

RSTP Bulletin

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

Inquiries

You Asked

Should the sponsoring group provide a lump sum or 12 months worth of post-dated cheques to the sponsored refugees at the beginning of the sponsorship period?

Our Answer

We consulted with IRCC regarding the above question and IRCC encourages sponsors to issue financial support on a regular monthly basis using cheques, e-transfers, or other traceable methods. They recommend that this be accompanied by a budgeting orientation that includes a breakdown of the financial support to be provided during the sponsorship. Sponsors should review their financial commitments monthly with the refugee. Financial support can then be adjusted to match any changes in the refugee's finances.

Issuing financial support on a monthly basis will help the newcomers budget and manage their funds based on their monthly expenses. Sponsoring groups that prefer to issue support in a lump sum should follow these guidelines:

- Lump sum payments should cover no more than a 3 month period.
- Lump sums should be issued at the beginning of the period they are intended to cover, not at the end.
- Sponsors should clearly explain the length of time the money is to cover and provide budgeting orientation and assistance.
- There may be some risk for newcomers when managing funds and budgeting a lump sum of money. IRCC recommends documenting information and guidance given to refugees.
- Payment intervals should be consistent to avoid undue confusion and stress.

If the refugee is not able to properly budget their quarterly or bi-monthly lump sum payments, or if the

◀ RECAP

world
refugee day EVENT

Walk with Refugees in Halifax



Photo Credit: Mohammad Masalma

“Say it loud!

Say it clear!

Refugees are welcome here!”

Halifax, Nova Scotia held its sixth annual *Walk for Refugees for a Stronger Canada* this past Sunday, June 16th. The Walk was well attended by a crowd showing support for refugees. At the Halifax Public Library speakers shared experiences from the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, raised awareness through stories of refugee claimants in Halifax, and highlighted the contributions made by former refugees locally – opening businesses, raising families, and volunteering in the community.

The Walk also connected to the United Nations' [#StepWithRefugees](#) theme for World Refugee Day, raising awareness of the millions of refugees worldwide walking each day to reach safety.

sponsor does not provide a transparent breakdown of payments, IRCC may recommend changing the frequency to monthly payments.

You Asked

If the refugee agrees, can sponsors use the money brought by them from overseas towards the required financial support?

Our Answer

Should the sponsoring group wish to factor personal assets into the required levels of financial support they should follow the same standards as the [Resettlement Assistance Program](#) (RAP). According to the RAP income support guidelines, the maximum personal assets that refugees can retain without affecting the amount of income support they may receive is:

Family composition	Maximum amount allotted of personal assets (Canadian dollars)
Single person	\$5,000
Couple	\$7,500
Single plus one dependant	\$7,500
Each additional dependant	\$2,500

For example, if a couple and a child arrive in Canada with \$7,500, the financial support that they receive would not be affected. If the sponsored family declares that they have more than \$7,500, they can use the funds to pay the balance of their Immigration Loan before any financial support is deducted. [Section 17.3 of the RAP manual](#) gives an example of how income support would be calculated based on the value of personal assets they bring with them. If the family still has more than the personal asset limit, it is up to the sponsoring group and the refugee to decide how the remaining funds are counted. They can be used to reduce start up or monthly support but either support cannot be reduced by more than the actual amount. Also, sponsoring groups are encouraged to document how these calculations were made.

Questions 15 and 16 of the [FAQs on Post-Arrival Financial Support for the PSR Program](#) provide more information on how personal assets can be accounted for in determining the level of required income support

The sponsoring group can request the family member(s) sign a [Declaration of Funds and Assets on Arrival of Privately Sponsored Refugees](#) as documentation.



- ⇒ The declaration of funds and assets is voluntary and cannot be forced or coerced.
- ⇒ Sponsors cannot withhold financial support as a result of non-reporting.



Canada celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. More than **two million Canadians have helped sponsor more than 327,000 refugees** and have made the program a model for the world.

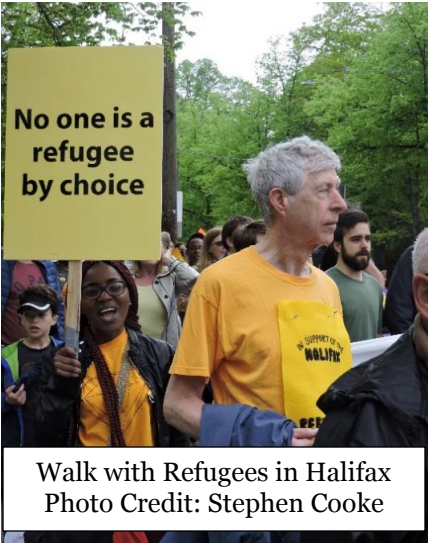
Read the World Refugee Day statement from Ministers Hussen, Freeland and Monsef here: <https://bit.ly/2x4WBXH>



World Refugee Day march in Toronto
Photo Credit: Fiona Connelly



Walk with Refugees in Halifax
Photo Credit: Stephen Cooke



Walk with Refugees in Halifax
Photo Credit: Stephen Cooke

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 Refugee Profile or the JAS Program, visit the RSTP website's [JAS page](#)



Many in-Canada JAS refugees are waiting to be sponsored!

Including

REFUGEE PROFILE #: 19-0409 (Woman at Risk)

IRCC Local Office: IRCC Hamilton

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Somalia

FAMILY SIZE: One

Background: A 26 year old Somali woman arrived in Canada in late 2018. Soon after her arrival in Canada, she was hospitalized due to a disability.

Special Needs: She suffers from an untreatable muscle disorder which will worsen over time. She is paralyzed and unable to move her arms. She's slowly losing the use of her hands and is unable to go anywhere by herself. She is unable to take part in English classes as the hospital in which she resides does not offer English training.

A sponsor could help reduce her feelings of isolation and loneliness. As she has no friends or family in Canada, a sponsor could offer social, psychological, and emotional support. A sponsor could introduce her to the community which would allow her to expand her social connections as well as help her build positive relationships with new individuals. The opportunity to informally practice English will greatly assist in her resettlement.





The residency requirements have been updated!

The main change from the previous version is that representatives being appointed in the community of settlement must submit a copy of an ID document that includes the representative's name and current address.

- * If the ID does not contain the current address of the representative, then an additional document showing the current residential address must be provided in addition to the ID (e.g. a lease agreement).

The latest version of the requirements can be found at the following links on the RSTP website, as well as under the "Latest policy and program updates" page and the "IRCC Resources" page under the "Resources" tab of the website:

English:

[Procedures Regarding Residency Requirements for Private Sponsorship](#)

French:

[Procédures relatives aux exigences de résidence pour les parrainages privés](#)

Social Media Presence in French!



RSTP now has a social media presence in French!

Please share our French [Facebook](#) page and [Twitter](#) account with any Francophones and Francophiles you know who are interested in refugee sponsorship!

Le Programme de formation sur le parrainage privé des réfugiés (PFPR) s'exprime désormais en français sur les médias sociaux! Abonnez-vous à notre page [Facebook](#) et à notre compte [Twitter](#) en français pour rester à l'affût de l'actualité du monde du parrainage!



Upcoming Webinar on Settlement Responsibilities for SAHs

Date: Thursday, June 27, 2019

Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT

Description: This webinar for new and experienced sponsors provides an in-depth look at Section 5 of the Sponsorship Agreement and sponsors' settlement responsibilities. The session will also provide suggestions for how these activities should be tracked and documented.

Presenters: RSTP with IRCC participation in the Q&A

For registration, please click: [here](#)

Would you like to know more about sponsoring refugees?



Learn about REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP from those who have sponsored refugees and from newcomers who came here as refugees!

Wednesday, June 26th

From: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

At: Shiloh Assembly Church
1600 Broadway Ave.

Regina, Saskatchewan

For more information:

Contact RSTP Trainer Helen Smith-McIntyre,

Tel: 306-343-8303

Email: hsmithmcintyre@rstp.ca

Upcoming RSTP Workshops and Webinars

WORKSHOPS

HOW TO COMPLETE REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP FORMS: GROUPS OF FIVE

Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Time: 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM EDT

Where: Mennonite Central Committee (MCC),
2946 - 32 St. NE, Calgary AB

Description: Topics covered in this session include:

- How to complete the sponsorship undertaking & settlement plan, financial profile, and sponsor assessment;
- How to calculate the sponsorship cost based on family size; and
- Updates from IRCC regarding new financial requirements.

For registration, please click: [groups-of-five form clinic](#) or contact RSTP Trainer Anoush Newman at 403. 515-5868 or mnewman@rstp.ca.

INFORMATION SESSION ON GROUPS OF FIVE & COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP

Date: Thursday, July 11, 2019

Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM MDT

Where: Catholic Social Services, 8212-118 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T5B-0S3

Description: Topics covered in this session include:

- How to sponsor, who can be sponsored; ⇒ Review of required forms;
- How to calculate sponsorship costs based on family size; and
- Post arrival and sponsor's settlement responsibilities.

For registration, please click: [Thursday Session: Edmonton July 11 Refugee Sponsorship](#) or contact RSTP Trainer Anoush Newman at 403-515-5868 or mnewman@rstp.ca.

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

WEBINARS

THE PSR PROGRAM: SUPPORTING SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION

Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2019

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

Description: Topics covered in this webinar include:

- Recap of sponsors' settlement and financial responsibilities under the PSR program;
- The importance of connecting newcomers with a settlement agency;
- Managing expectations;
- Power imbalance; and,
- Ethical considerations.

For registration, please click: [here](#)

THE PSR PROGRAM: PREPARING FOR MONTH 13

Date: Friday, June 28, 2019

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

Description: Topics covered in this webinar include:

- When should sponsors start preparing for Month 13;
- What to consider when preparing newcomers for Month 13;
- Services available for sponsored newcomers in Month 13;
- Evaluating the sponsorship; and,
- The post-sponsorship relationship.

For registration, please click: [here](#)

HAPPY
#With Refugees **PRIDE**
MONTH

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada