

RSTP Bulletin

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

INQUIRIES

You Asked

What happens when family members arrive through the One Year Window (OYW) provision, but the Principal Applicant (PA), whose sponsorship period has ended and is self-sufficient? Both the PA and the family member who has arrived in Canada have jobs. Other than family and personal income, what should we prove to IRCC regarding financial support?

Our Answer

The standards that IRCC uses when assessing the level of support that sponsors need to provide for OYW cases is outlined in Q.8 of the [FAQs on Post-Arrival Financial Support for the PSR Program](#) and Section 25.3 of the [IP-3](#)

As per the commitment in the sponsorship undertaking, sponsoring groups must provide financial support for the family member(s) who arrive through the OYW provision up to 12 months after their arrival in Canada. However, the total income and assets of the family members already in Canada can be considered in determining the required amount of financial support.

According to section 25.3 of [IP-3](#), the income situation of the family must be considered when determining financial support. Section 25.3.5 of the [IP-3](#) provides a detailed breakdown of how income support is calculated for OYW cases based on various financial situations of the family unit.

Income Support when PA is out of sponsorship and Employed:

Support	For the family members who have arrived through the OYW provision (Spouse or dependent minor children)
Food, shelter and incidentals	The entitlement for shelter, food and incidentals will be based on the whole family unit, less what was previously issued to the PA.
	<p>If the PA is employed: According to the Financial FAQ “Deductions can begin after net employment income becomes higher than 50% of the monthly support payment, at which point income is reduced dollar for dollar for each additional dollar earned above the threshold.”</p> <p>Any deductions to be made, after the 50% additional household income incentive threshold has been calculated, are to be taken from the non-accompanying family member(s) income support amount.</p> <p>The formula to be applied is the following: Step 1: Calculate what the family as a whole would have received. Step 2: Deduct what was already paid to the PA.</p> <p>This would give you the “OYW entitlement” amount.</p>



Featured Resources on the RSTP Website

RSTP website now has an information sheet on the [Financial Guideline for SAHs](#).

A 2-pager based on IRCC's [Appendix A](#) of the SAH application guide that sums up all of SAHs financial responsibilities!

CHECK IT OUT

	<p>Step 3: Use the entire family unit amount to calculate the 50% additional household income threshold deductions (refer to section 23).</p> <p>Step 4: Apply the 50% rule to the household income earned. Any employment earnings over 50% of income support will be deducted dollar for dollar from the “OYW Entitlement” amount.</p> <p>If employment earnings are not over the 50% threshold, then there will be no deductions to the “OYW entitlement” amount.</p> <p>Please note: The 50% additional income incentive threshold will apply to the dependent adult’s income support should they receive additional funds (e.g., start working) while on income support. The PA’s employment income, if the file has been separated, is not considered for the purposes of the 50% additional income incentive threshold against the dependent adult’s income support.</p>
Ongoing entitlements (transportation allowance)	Each eligible non-accompanying family member is entitled (if applicable).
Start-up allowances	
Basic Household Needs allowance	The entitlement is the family unit rate less the initial entitlement paid to the PA.
Staple allowance	Each eligible non-accompanying family member is entitled to \$75.
Clothing and School Start-up allowances	Each eligible non-accompanying family member is entitled.
Special allowances	
Maternity, Newborn and Special Diet allowances, etc.	Each eligible non-accompanying family member is entitled.

In terms of documentation, 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 sponsoring group can also request the family member(s) to sign a [Declaration of Funds and Assets on Arrival of Privately Sponsored Refugees](#) to show financial or self-sufficiency.

Your Asked

“We have sponsored a number of cases of women who have escaped abusive partners, but who are not divorced. In those cases, it's my understanding that we should not include their abusive spouse on the application. The women would NEVER want them to come to Canada.”

Our Answer



Applicants are required to declare all family members and there is no exception to this. However, in situations where person is married but is no longer living with their spouse due to a breakdown in relationship or in the case of domestic violence, applicants can use the “legally separated” marital statuses available in the IMM 0008 form. “As indicated in the Principal Applicant’s Instruction Guide, this status should be used when the person is married but is no longer living with their spouse. Migration officers will then evaluate the relationship to ensure that the separation is not done to circumvent a requirement of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. When a client declares to be legally separated, their ex-spouse is not considered a family member and would not be eligible in any of the family reunification categories. If a person declares themselves to be legally

separated, the sponsor is not required to include the spouse on the undertaking since the person does not meet the requirement of a dependant. It is important to note that declaring oneself to be legally separated means that person is not a family member and that they will not be permitted to join the person in Canada.”

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.

A JAS sponsor could help with: social and emotional support to reduce her feelings of isolation and loneliness; English practice; her integration and sense of belonging; her access to community resources; and guidance with schooling, employment, health care and public transit. This would encourage her independence, confidence and ability to build a new life.



Shamsa family Courtesy of Miranda O'Leary Photography

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

Including

In-Canada JAS PROFILE #: 19-0197

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: IRCC Calgary

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

FAMILY SIZE: One

Now reunited with family members, this young woman struggles to integrate.

Health: Events in her country of origin have left her traumatized. She suffers from PTSD and anger management issues. These affect her ability to socialize and attend English classes. While she has received counselling and medication for her mental health concerns, progress is slow and she feels isolated from the broader community. She also takes care of her elderly mother and younger siblings who are also dealing with their own trauma. This causes additional pressure.

JAS Refugee Profile

JAS PROFILE: JAS 19-0182

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: A woman at risk

URGENCY: High

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:

Democratic Rep. of Congo

COUNTRY OF CURRENT

RESIDENCE: Botswana

FAMILY SIZE: 6



This 33-year-old single mother from the Democratic Republic of Congo has five young children. They fled their home country due to war and growing instability in the region. In their current country of refuge the mother struggles alone to provide for her family through odd jobs. The family has no ties in Canada to help them resettle.

Health: The mother believes her entire family was killed in fighting. She has not seen or heard from her husband in many years. He is presumed dead. Her mental health has suffered from violence she endured in the past. She should receive counselling. She and her eldest son have medical conditions that will require ongoing doctor appointments.

Support needed: As a single mother who will raise five young children in a foreign environment, she will need extra help and support in Canada. The JAS program and a sponsor would be able to provide extra time and support to the family to help them successfully resettle.

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

Upcoming RSTP Workshops & Webinars

RSTP Webinars *french*

Introduction au parrainage privé des réfugiés

Date: Saturday, March 30, 2019

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM HAA

Ce webinaire en français donnera un aperçu du Programme de parrainage privé des réfugiés.

Les sujets suivants seront abordés :

- (1) Pourquoi parrainer des réfugiés?
- (2) Comment peut-on parrainer des réfugiés?
- (3) Quels sont les avantages de parrainer des réfugiés dans le cadre du programme RDBV?
- (4) Quel soutien est disponible lorsque vous parrainez des réfugiés?

Ce webinaire sera d'une durée d'environ 1 heure. Pour vous inscrire, [cliquez ici](#). Si vous avez des questions, contactez Caroline Lavoie, clavoie@rstp.ca.

RSTP Workshop

Groups of Five & Community Sponsors: Review of Requirements and Forms

Date: Saturday, March 30, 2019

Time: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm MDT

Where: Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, 1111-11 Ave SW, Room 315, Calgary AB

Please register by clicking on link: [Groups of Five & Community Sponsorship Session](#) or contact Anoush Newman at 403. 515-5868 or mnewman@rstp.ca.

french

Introduction au parrainage privé des réfugiés – Vancouver

Date: Sam., 30 mars 2019

Heure : 14:00 – 16:00 HAP

Endroit : MOSAIC, 575 Boundary Road, Vancouver, BC V5R 2P9

Cette séance aura lieu à MOSAIC, 5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver, BC V5R 2P9

Pour toute question à propos de cet événement, veuillez communiquer avec:

Laurie Cooper : Courriel : lcooper@rstp.ca

Tel: [1-604-283-9319](tel:1-604-283-9319)

Sans-frais : 1-877-290-1701 poste 2418

Organisé en collaboration avec la Communauté Congolaise de la Colombie Britannique

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



RSTP Trainer **Said Nixon Bangura** facilitating a workshop in London, Ontario

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada