

RSTP Bulletin

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

INQUIRIES

You Asked

In a family where a child was under 18 at the time of arrival in Canada, but turned 18 during the 12 months of sponsorship, which financial support rates need to change?

Our Answer

The level of financial support provided by sponsors depends on the size of the family at the time of arrival. The newcomers who are above the age of majority in their community of settlement at the time of arrival must be provided with their own financial support to cover start-up costs, basic needs, communication, transportation and shelter (if required). This includes newcomers who reach the age of majority during the sponsorship period.

For example, a child who turns 18 while the application is being processed, or during the sponsorship period, must be provided with the following:

1) Monthly Income Support:

- Basic needs (food and incidentals)*;
- Monthly public transportation passes for all persons 18 years of age or older. (In communities where there is no public transit, a flat transportation rate of \$75 is issued. In areas with no public transit system, the monthly transportation allowance may be waived if alternative transportation is provided);
- A communication allowance to cover the costs of a telephone and/or internet connection; and,
- A shelter allowance*.

*The basic needs allowance may be provided in-kind to a maximum of 50 percent, but only if the refugees

Just a reminder...

Key Requirements that IRCC looks for in PSR applicants:

1. Being a member of the Convention Refugee Abroad Class

What this means is that the individual has a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group (ex. sexual orientation, gender) or political opinion

- *Based on the UN Refugee Convention definition*

2. Member of the Country of Asylum Class

The individual has been seriously and personally affected by civil war or armed conflict, or suffered massive violations of human rights

- *Definition that looks at the larger country circumstances*

3. Has No Other Durable Solutions

The 3 durable solutions are:

Voluntary repatriation:

- When the situation in the country of habitual or permanent residence has changed in a lasting and meaningful way and refugees can return in safety and dignity.

Local integration:

- Have rights similar to those of the local residents such as: they can move around the country freely; they are allowed work; children are allowed to attend school and there is no threat of forcible return of refugees or asylum seekers to a country where they are liable to be subjected to persecution.

Resettlement:

- is when refugees from an asylum country is relocated to a third country, including access to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights similar to those enjoyed by the nationals of the third country.

are residing with a party to the sponsorship, such as a co-sponsor or a member of the Group of Five.

*Shelter can be provided fully in-kind where children who are above the age of majority reside with their parents and if shelter is provided without cost. However, if a child above the age of majority wants to live independently from their parents and chooses to move out of the shared living situation during the sponsorship period, the sponsoring group may choose to support two separate households or ask IRCC to declare a no-fault breakdown.

For more information [FAQs on Post-Arrival Financial Support for the PSR Program](#)

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.

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



Shamsa family Courtesy of Miranda O'Leary Photography

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

Including

In-Canada JAS PROFILE #: 19-0181

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Richmond Hill, ON

Linked File: JAS 19-0180 (son)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

FAMILY SIZE: One

This 46 year old Iraqi woman arrived in 2018, accompanied by her son and his wife.

Needs: Her resettlement process has been difficult due to her profoundly traumatic background. She has trouble adapting to her new life, and struggles with health issues for which she has regular appointments. She has not been able to attend community activities and feels very lonely. This has kept her from going for counseling.

A sponsor could: help her integrate into the community and help with learning Canadian systems; escort her to medical appointments and outings; help her practice English at home; and, go with her to food banks and other charitable services. She “values the importance of having a Canadian circle of friends” to accompany her to “services and fun activities.”



RSTP Trainer Said Nixon Bangura with the participants from a workshop in London, Ontario.

In-Canada JAS PROFILE #: 19-0127
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Toronto, ON
VISA OFFICE: Cairo
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Syria
FAMILY SIZE: Six

This Syrian family of six (father, mother and four young children) arrived in Canada in 2018.

Needs: Three of the children suffer developmental delays and cognitive issues. They attend frequent doctors' appointments, and need constant care and specialized diets. The father and mother do not speak English or French and are illiterate in their native language. Due to

childcare demands they have been unable to attend school and language classes; fully access community services; look for employment; and, socialize outside the home. The family's resettlement has been slow. **A sponsor could** help the family with: transportation to medical appointments; applications to various private funding organizations for children with disabilities; finding childcare; practicing English; learning the health and transportation systems; and, emotional and social support.

In-Canada JAS PROFILE #: 19-0124
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Calgary, AB
Linked File: JAS 19-0123
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq
FAMILY SIZE: Three

This Iraqi family of three arrived in early 2018, accompanied by the father's sister.

Needs: Since their arrival, the family has faced numerous challenges. Due to trauma, the father struggles to adapt to his new life. He is overwhelmed by thoughts of family still living in Iraq. He attends English classes, but his lack of formal education affects his learning. This keeps him from pursuing education and employment. His sister depends on him and his family for emotional and social support. The couple is also expecting a second child. Raising a family in an unfamiliar environment creates additional pressure on the father.

A sponsor could: give the family emotional and social support to reduce their feelings of isolation and loneliness; help the father and his sister access resources in the community to increase their independence and confidence; and, help them navigate the healthcare and public transit systems. The family would also benefit from the chance to practice English.



On our website Past webinars are recorded and now shared on our website!



[The PSR Program: How to prepare and submit a successful application package](#)



[When Helping Hurts – Reviewing Vicarious Trauma](#)



[Preserving and Improving the Mental Health of Refugees, their Sponsors and Supporters](#)



[How to Submit a PSR Application to ROC-O by Email](#)

To view other webinars you may have missed, please visit <http://www.rstp.ca/en/resources/video/past-webinars/>

upcoming events

french

NB : Ces séances portent sur la démarche de parrainage de réfugiés à l'extérieur du Québec seulement.

Introduction au Programme de parrainage privé des réfugiés

Date : Mercredi 20 mars 2019

Heure : 18 h à 20 h HNE

Lieu : Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO), 945, rue Wellington Ouest, Ottawa (Ontario) K1Y 2X5

Description : Cette séance d'information en français, offerte en collaboration avec le Refugee Sponsorship Support Program, donnera un aperçu du Programme de parrainage privé des réfugiés, suivi d'une clinique d'aide juridique. Les sujets suivants seront abordés :

- Quelles personnes peuvent être parrainées pour la réinstallation au Canada?
- Quelles sont les étapes de la démarche de parrainage?
- Quelles sont les responsabilités des groupes de parrainage?

Inscription à l'événement : Accédez à <https://parrainage-de-refugies-clinique-aide-juridique.eventbrite.ca> ou communiquez avec Lidia Jarmasz au 1.877.290.1701, poste 2408, ou à ljarmasz@rstp.ca.

Le Programme mixte des réfugiés désignés par un bureau des visas (RDBV)

Date : Jeudi 21 mars 2019

Heure : 18 h à 20 h HNE

Lieu : Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO), 945, rue Wellington Ouest, Ottawa (Ontario) K1Y 2X5

Description : Cette séance en français donnera un aperçu du Programme mixte des réfugiés désignés par un bureau des visas, un programme de partage des frais entre le gouvernement du Canada et les groupes de parrainage. Les sujets suivants seront abordés :

- Qui peut être parrainé dans le cadre de ce programme?
- La démarche du jumelage avec un réfugié.
- Le partage des rôles et responsabilités entre le gouvernement fédéral et les groupes de parrainage.

Inscription à l'événement : Accédez à <https://refugies-designes-par-un-bureau-des-visas-rdbv.eventbrite.ca> ou communiquez avec Lidia Jarmasz au 1.877.290.1701, poste 2408, ou à ljarmasz@rstp.ca.

NB : Si vous connaissez un réfugié à l'étranger que vous voudriez parrainer, participez à notre séance d'introduction au Programme de parrainage privé des réfugiés le mercredi 20 mars 2019.

Upcoming RSTP Workshops & Webinars

RSTP Workshop

In Halifax

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

12:45 PM – 4:00 PM ADT

**Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS)
6960 Mumford Road
#Suite 2120, Classroom #18
Halifax, NS B3L 4P1**

RSTP and IRCC are hosting an **Information Session** in **Halifax** for individuals interested in submitting applications under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program as a Group of Five or a Community Sponsor, and sponsoring refugees through the Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) program.

The Information Session will include:

- A review of the application forms;
- The requirements for Groups of Five and Community Sponsors that came into effect on May 01, 2018;
- How IRCC processes PSR applications submitted by Groups of Five and Community Sponsors;
- IRCC's post-arrival financial and settlement support standards for PSR applications;
- IRCC's monitoring and assurance framework for PSR applications; and,
- How Groups of Five and Community Sponsors can sponsor refugees identified for resettlement by IRCC and UNHCR through the BVOR program.

Space is limited and all attendees are required to register for the workshop using the following link:

- <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ircc-info-session-for-groups-of-five-and-community-sponsors-tickets-57039144617>

RSTP Webinars

Introduction to Canada's Refugee Sponsorship Programs

Date: Friday, March 1, 2019

Time: 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM EST

For registration [Click here](#)

The Road from Schedule 2 to, "Welcome to Canada": Preparing for Visa Office Interviews

Date: Monday, March 4, 2019

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

For registration: [Click here](#)

The PSR Program: Who Can Sponsor and Who Can be sponsored

Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2019

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

For registration: [Click here](#)

The PSR Program: How to Prepare and Submit a Successful Application Package

Date: Friday, March 8, 2019

Time: 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM EST

For registration: [Click here](#)

The PSR Program: Adding Dependents Post-Submission and Updating Applications

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2019

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 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

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada