

# RSTP Bulletin

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

## INQUIRIES

### You Asked

What are the requirements for holding the money to cover the sponsorship in a trust fund? What documents should our sponsoring group provide to prove funds in trust?

### Our Answer

Many [Groups of Five](#) or [Community Sponsors](#) choose to demonstrate proof of funds to IRCC by holding funds in a trust account.

Here's what IRCC would like to see if your group chooses to hold sponsorship funds in trust:

- The account can be a regular chequing account, savings account or a trust account.
- There must be a minimum of two account holders for the account
- If you submit multiple applications then you must have **separate accounts** for each application submitted, with all of the required supporting documents for each.

**With the application you must provide:**

1. An **original** letter from a financial institution attesting to the bank account details.
  - The letter must be issued no more than **six months** before the date you submit your application and must indicate the:
    - Name of the Canadian financial institution;
    - Names of the account holders (minimum of two);
    - Account number;
    - Current account balance; and,
    - Must be signed and stamped by an employee of the institution.
2. **The most recent account statements** signed and stamped by an employee of the financial institution. The statement must indicate the account number, account holders' names and branch information.
3. **Proof of how the funds were obtained:**
  - Details of deposits
  - Bank statements
  - Statements from fund raising activities
  - If the funds come from a group member in the Group of Five, or a co-sponsor (in Community Sponsorship) **you must provide proof of income and complete the [Financial Profile \[IMM 5373B\]](#) form.** The most conclusive document to demonstrate proof of income is a copy



of your most recent Notice of Assessment issued by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). IRCC will also consider: a copy of your most recent T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid form; a copy of your most recent T5 Statement of Investment Income form; pension statements that confirm your annual revenue for the last 12 months; or, Employment Insurance pay stubs that confirm revenue obtained under this program within the last 12 months.

4. You must also **explain how you gathered the funds** on the [Sponsorship Undertaking and Settlement Plan – Groups of Five \[IMM 5670\]](#) form or the [Sponsorship Undertaking and Settlement Plan – Community Sponsor \[IMM 5663\]](#) form.

**Please note:** *These funds are held **in trust** for the purposes of sponsorship. It is very important that the funds are not used, withdrawn or transferred for the duration of the application process, and only accessed once the refugee arrives in Canada. IRCC may request updated account statements for funds held in trust at any time throughout the application process to ensure that the sponsors have not used the funds.*

## You Asked

If the required amount of money to cover the sponsorship is in a trust fund, then do you still need three group members from the Group of Five to contribute financially towards the sponsorship by pledging from their personal income?

## Our Answer

If all of the funds for a Group of Five sponsorship are held in a trust account, the group does not have to have any group members pledging from their personal income. However, if group members donated to the funds held in trust, then they must provide proof of income (see the documents listed above for further information).

For all of the forms and the guides for sponsorship visit: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/processing/the-refugee-sponsorship-application-forms/>



## National Occupancy Standard (NOS)

In the sponsorship undertaking and settlement plan, sponsoring groups declare to provide proper housing for the refugees they've sponsored. The [National Occupancy Standard \(NOS\)](#) can be used as a guide to make sure that the shelter sponsors are providing has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the family they have sponsored. According to the NOS, a household is a suitable accommodations if it has enough bedrooms, based on the age, sex, and relationships among household members.

The NOS derives the number of bedrooms a household requires as follows:

- A maximum of two persons per bedroom.
- Household members, of any age, living as part of a married or common-law couple share a bedroom with their spouse or common-law partner.
- Lone-parents, of any age, have a separate bedroom.
- Household members aged 18 or over have a separate bedroom, except those living as part of a married or common-law couple.
- Household members under 18 years of age of the same sex share a bedroom.
- Household members under 5 years of age of the opposite sex share a bedroom if doing so would reduce the number of required bedrooms.

An exception to the above is a household consisting of one individual living alone. Such a household would not need a bedroom (i.e., the individual may live in a studio apartment and be considered to be living in suitable accommodations).

# Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)

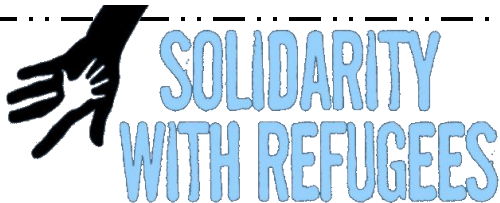
Refugees sponsored under the **Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)** program have special or enhanced needs that will likely result in a longer or more difficult period of integration in Canada, due to:

- **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**



Alrajab family Photo Courtesy of Miranda O'Leary Photography

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

### Including

**In-Canada JAS Refugee PROFILE #: 19-0321**

**Linked files:** 19-0320, (grandmother), JAS 19-0181 (aunt), JAS 19-0180 (brother)

**VISA OFFICE: Ankara**

**IRCC Local Office: Toronto, ON**

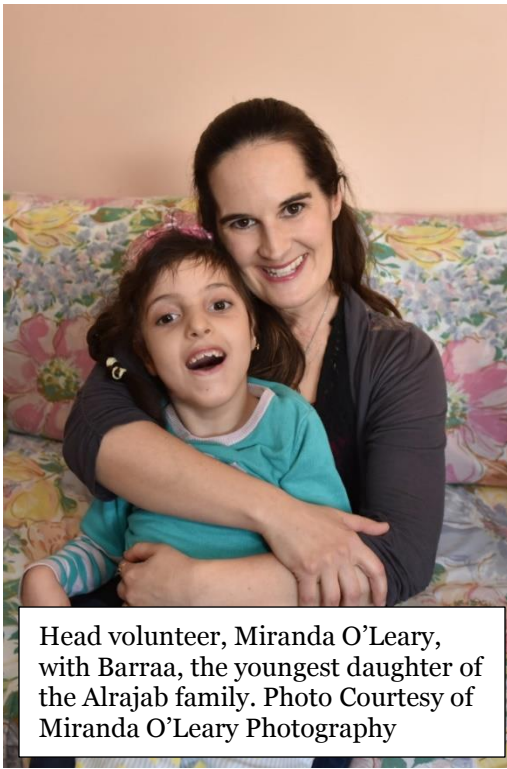
**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq**

**FAMILY SIZE: 2**

**Background:** The Principal Applicant is a 20 year old single woman who resettled to Canada in 2018 with her minor sister who is included on this case. The Principal Applicant is the primary caregiver for her sister, as the whereabouts of their parents and siblings remain unknown. The Principal Applicant has never been to school, since she has been in Canada she has learned to identify some letters and figures in English. Her younger sister is attending school.

**Support Needed:** A sponsor group would be able to provide social and informal-emotional support, including supporting the Principal Applicant, who is making a considerable effort to integrate into Canadian society. A sponsoring group could also help her and her sister practice English and develop the necessary skills to manage their lives (such as scheduling appointments), learn how to use a computer/manage emails, and help them become more involved in their new community.

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



Head volunteer, Miranda O'Leary, with Barraa, the youngest daughter of the Alrajab family. Photo Courtesy of Miranda O'Leary Photography

**In-Canada JAS PROFILE #: 19-0284**

**Linked Files:** In Canada JAS 19-0283 (uncle and aunt), 19-0286 (sister)

**VISA OFFICE: Ankara**

**IRCC Local Office: IRCC Calgary**

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq**

**FAMILY SIZE: 1**

**Background:** The Principal Applicant (PA) is a young Iraqi woman who arrived in Canada in early June of 2018 together with her aunt, uncle and sister. The PA suffered traumatic events in her home country which have negatively impacted her emotional and mental wellbeing. She was separated from her parents and siblings whose whereabouts are still unknown, and is a survivor of violence. This has caused the PA to act out and display behavioural problems towards her aunt and uncle who are her primary caregivers here in Canada since her parents are still missing. When the PA arrived in Canada she had trouble sleeping but has since attended counseling sessions at school and through other community services. It is recommended that she continues to receive psychological counselling.

**Support Need:** While the family has received much support, the events that occurred in the PA's home country have left lasting

negative impacts on her mental and emotional wellbeing which will likely require more assistance to help her and her family successfully resettle. A JAS sponsor would be able to provide necessary emotional and social support to the PA and her family, including access to community resources, and navigating formal systems such as employment, health care and public transit. A sponsor could also promote the integration of the PA and her family into the broader Calgary community which would reduce any feelings of loneliness and isolation. Finally, a sponsor could help the PA practice her English and become more confident and self-sufficient in herself and her new life in Canada.

## SASKATCHEWAN Conference

### Changes in Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program

**Date and Time:** Friday May 3, 2019, 12:30 PM – Saturday May 4 2019, 4:30 PM CST

**Location:** McClure United Church, 4025 Taylor Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7H 5N7

The conference is for Sponsorship Agreement Holders: their Co-sponsors and Constituent Groups, Community Sponsors, Groups of Five and Settlement Service Organizations.

**Topics include:** The current refugee situation, collaboration between Private Sponsors and Service Providers, IRCC expectations of the Application and Follow-up Process for Private Sponsors, Settlement Planning and Implementation.

**To register, please click here:** <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/saskatchewan-conference-changes-in-private-sponsorship-of-refugees-program-tickets-58601566864>

For information on upcoming RSTP webinars and Workshops, please visit:

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/training/>



Refugee  
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