

BVOR program information

BVOR refugee profiles

BVOR-related inquiries

Upcoming BVOR workshops



No one chooses to be a refugee

*But you can choose to sponsor
one through the BVOR program.*

Share the cost and save a life!

BVORNEWS

IRCC update

IRCC is extending the monthly financial support currently provided under RAP for GARs to include BVOR refugees. The amount of income support provided to BVORs and refugees supported by a cost-sharing arrangement will be increased effective **September 1, 2018**. It will be adjusted for all those receiving a RAP allowance for the month of September and for all new cases receiving RAP starting in September as follows:

Benefits which will be issued automatically commencing September 1st, 2018:

- A new communications allowance of \$30 per month per household.
- A new age of majority top-up allowance (\$150+ cost of public transportation) for families with 18-year-old dependants living in provinces where the age of majority is 19 (BC, NB, NFDL, NS). This will address a financial gap for families with underage dependants no longer receiving Canada Child Benefits.

The following benefits are conditional and will be issued upon receipt of required documentation, if the RAP file is still open at the time of receipt (no retroactive payments will be made):

- Refugees can request a special dietary allowance of \$75/month (maximum per family) if they have a doctor's (or nurse practitioner's) note confirming they have a medical condition requiring a specialized diet.
- Refugees can request a monthly housing supplement of up to \$200 per family to help reduce the gap between RAP shelter rates and their actual housing costs. Refugees must send IRCC documentation, such as a lease agreement, showing that their total housing costs (including utilities) exceed the maximum shelter allowances issued under RAP.

RSTP's RAP sheets will reflect these changes as of September 1, 2018.

The Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program A Cost-Sharing Program!

The BVOR program is designed to resettle refugees identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) who have been approved by the Canadian government.

A refugee/refugee family sponsored through the BVOR program will arrive within 6 to 12 weeks of application approval and the Canadian government will share half of the sponsorship costs with sponsors.

The refugees resettled under the BVOR program receive income support from the Government of Canada through the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) for 6 months after their arrival (during months 2-7). Private sponsors offer another 6 months of financial support (during month 1 and 8-12) plus the startup costs.

What are the sponsor's settlement responsibilities?

- **Reception** at the airport (refugees are not taken to the Reception Centre);
- **Housing & basic necessities** (this is covered for 6 months through RAP income support, but sponsors cover start-up costs);
- **Settlement assistance** (including language classes, enrollment in school, finding health care providers, job search, etc.); and
- **Emotional & moral support.**

Who can Sponsor under the BVOR Program?

To sponsor refugees under this program, you must be a:

- Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) or Constituent Group (a group that can sponsor refugees under a SAH agreement);
- Groups of Five; or a
- Community Sponsor.



Photo: UNHCR

Refugee Populations in the BVOR Program includes *(but not limited to):*

- Syrian, Iraqi, Iranian
- Congolese, Ethiopian, Eritrean
- Somali, Colombian, Sudanese

Particular vulnerabilities or reasons for resettlement:

- Women and girls at risk
- LGBTQ2
- Survivors of violence and torture
- Lack of foreseeable alternative durable solutions

To learn more about the countries that these refugees are coming from, visit the RSTP website:

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/refugees/country-condition-information/>.



Photo: UNHCR

There are 102 available BVOR Refugee Profiles in the RSTP Matching Database

Including

REFUGEE PROFILE #: 1359-07-18

FAMILY SIZE: Five

Additional information: Cousin in Winnipeg, MB

Syrian family of five comprising of father, mother and three young children. The father can speak English, has 14 years of education and has worked in telecommunications. Due to the insecurity in Syria, the family were displaced several times and fear for their safety. The couple are motivated to come to Canada and are eager to resettle and improve the lives of their children.

REFUGEE PROFILE #: 1362-07-18

FAMILY SIZE: One

Additional information:

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Somalia

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: Ethiopia

A 26-year-old single Somali woman living in Ethiopia with no education or official language skills. She has work experience as a hand-laundrer and presser. She is a survivor of violence and torture and cannot return to her country of origin for fear of her safety. As she has no relatives in Canada, she would greatly benefit from the assistance of sponsors in the community of settlement.

REFUGEE PROFILE #: 1366-07-18

Additional information- Vancouver, BC

FAMILY SIZE: Three

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iran

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: Turkey

A 40-year-old Iranian man with a spouse and child. The family are currently living in Turkey. He has a Bachelor's Degree and some English language skills. He has worked as a shopkeeper and furniture maker in his country of residence. The family has relatives living in Vancouver, BC who can help the family. They would also benefit from sponsors in the community of settlement.

Available BVOR Refugee Profiles Continued

REFUGEE PROFILE #: 1320-06-18

FAMILY SIZE: Four

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Brother in Mississauga, ON

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Pakistan

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: Sri Lanka

A 38-year-old father, his 34-year-old wife and their two young children ages 11 and 2, currently living in Sri Lanka. The father has limited education and language ability. His wife is highly educated with good knowledge of English. The father is a survivor of violence and trauma. He has a brother who lives in Mississauga, ON who will help in the family's resettlement. They are unable to return to their country of origin, nor can they establish in the country of residence. They will benefit from sponsors' assistance in the community of settlement.

REFUGEE PROFILE #: 1335-06-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FAMILY SIZE: One

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Syria

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: Turkey

This 21-year-old single Syrian refugee currently lives in Turkey. He has some work experience as a dressmaker, although he has limited education and English language skills. He is a survivor of violence and trauma based on his gender orientation. He has no relatives in Canada and will benefit from sponsors' assistance in the community of settlement.

REFUGEE PROFILE #: 1413-07-18

FAMILY SIZE: Six

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: Jordan

The father in this Iraqi family of six has worked as a guard and farmer. The family cannot return to their home country, Iraq, due to ongoing insecurity and instability. They have relatives in Edmonton, AB and should resettle in or near that city. They would benefit from the support of a sponsor during their resettlement to Canada.

If you are interested in sponsoring any of the available BVOR refugee Profiles included here or want to learn more, **log in to the RSTP Matching Database** with your username and password: cathcrosscultural.sharepoint.com/rstp



Ask the experts >>>

Q: *Can I get the contact information of the person or the family that I would like to sponsor?*

A: *Their contact information will be provided after your application forms are approved.*

Upcoming

BVOR event

Join us for an informative and inspiring evening with **Jean-Nicolas Beuze**, the **UNHCR Representative in Canada**, on the global refugee crises and how Canadians can help by sponsoring refugees through the BVOR program.

When: Tuesday Aug 07, 2018
6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Where: ISSo/BC Welcome Centre

Please register by visiting the following link:

https://RSTP_UNHCR_Vancouver.eventbrite.ca

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

For more information on the BVOR Program and how you can get involved, please click on this [link](#) or contact our [Refugee Resettlement Project Worker](#).