

# RSTP Bulletin

The latest news and updates on the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program

## Sponsorship Responsibilities and Documentation

Every member of a sponsoring group must make a declaration on their sponsorship application to support their sponsored refugee(s) for 12 months from the date of arrival or until the refugee becomes self-sufficient, whichever comes first.

This support includes the financial and non-financial support listed on the undertaking and the settlement plan. The [FAQs on Post-Arrival Financial Support for the PSR Program](#) provides a detailed explanation of financial responsibilities.

Sponsors should keep documentation of their support in case proof is requested.

### Settlement/Non-Financial Responsibilities

It is extremely important to keep documentation of your non-financial support as well. It will help you keep track of the implementation of your settlement plan. If IRCC requests proof of support you will be able to provide documentation to show that the requirements of the sponsorship are being fulfilled.

### How can you document settlement support?

Documenting settlement support may be easier than you think. Simply keep a record of all your settlement activities!

### For example:

- As soon as the newcomer(s) arrives, ask for a copy of the confirmation of Permanent residence for your file. Ask for a copy of the Permanent Resident (PR) card once the newcomer(s) receive it.
- Once the newcomer is enrolled in provincial health benefits, photocopy their provincial health card for your file.
- If you have enrolled children or adults in school, keep the transcript or record of language assessment.
- If you have helped apply for Canada Child Benefits (CCB), ask the family for a copy of the CCB application or the confirmation of receipt.
- If you have connected the sponsored person(s) to a settlement agency, write down any service received, and file the business card or name and contact information of the settlement workers.

### Financial Responsibilities

Documentation of your sponsoring group's financial support might include:

- Bank statements, receipts, proof of e-transfers or copies of cheques showing monthly income support.
- If financial support was reduced based on employment earnings or personal assets, documentation to support your calculations.
  - This might include pay stubs, banks statements or a signed employment letter demonstrating length of work and salary.



- The following form can help you to document newcomer(s) [Declaration Of Funds And Assets On Arrival](#)
- Rental agreements or proof of rental and utility payments, if rent is provided in-kind.
- Proof of start-up, including any in-kind donations **in addition to** bank statements, receipts, proof of e-transfers or copies of cheques showing the start-up payment.

Documenting financial and non-financial support can help sponsoring groups prove that their sponsorship responsibilities have been met and avoid negative repercussions such as sponsorship breakdown or default.

## Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)

Refugees sponsored under the **Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)** program have special or enhanced needs that will likely result in a longer or more difficult period of integration in Canada, due to:

- **Trauma from violence or torture;**
- **Medical disabilities;**
- **The effects of systemic discrimination;** or,
- **Being a large family unit (such as a single parent with several children).**

Under the JAS program, the government and private sponsors support refugees for up to 24 months, depending on the needs of the resettled refugee. In a few cases, the private sponsor may support refugees for up to 36 months. These refugees receive income support from the Government of Canada. They are matched with a private sponsorship group to help them adjust to life in Canada with settlement help and emotional support.

Some refugees are identified overseas for the JAS program due to their special needs. Others are converted into JAS cases after they arrive in Canada if it becomes clear that they need more support.

**JAS refugee profiles can only be picked up by SAHs and their Constituent Groups.**



Medical screening in Beirut Lebanon, before flying to Canada  
Photo: CPL Darcy Lefebvre

## Many In-Canada JAS Refugees are waiting to be sponsored!

### Including

**In-Canada JAS PROFILE #: 19-0084**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Lethbridge, AB

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Syria

**FAMILY SIZE:** 4

**Family Composition:** The Principal applicant (PA), his wife and two young children.

**Background:** The family arrived in Canada in May, 2018. They suffer from multiple mental health issues. The PA and his wife also suffer from general health ailments. They have several weekly doctor visits for physical and mental health needs. Because of this, it is hard for the parents to attend English classes and school, and for the family to integrate into the community. The combination of low levels of education, low English ability and health issues mean the family continues to experience challenges that prevent them from becoming self-sufficient.

**Support Needed:** A sponsor could provide more support to the family than they currently receive. A sponsor could introduce the family to community programs and increase social and community engagement. Sponsors could also help the family with transportation to medical appointments and learning English, as well as general life skills. This would alleviate some of the stressors faced by the family and enhance their ability to resettle successfully.

**In-Canada JAS PROFILE #: 19-0049**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Toronto, ON

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Iraq

**FAMILY SIZE:** Four

**Family Composition:** The father, his spouse and child arrived in Canada in early 2018. Since arriving in Canada, the spouse has given birth to a second child in July 2018.

**Background:** The spouse has suffered physical and psychological problems that have affected the family's ability to successfully settle in Canada. Physical and psychological problems have left the spouse unable to attend school, English classes or counselling sessions, and affected her ability to look after her two young children. The children have ongoing medical needs. The father is unable to attend school or look for work as he is required to care for the family at all times. He has been advised to accompany the family to every appointment and outing. This impedes his ability to integrate with the community.

**Support Needed:** A sponsor, especially one that is able to do home visits, would help the family in their daily activities and alleviate some of the father's responsibilities. He would then be able to focus on going to school and finding work. A sponsor could escort the spouse and children to medical appointments, counselling sessions, help the family integrate with the community and connect them with local services that meet their specific needs. The family would be able to practice English and learn about Canadian culture through the support of a sponsor and would benefit from the emotional support.



For more information about the JAS Program or JAS Refugee Profiles, visit the RSTP website [JAS page](#)



**THURSDAY, MARCH 7**  
Maritime Museum of the Atlantic  
1675 Lower Water Street, Halifax  
**6:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

[RSVP Today](#)

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

### Survey for SAHs

Please take a few minutes to complete this [Survey](#).

The purpose of this survey is to better understand the factors that influence your decision as a SAH to sponsor through the BVOR program. (What motivates your organization to take on BVOR cases? What prevents you, or discourages you?).

Your answers will help us to improve our outreach and will assist us in promoting the program.

# Upcoming Workshops & Webinars

## REFUGEE HEALTH 101

WORKSHOP FOR  
PRIVATE SPONSORS

FEBRUARY 25, 2019

Bruyère Continuing Care  
75 Bruyère St, level 6 - Jardin-Gilberte Paquette  
Room #660J  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5C8  
6:00 pm – 8:00 PM  
To register: [Click here](#)

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Refugee  
Sponsorship  
Training  
Program



Workshop facilitated by RSTP Ottawa Trainer  
**Beth Daniel**



**SOLIDARITY  
WITH REFUGEES**

## RSTP Webinars

**The PSR program: Adding dependents post-submission and updating applications**

**Date:** Thursday, February 21, 2019

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

**For registration:** [click here](#)

**Managing expectations in the context of Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR)**

**Date:** Friday, February 22, 2019

**Time:** 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm EST

**For registration:** [click here](#)

**The PSR Program: Supporting settlement and integration**

**Date:** Monday, February 25, 2019

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

**For Registration:** [Click here](#)

**The PSR Program:  
Preparing for Month 13**

**Date:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

**For Registration:** [click here](#)

**The road from Schedule 2 to “Welcome to Canada”: preparing for Visa Office interviews**

**Date:** Thursday, February 28, 2019

**Time:** 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm EST

**For registration:** [Click here](#)



For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.rstp.ca/en/training/>

Refugee  
Sponsorship  
Training  
Program



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

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