

RSTP Bulletin

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

Inquiries

You Asked

We just got the notice of arrival for the family we have sponsored and are wondering what the IFHP covers when they arrive. How long can the family receive the IFHP benefits?

Our Answer

Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP)

The Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) provides basic, supplemental and prescription drug coverage to all resettled refugees, this includes: [Privately Sponsored Refugees \(PSRs\)](#), [Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees \(BVORs\)](#), [Joint Assistance Sponsorship Program Refugees](#), and [Government-Assisted Refugees \(GARs\)](#)

IFHP coverage:

Coverage through the IFHP includes:

Basic coverage (similar to health-care coverage provided by provincial/territorial health insurance plans)

- in-patient and out-patient hospital services
- services provided by medical doctors, registered nurses and other health-care professionals licensed in Canada, including pre- and post-natal care
- laboratory, diagnostic and ambulance services

For more details, please consult the [IFHP Benefit Grid – Basic Coverage](#)

Supplemental coverage (similar to the coverage provided to social assistance recipients by provincial and territorial governments)

- limited dental and vision care
- home care and long-term care
- services provided by allied health-care practitioners including clinical psychologists, occupational therapists, speech language therapists and physiotherapists
- assistive devices, medical supplies and equipment, including:
 - orthopedic and prosthetic equipment
 - mobility aids
 - hearing aids
 - diabetic supplies
 - incontinence supplies
 - oxygen equipment

For more details, please consult the [IFHP Benefit Grid – Supplemental Coverage](#) and the [IFHP Dental Benefit Grid](#).

IRCC UPDATE

Two-year Pilot Project for Sponsoring Undeclared Family Members



When a refugee or a refugee family is resettled through the PSR program, they are required to declare all family members. If the principal applicant fails to declare a family member, they are barred from being able to sponsor that family member in future.

In a special IRCC two-year pilot project beginning September 9, 2019, anyone (including resettled refugees) who came to Canada can now sponsor undeclared immediate family members. This pilot project runs from:

⇒ **September 9, 2019, to September 9, 2021.**

Applications that are already in process will be covered by this pilot project.

For more information visit:

<https://bit.ly/2WCVuNh>

Project details

Coming Soon!

Prescription drug coverage

- Most prescription medications and other products are listed on provincial/territorial public drug plan formularies. Please note that certain products are excluded under the IFHP.

For more details, please consult the [IFHP Benefit Grid – Prescription Drug Coverage](#).

Duration of IFHP coverage

Basic coverage is provided only until the resettled refugee qualifies for provincial or territorial health insurance. From the moment they arrive in Canada, resettled refugees are covered by their applicable provincial health plan. However, IFHP is received at the point of entry allowing resettled refugees to have access to healthcare coverage right away. Once the sponsored person applies for provincial health care, the basic coverage will be covered under their provincial health plan.

Supplemental and prescription drug coverage is provided as long as the resettled refugee receives income support from the [Resettlement Assistance Program \(RAP\)](#) or until the end of sponsorship. This means the sponsored refugee is eligible for this coverage for 12 or 24 months after arrival depending on the sponsorship duration.

Where to find services covered by IFHP

Services covered by the IFHP can be received from any healthcare provider (physicians, hospitals, pharmacies, dentists etc.) who is registered with the IFHP.

The List of Providers Registered with IFHP is:

[British Columbia Provider List \(May 2019\)](#)

[Alberta Provider List \(May 2019\)](#)

[Saskatchewan Provider List \(May 2019\)](#)

[Manitoba Provider List \(May 2019\)](#)

[Ontario Provider List \(May 2019\)](#)

[Quebec Provider List \(May 2019\)](#)

[New Brunswick Provider List \(May 2019\)](#)

[Nova Scotia Provider List \(May 2019\)](#)

[Prince Edward Island Provider List \(May 2019\)](#)

[Newfoundland and Labrador Provider List \(May 2019\)](#)

[Yukon Provider List \(May 2019\)](#)

[Northwest Territories Provider List \(May 2019\)](#)

[Nunavut Provider List \(May 2019\)](#)

You Asked

Can our SAH place sponsorship funds into a centralized savings account or do we need to create individual accounts for each sponsorship?

Our Answer

Organizing funds

It's up to each SAH to organize the funds gathered for each sponsorship. They can be placed into individual joint accounts or into a centralized account, as long as the SAH is able to provide monthly financial support to the sponsored family and can document that the sponsored family is receiving the required support.

Joint accounts (a SAH or CG representative and co-sponsor)



A joint account can be created for each sponsorship. In this case, the SAH or CG Rep will have to go to open a bank account with the co-sponsors for all the sponsorship applications their SAH submits to the IRCC.

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to track as money will be attached to each sponsorship file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bank account is created under an individual working for the SAH (it can be the SAH/CG rep) and the co-sponsor. This may cause tax (if interest is acquired) and liability issues. • The SAH will have to monitor to ensure money is going to the sponsored person(s). • Administrative challenges – the SAH/CG Rep has to go to the bank each time to create an account as well as to withdraw money. • Too many bank cards and too much paperwork to file.

Centralized bank account (managed by SAH or CG)

The SAH can create a centralized account to keep all funding received for sponsorship purposes. A centralized account is easy to administer and easier to monitor. It's ideal to have a separate account for the purpose of refugee sponsorship. If a single account is used for all organizational funds then you should have an accounting system that tracks the money received for sponsorship separately from other charitable donations received by the organization.

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to manage and monitor • The financial support for each sponsored person can go directly from the bank account or post-dated checks can be issued for the sponsored person or family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will need a clear MOU or contract • Should not be confused with other charitable collections

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

When SAHs save the money in a centralized account, they will need to have a clear Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or contract signed either with their CGs, with their co-sponsors, or between CGs and co-sponsors, outlining any financial arrangements and how the funds gathered for a particular sponsorship will be distributed to the sponsored family. The financial commitment of each party to the sponsorship should be clearly outlined including the return of the money to the co-sponsors if the sponsorship application is refused.

For more information on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), See APPENDIX #3 of [Best Practices Vol. IV – Sponsoring Agreement Holders working with Constituent Groups and Co-sponsors](#)

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



Photo: UNHCR

Many In-Canada JAS Refugees are Waiting to Be Sponsored!

Including

REFUGEE PROFILE #: 19-00106

IRCC Local Office: IRCC Calgary

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

FAMILY SIZE: One

Background: This 18 year old Iraqi man arrived in Canada in late March of 2018 with his sisters and brother. Since arriving in Canada he has received linguistic, religious, community and health services and has shown positive engagement in a youth soccer club.

Special needs: He suffers from emotional, mental and behavioural issues, as well as the loss of his parents. He does not get the support he needs from his siblings who are overwhelmed by their own resettlement.

A sponsor could help: provide necessary emotional and social support to reduce his feelings of loneliness and isolation; provide the extra care he misses from his parents; him access community resources; him navigate the higher education system and employment fields; him practice his English and gain greater self-sufficiency.



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

Upcoming RSTP Webinars

world
refugee
day

EVENT

The PSR Program:

Adding Dependents Post-Submission and Updating Applications

Date: Monday, June 17, 2019

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

Topics covered:

- The importance of keeping IRCC up-to-date with any changes in circumstances;
- Who to contact and when; and,
- How to add dependents post-submission.

To Register, Click [here](#)

The PSR Program:

Supporting Settlement and Integration

Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2019

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

Topics covered:

- 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.

To Register, Click [here](#)

The PSR Program:

Preparing for Month 13

Date: Friday, June 21, 2019

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

Topics covered:

- 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.

To Register, Click [here](#)

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



On Sunday, June 16 from 2:00-4:00 pm

Gather at **Garrison Grounds at 2:00 pm** at the grassy space between the parking lots. From there walk up Sackville Street, around the Public Gardens and down to the Halifax Central Library.

All are welcome!

Bring your family, wear **YELLOW and bring noise makers to show your support!**

A reception will be held at the Halifax Central Library from 3:00-4:00 pm with music and refreshments.

Event partners include:

[ISANS](#), YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs, The Refugee Sponsorship Training Program, [Immigration Francophone de la Nouvelle-Écosse](#), Halifax Local Immigration Partnership, [Halifax Refugee Clinic](#), [African Diaspora Association of the Maritimes \(ADAM\)](#) [Halifax Public Libraries](#), and [UNHCR Canada](#).

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program



CCS
Catholic Crosscultural Services



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada