

RSTP

BULLETIN

February 16, 2017



Image: UNHCR

RESULTS OF ONLINE SURVEY

SAHs often receive more sponsorship requests than they can accommodate within their resources and annual allocations. In this situation, SAHs have to make difficult decisions on how to prioritize sponsorship requests.

RSTP, in collaboration with the SAH Council and the SAH Secretariat, prepared a brief survey of how SAHs prioritize sponsorship requests. 42 SAH representatives completed the survey.

SAHs were asked to rank the top three factors their SAH takes into consideration when selecting who to sponsor.

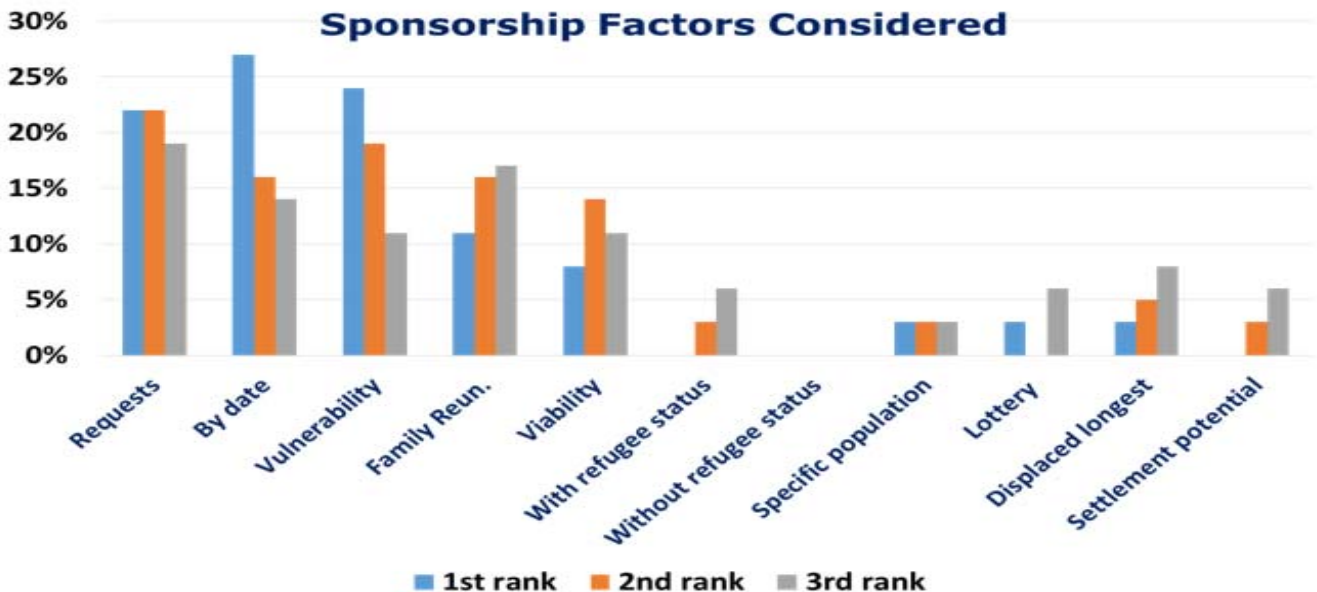
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2017 SAH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

May 29-May 31, 2017
 Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel
 10155 105 St NW, Edmonton, AB T5J 1E2

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming annual SAH Conference which will be held in Edmonton AB this year.

The information on conference registration and speakers will be sent to SAHs soon.



HOW DO SAHS PRIORITIZE SPONSORSHIP REQUESTS

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Given a choice of 11 factors, 82% of SAHs responded that the following five factors were the most important considerations when evaluating potential cases:

1. Requests from constituent groups and co-sponsors
2. The date that their SAH was approached
3. Vulnerability of the applicants
4. Sponsorship cases that promote family reunification
5. Viable sponsorships (sound financial and settlement support)

Of all of the sponsorship factors considered, "date" was most frequently ranked first, followed by prioritizing those most vulnerable. Requests from constituent groups and co-sponsors had the most second ranks, also followed by vulnerability.

Webinar on SAH allocations and choosing who to sponsor

On Feb 14th RSTP facilitated a webinar to discuss the results of the survey, providing an opportunity for SAHs to discuss the different strategies that their SAH uses, and the difficulties in prioritizing which cases to sponsor within the restraint of allocations and limited resources.

SAH Council members Sabine Lehr (SAH Rep for the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria), and Rob Shropshire (SAH Rep for the Presbyterian Church in Canada) presented the strategies that their SAHs use in deciding who to sponsor, and participated in a 30 minute question and answer method. Thank you Sabine and Rob!

Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in the survey and the webinar. We hope that the webinar helped both new and established SAHs with their decision-making process on how to use their allocations, and that the webinar provided you a sense of support from the sponsorship community!

The importance of explaining the role of police in Canada



RSTP has recently attended a presentation delivered by the RCMP Volunteer Engagement and Crime Prevention Programs Director who spoke about the role of police in the community and the initiatives to engage newcomer communities.

The presenter spoke about some of the misconceptions that newcomers might have about law enforcement and their efforts to dispel them. Depending on ethnic and cultural background of newcomers some of the misconceptions might be that police charge money for service, that if the police are called to look for a missing child, they might then take the child away from the family, or if an individual or their family member is in trouble with the law, their papers will be taken away and they will be deported.

The RCMP has created a number of helpful materials for newcomers in various languages to explain how the police works in Canada, to raise awareness about fraud, and to teach the newcomers about their rights when it comes to interaction with the law enforcement.

We would like to encourage sponsorship groups to include information about the role of the police in Canada in the post-arrival orientation meetings with sponsored newcomers, as well as to continue conversation throughout sponsorship period about what to do when interacting with a police officer. For instance, in many countries if a vehicle is stopped by a police officer, it is a responsibility of the driver to get out of the car and approach the officer; whereas in Canada getting out of the car might get the driver in a serious trouble. These materials might be helpful to sponsors and sponsored newcomers to have these conversations:

[RCMP in Canada: A Newcomer's Guide](#)
[Policing in Surrey: A Newcomer's Guide](#)

[Online Guide for Newcomers to Prince Edward Island - Canada](#)
[Internet Safety - Resources](#)

UPCOMING RSTP WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS

WORKSHOPS

Transitioning out of Sponsorship Training Workshop in Winnipeg MB

Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Time: 5:30 pm CST

Venue: 580 Main Street, Winnipeg, MB (United Way)

Description: The topics that will be covered in training workshop include Month 13 planning, Accessing Employment and Income Assistance and Critical next steps for sponsored families/what you need to know.

Please register for the workshop by clicking the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/transitioning-out-of-sponsorship-tickets-31839462690>

Family reunification – How to Sponsor Syrian Refugees (in Arabic)

Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017

Time: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm EST

Venue: West Neighbourhood House, 248 Ossington Ave, Toronto, ON M6J 3A2

Description: The session will cover: Who can be sponsored?, Who can sponsor?, How to sponsor? Family reunification under One Year Window, and proof of refugee status recognition.

For registration, please call/email Siham Abosita (before Feb 15) at 416-931-7719 or sihamab@westnh.org

Workshop and Discussion Group: Month 13 Planning

Date: Friday, March 03, 2017

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm EST

Venue: First Baptist, 255 Woolwich Street, Guelph ON N1H 3V8

Description: The Guelph Refugee Sponsorship Forum is hosting a workshop and discussion group on Month 13 Planning for private sponsors. Sponsors will learn from an RSTP trainer about:

- When to start preparing newcomers for Month 13
- The role of sponsors during the "transition period", including important tasks to consider and
- The post-sponsorship relationship.

For registration, please email to guelphrefugeeforum@gmail.com

WEBINAR

Supporting Settlement and Integration (Atlantic Provinces)

Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017

Time: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm (AST)

Description: Sponsors in the Atlantic Provinces are invited to register for a webinar covering the following topics: Roles and responsibilities of sponsors and newcomers, managing expectations, cultural awareness, and ethical considerations.

To register, please click:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6601231798600203777>



This document has been prepared for Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) by The Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP)

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