

# RSTP Bulletin

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

## Friendly Reminder

Dear SAHs,

At just over the halfway point of the year, 35% of available spaces for 2019 have been used by SAHs and 82 SAHs have submitted applications to ROC-O.

To make timely processing at ROC-O possible, applications should be submitted throughout the calendar year rather than at the end.

So please submit your applications without waiting until the end of the year and remember we are here to help!

## TIME TO UPDATE

The **FAQs on Post-Arrival Financial Support** were updated in August 2019. The updated document can be found on the RSTP website in [ENGLISH](#) and [FRENCH](#).

Below are some of the key changes in the revised FAQs on Post-Arrival Financial Support:

- **Q.1:** Clarification that the age of majority is to be considered over the duration of the sponsorship period and not just on arrival.
- **Q.2:** Additional information and clarity on what in-kind support means and ways that it may be provided. Clarification that start-up costs cannot be provided fully in-kind through donations and clarification that IRCC may apply discretion on a case-by-case basis to the requirement that mattresses must be purchased new. Clarification that only shelter can be provided in-kind by a non-party to the sponsorship.
- **Q.3:** New guidance on the required level of financial support for cases that were submitted before the current Sponsorship Agreement came into effect on January 01, 2018.
- **Q.4:** Clarification on the Sponsorship Cost Table used by Groups of Five and Community Sponsors and its use by SAHs.
- **Q.5:** Guidance on support provided by non-parties to a sponsorship, i.e. a party not listed on the Sponsorship



We would like to draw your attention to a York University research project: *Probing private refugee resettlement in Canada: long-term sponsors and their communities*, that seeks to understand people's experience of private sponsorship from various perspectives.

### In particular:

- Why and how private sponsorships continue by a single group for ten years or longer?
- What makes private refugee sponsorship in Canada sustainable over a period of years?
- What are the specific characteristics of people, communities or places that are connected to sponsorship?
- What role does the size of the community in which one is settled play?
- From the perspective of those sponsored, what was it like to be sponsored into a small town or city versus a big one?
- What influence does the presence of family members or co-nationals in a community have, if they are present?
- Is the 'echo effect' –people's desire to sponsor family members still abroad and at risk to come to Canada – a rationale that sponsors or those sponsored assign to long-term sponsorship?

If you are interested in the project or know others who might be willing to share their experiences, the research team is looking to speak with people who:

- Have been private refugee sponsors for 10 years or more
- Are part of a group of five, community sponsorship, or constituent group affiliated with a Sponsorship Agreement Holder
- Have been privately sponsored to Canada 5 or more years ago
- Are living in Ontario, British Columbia or Quebec

For more information, please contact Johanna Reynolds, research project coordinator, at [jreynol@yorku.ca](mailto:jreynol@yorku.ca)

Undertaking form. Clarification that only shelter can be provided in-kind by a non-party to the sponsorship.

- **Q.9:** Guidance on the frequency of financial support payments.
- **Q.11:** Guidance on whether IRCC requires personal information from the refugees to verify support.
- **Q.19:** Clarification that personal assets are to be considered over the duration of the sponsorship period and not just on arrival. Guidance updated to clarify the distinction between personal assets and earned income, as well as links to the applicable RAP policies.
- **Q.23:** Guidance updated to clarify the distinction between personal assets and earned income, as well as links to the applicable RAP policies.
- **Q.28:** Guidance updated to refer to community of settlement.
- **Q.29:** Guidance expanded to include incarceration as well as hospitalization.

## 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 waiting to be sponsored!**

### Including

**In-Canada JAS REFUGEE PROFILE: 19-0477**

**IRCC Local Office: Kingston, ON**

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq**

**FAMILY SIZE: 1**

**Background:** A 46 year old Iraqi man, who was accompanied to Canada by his adult daughter. His wife, and two of their underage children did not accompany him to Canada, however he intends to apply for family reunification under the One Year Window Program. Due to a lack of formal education, he is illiterate, and continues to experience a variety of challenges when dealing with paperwork.

He has epilepsy that impacts his memory: he cannot remember the details of healthcare or other service providers that he has accessed or appointments. He is a survivor of violence and torture, and is struggling with his mental wellbeing.

**Support Needed:** A sponsor would support access to essential medical/other services which he cannot navigate independently. A sponsor would also assist with English learning as he is unable to attend English language classes. He would also benefit from tools to address literacy, psychological and physical barriers, help him develop independence and assist him to manage his budget.

**In-Canada JAS REFUGEE PROFILE: 19-0591**

**IRCC Local Office: London, ON**

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Syria**

**FAMILY SIZE: 1**

**Background:** A 62 year old Syrian woman living alone in Canada. She has multiple health problems, including vision loss, and has trouble getting to her medical appointments.

**Support Needed:** A sponsor would help her become more comfortable with the public transit system, so that she can more easily make it to her appointments. A sponsor would also provide emotional support, and help her practice her English. She would greatly benefit from better integration into the community through various services, and help her feel less isolated. She has difficulties in doing her laundry in her building where she lives, and needs more training to be fully independent.

**In-Canada JAS REFUGEE PROFILE: 19-0307**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Calgary, Alberta**

**Linked File: JAS 19-0070 (sister)**

**IRCC Local Office: Calgary, AB**

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq**

**FAMILY SIZE: 3**

**Background:** A 27 year old Iraqi man, who came to Canada with his 24 year old wife, and their three year old daughter. He has work experience as tea maker, construction worker, and he has worked in a hospital kitchen. The family have minimal English language skills, though they have been attending English language classes. The family resettled with the father's sister and her two young children. He supports his sister who is a single mother (on the linked case JAS 19-0070) by taking on the role of head of household for both families.

**Support Needed:** A JAS sponsor could assist the family in practicing their English language skills, connecting them to additional resources and programs in their community, navigating healthcare and other public systems. The emotional and social support of a sponsor would help reduce the isolation of the family and help them gain further self-sufficiency.



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

# UPCOMING RSTP WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS



## WORKSHOPS

### Private Sponsorship of Refugees - Sponsoring Refugees as a Group of Five

**Date:** Thursday August 29, 2019

**Time:** 11am – 12:30pm

**Location:** Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization, 945 Wellington street West, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor – Community Room

**Description:** In this session you will learn about:

- Who is eligible to sponsor,
- The requirements to be sponsored,
- Sponsors' financial and non-financial responsibilities, and
- The application process.

**To register click:** [here](#)

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



RSTP Trainers: Doryann Dupuy and Lidia Jarmasz, presenting at the information session on successful sponsorship organized by [@refugee613](#)

## WEBINARS

### The PSR program: supporting settlement and integration

**Date:** Wednesday, August 21, 2019

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

**Description:** 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:** Wednesday, August 28, 2019

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

**Description:** 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](#)



Photo: UNHCR

Refugee  
Sponsorship  
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