

RSTP Bulletin

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

Inquiries

You Asked

We just received the notice of arrival for the family we have sponsored, a couple with two children ages 15 and 20. They will be living together in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in a fully furnished house that we are providing free of charge.

How do we calculate the start-up cost and monthly financial support for the family?

Our Answer

The start-up cost and monthly financial support should be calculated based on the [Resettlement Assistance Program \(RAP\) Rates](#) for the province where the family will settle.



Start-Up Costs

The Start-up allowances is a one-time payment intended to cover the initial cost of settling in Canada, this includes:

- Staple allowance
- Basic household needs allowance
- Furniture allowance
- Regular and seasonal clothing allowance
- Winter clothing allowance
- Utility installation allowance
- Linens allowance
- School start-up allowance (if applicable).

Monthly Income Support

Monthly income support is intended to cover basic needs such as:

- Basic needs (food and incidentals)
- A communication allowance to cover the costs of a telephone and/or internet connection = **\$30/file**
- 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 and in areas with no public transit system, the monthly transportation allowance may be waived as long as alternative transportation is provided.); and
- A shelter allowance + \$200 National Housing Supplement

⇒ Other special allowances such as maternity food, maternity clothing, newborn, dietary allowance, and funeral/burial allowance may be added based on need.

For the case outlined above, sponsors should calculate the start-up and monthly financial support as two separate files:

1. Couple with a dependent child (for the parents and the 15 year old child); and,
2. A single adult (for the 20 year old child).

The 20 year old is considered to be a single adult for the purposes of calculating financial support under the RAP as they are over the age of majority in the community of settlement (the age of majority is 18 in Manitoba).

In-Kind Contributions

While calculating the startup cost and monthly income support, sponsors can deduct any eligible in-kind donations that they are providing based on the in-kind contributions chart provide on the [Financial Guideline for SAHs](#).

These in-kind donations include all donated goods, commodities or services (e.g. gently used furniture or clothing, or housing provided at no cost to the sponsored family).

Please note that some items cannot be donated, including:

- mattresses, which should always be purchased new;
- opened food products; and
- Personal clothing items such as undergarments or footwear.

You can subtract the types and values of in-kind donations from your estimated sponsorship costs. However, basic needs and transportation costs cannot be reduced through in-kind deductions.

Sponsorship Cost Calculation

Start-Up Cost

File 1 Couple with one child (Mother, Father and the 15- year old child)	Required Minimum Financial Support under the RAP Program	Allowable Maximum percentage of In-kind Deduction	Financial Support after the In-Kind Deduction
Food Staple allowance	\$390	50%	\$195
Basic and winter clothing allowance	\$1, 475	70%	\$442.5
Basic household needs	\$700	50%	\$350
Furniture allowance	\$ 2, 560	70%	\$768
Linens allowance (\$80 per person)	\$ 240	100%	\$0
Utility installation	\$75	0%	\$75
School start-up allowance (Possibly eligible to receive this allowance twice, depending on their date of arrival)	\$150	0%	\$150
Total Start-Up	\$5, 590		\$ 1, 980.5

The total minimum RAP start-up cost for the family of three is **\$5, 590**.

The start-up cost after maximum in-kind deduction is **\$ 1, 980.5**

File 2 Single Adult (20 year old)	Required Minimum Financial Support under the RAP Program	Allowable Maximum percentage of In-kind Deduction	Financial Support after the In-Kind Deduction
Staple allowance	\$210	50%	\$105
Basic and winter clothing allowance	\$550	70%	\$165

Basic household needs	\$600	50%	\$300
Furniture allowance	\$1,550	70%	\$465
Linens allowance (\$80 per person)	\$80	100%	0
Utility installation	Utility Installation amount for the single adult can be fully deducted because parents area already receiving that and they live together.		
Total Start-up	\$2,990		\$1, 035

The total minimum RAP start-up cost for one single adult is **\$2,990**.

The start-up cost after maximum in-kind deduction is **\$ 1, 035**.

RAP Start-Up Cost for the Entire Family

Family of 3: \$390 (Staple Allowance) + \$1,000 (Basic Clothing Allowance) + \$475 (Winter Clothing Allowance) + \$700 (Basic Household Needs) + \$2, 560 (Furniture Allowance) + \$80 (Linens) + \$80 (Linens) + \$80 (Linens) + \$75 (Utility Installation) + \$150 (School Start-Up Allowance) = **\$5, 590**

Single Adult: \$210 (Staple Allowance) + \$375 (Basic Clothing Allowance) + \$175 (Winter Clothing Allowance) + \$600 (Basic Household Needs) + \$1,550 (Furniture Allowance) + \$80 (Linens) = **\$2,990**

Total Start-Up: \$5,590 + \$2,990 = **\$8,580**

The total minimum RAP start-up cost for the entire family is **\$8,580**

Monthly Financial Support

File 1 Couple with one child (couple with the 15 year old child)	Required Minimum Financial Support under the RAP Program	Allowable Maximum percentage of In-kind Deduction	Financial Support after the In-Kind Deduction
Basic Needs Allowance	\$569	0%	\$569
Communication Allowance	\$30	0%	\$30
Transportation (based on the Monthly Bus Pass rate for Winnipeg)	\$200.20 (2 x \$100.1)	0%	\$200.20
Shelter Allowance + National Housing Supplement (\$200)	\$864 (\$664 + \$200)	100%	\$0
Total Monthly Payment	\$1, 663.20		\$799.20

The total minimum monthly financial support for the family of three as per the RAP table is **\$1, 663.20**.

The monthly financial support after maximum in-kind deduction is **\$799.10**.

File 2 Single Adult (20 year old)	Required Minimum Financial Support under the RAP Program	Allowable Maximum percentage of In-kind Deduction	Financial Support after the In-Kind Deduction
Basic Needs Allowance	\$220	0%	\$220
Communication Allowance	\$30	0%	\$30
Transportation (based on the Monthly Bus Pass rate for Winnipeg)	\$100.10	0%	\$100.10

Shelter Allowance + National Housing Supplement (\$200)	\$695 (\$495+\$200)	100%	\$0
Total Monthly Payment	\$1,045.10		\$350.10

The total monthly financial support for a family of one single adult as per the RAP table is **\$1,045.10**. The monthly financial support after maximum in-kind deduction is **\$350.10**.

Total RAP Income Support

The sponsors are required to provide the total of one-time start-up cost and the RAP monthly financial support amount to the family when they initially settle in the community. In the case of the couple with a 15-year old child and a 20-year old child, the sponsors are expected to provide:

RAP Monthly Financial Support for the Entire Family

Family of 3: \$569 (Basic Needs Allowance) + \$864 (Shelter Allowance + National Housing Supplement) + \$30 (Communication Allowance) + \$100.10 (Transportation Allowance) + \$100.10 (Transportation Allowance) = **\$1,663.20/mo**

Single Adult: \$220 (Basic Needs Allowance) + \$695 (Shelter Allowance+ National Housing Supplement) + \$30 (Communication Allowance) + \$100.10 (Transportation Allowance) = **\$1,045.10/mo**

Total minimum monthly financial support: \$1,663.20 + \$1,045.10 = \$2,708.30

Total = **\$8,580** (start-up) + **\$2,708.30** (monthly financial support)

The total minimum financial support that sponsors are required to provide the family for the first month is **\$11,288.30**.

After the first month, the sponsors are required to provide the total minimum monthly financial support of **\$2,708.30** for the rest of the sponsorship year.

Total Income Support after In-Kind Deductions

RAP Minus In-Kind Deduction

For the start-up as well as the monthly financial support, if the sponsors provide appropriate in-kind donations mentioned above, then they can deduct the percentage value from the RAP amount. For the above mentioned family, you can deduct 70% of furniture allowance from startup and 100% from monthly shelter allowance:

RAP Start-Up Cost minus In-Kind Deduction for the Entire Family

Family of 3: \$390 (Staple Allowance) + \$1,000 (Basic Clothing Allowance) + \$475 (Winter Clothing Allowance) + \$700 (Basic Household Needs) + \$768 (30% of the Furniture Allowance) + \$80 (Linens) + \$80 (Linens) + \$80 (Linens) + \$75 (Utility Installation) + \$150 (School Start-Up Allowance) = **\$3,798**

Single Adult: \$210 (Staple Allowance) + \$375 (Basic Clothing Allowance) + \$175 (Winter Clothing Allowance) + \$600 (Basic Household Needs) + \$465 (30% of the Furniture Allowance) + \$80 (Linens) = **\$1,905**

Total Start-Up: \$3,798 + \$1,905 = **\$5,703**

RAP Monthly Financial Support minus In-Kind Deduction for the Entire Family

Family of 3: \$569 (Basic Needs Allowance) + ~~\$864 (Shelter Allowance)~~ + \$30 (Communication Allowance) + \$100.10 (Transportation Allowance) + \$100.10 (Transportation Allowance) = **\$799.20/mo**

Single Adult: \$220 (Basic Needs Allowance) + ~~\$495 (Shelter Allowance)~~ + \$30 (Communication Allowance) + \$100.10 (Transportation Allowance) = **\$350.10/mo**

Total minimum monthly financial support: \$799.20 + \$350.10 = \$1,149.30

If you would like further information, please refer to the [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 the JAS Refugee Profiles, visit the RSTP website [JAS page](#)



Photo: UNHCR

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

Including

Refugee PROFILE #: 19-0411

Calgary, AB

Linked file: **19-0412 (Father)**

Country of Origin: **Syria**

Family Size: **1**

Background: The principal applicant arrived in Calgary in 2018 together with her parents. The principal applicant has cognitive development delays, is non-verbal and has hearing loss. She is unable to conduct daily living activities on her own. Her mother is her primary caregiver and assists with her daily activities. She requires a special diet and needs to be accompanied at all times. She has had no access to special education where she lived previously and has never attended school due to financial reasons.

Support needed: The In-Canada JAS program would offer the principal applicant and her parents the opportunity to have the additional support needed for daily living. With her mother being the primary caregiver, a sponsor would offer her the opportunity to have extended emotional support and orientation as she familiarizes herself with formal systems and the services available.

A sponsor would be able to assist her mother as she struggles to settle her family in Calgary and guide her with medical literacy, navigation of the healthcare system and keeping track of her multiple medical appointments. A sponsor will further be able to guide her mother in accessing local and governmental programs and benefits to best support her with her high needs. Additionally, a sponsor could support the family with expanding their social networks and decreasing their feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Upcoming RSTP Workshops & Webinars

Workshops

Workshop for Groups of Five and Community Sponsors with IRCC

Date: Monday, May 27, 2019

Time: 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM PDT

Where: Four Points by Sheraton Victoria Gateway, 829 McCallum Road, Victoria, BC V9B 6W6

Description: The RSTP and IRCC are hosting this information session for individuals interested in submitting applications under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program as a Group of Five or a Community Sponsor.

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

<https://victoriamay2019ircrstp.eventbrite.ca>.

Private Sponsoring of Refugees: Groups of Five or Community Sponsorship

Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2019

Time: 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm MDT

Where: Mennonite Central Committee, 2946 - 32 St NE, Calgary AB

Description: This workshop is for those who want to sponsor family members through "Groups of Five" or "Community Sponsorship" options.

Please register by clicking below: [groups-of-five-and-community-sponsorship](#) or contact Anoush Newman at 403. 515-5868 or mnewman@rstp.ca.

Webinar Series

An Introduction to Canada's Refugee Sponsorship Programs

June 04, 2019

1 PM EST.

Registration:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1030615528676441357>

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

June 05, 2019

1 PM EST.

Registration:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5044957770454085389>

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

June 07, 2019

1 PM EST.

Registration:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8154510794223225869>

For more information, please visit:

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



Calgary Trainer Anoush Newman facilitating a workshop

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program



CCS
Catholic Crosscultural Services



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada