the sponsorship process and is informed by the existing laws, policies and practices.

The handbook is drafted to be equally helpful for those who have many years of experience in sponsoring refugees and those with limited or no experience. In organizing training to Constituent Groups or Community Sponsors or assisting Groups of Five, Sponsorship Agreement Holders can utilize the content of the material based on the topic of their training. Community Sponsors and members of Group of Five can also benefit from the information provided in the material and improve the quality of the sponsorship application they submit.

The handbook is divided into nine chapters and includes various fact sheets. Some chapters of the handbook offer information generally applicable to all sponsoring groups (SAHs, Community Sponsors and Groups of Five) while some chapters have separate sections devoted to each sponsorship group. The fact sheets attached to each chapter are meant to provide a summary of the associated chapter and an easy-to-print material.

Acknowledgements

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Disclaimer

The information in the handbook is only intended to offer information to sponsors and others on the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program and the refugee sponsorship process. The material does not offer legal advice or counseling; readers are advised to consult the relevant Canadian laws as well as seek legal advice from duly authorized bodies. Readers are advised that Canada's immigration policies and procedures are regularly revisited and that the content of this handbook reflects the policies current at the time of publication.