

Clearinghouse Q & A – Response Sheet

Topic: ODSP Eligibility for Refugees in first 12 months

Issue # 1979

Date: May 12, 2017

Question:

Are Convention Refugees, who could be Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs), Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) or Blended Sponsorship Refugees (BVORs), eligible for ODSP during their first 12 months in Canada? Are they eligible after the first 12 months, or if there is a sponsorship breakdown?

Response:

PSRs, GARs and BVORs (refugees receiving private and government support) are all eligible for ODSP **at any time**, including during the first 12 months, as long as they have pursued all available financial resources and all eligibility criteria are met, including meeting the program's definition of a person with a disability. **The eligibility applies even while the refugee is receiving support through the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) or from private sponsors.** In cases where a private sponsorship agreement breaks down, refugees may also be eligible to receive social assistance as long as all other eligibility criteria are met.

However, any income support an individual receives through RAP, or from a private sponsor, is deducted dollar-for-dollar when determining the amount of income support they may be eligible to receive under ODSP.

Legislative Reference(s):

- [ODSP General Regulation](#)

Policy Reference(s):

- [Directive 2.5 – Tourists, Immigrants, Refugees and Deportees](#)
- [Policy Memo #1 \(April 2016\) – Syrian Refugee Resettlement](#)
- [Q&As on Syrian Refugees](#)
- [Policy Memo #2 \(November 2016\) – Syrian Refugee Resettlement](#)
- [Supplemental Q&As on Syrian Refugees:](#)