

# RSTP Bulletin

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

## Latest Updates

IRCC has updated Q.5 of the [FAQs on Post-Arrival Financial Support](#).

### **The changes to Q.5 are highlighted below:**

“Q5. What is the difference between support provided by a party to the sponsorship and someone who is not?”

When a case is being reviewed by IRCC post-arrival, if financial or non-financial support was provided by someone who is not party to the sponsorship<sup>8</sup>, the sponsors should be able to show that this support was planned when the case was originally submitted or immediately upon arrival. There should be an established pattern of this support **being** provided. Such support will not be counted if it is in the form of ad hoc gifts or **was initiated as a result of lack of sponsor support.**

Examples of documentation demonstrating this planned support from someone not party to the sponsorship could be the Settlement Plan on file, or emails or texts showing that there was an agreement between parties to the sponsorship and non-parties for the monthly support to be provided by someone who didn't sign the Undertaking.

Sponsors always have the option of adding the non-party to the Undertaking to have the support be officially recognized and that person become officially liable. Adding a party to the sponsorship allows for support provided going forward to be officially recognized; it does not automatically recognize previous support given. **Volunteers providing non-financial support do not need to be individually listed on the Sponsorship Undertaking or Settlement Plan if they are part of an organization that is already listed as a party to the sponsorship.**”

The latest version of the FAQs can be accessed on the RSTP website in [ENGLISH](#) and [FRENCH](#).

## A Gentle Reminder

Dear SAHs,

We are now approximately 60% of the way through the year and only **41%** of the available spaces for 2019 have been used by SAHs. To this day, only 87 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 do submit your applications as soon as possible so that there is not a rush of applications submitted in December.

## Answers From the Resettlement Services Assurance Team (RSAT) Related to the FAQs on Post-Arrival Financial Support

### You Asked

Can you please provide guidance on how sponsors can reduce the cost of certain allowances (i.e. the basic household needs allowance, the staple allowance for cleaning items, the furniture allowance for shared furniture items and the cost of utility/phone installation) in shared living situations and what is considered acceptable? We understand for shelter in shared living situations that each individual would be entitled to receive the shelter allowance equal to their portion of the rent, would a similar principle be applied to the shared start-up costs?

## RSAT Answer

Q7 in the FAQ addresses this questions:

In situations where sponsored refugees choose to live together (for example, children who are above the age of majority reside with their parents or linked cases reside together), or where families or persons live with their sponsor or with a group/individual who is not a party to the sponsorship (such as a family link), some shared costs may be reduced.

However, this only applies if the overall needs of all family members are met in accordance with RAP guidelines, and that supports are reasonable and appropriate, as determined by IRCC:

- Start-up costs may be reduced in shared living situations, including certain household items (such as window coverings and household products such as kitchen utensils, pots, pans, cleaning products), shared furniture items, such as living and dining room furniture, and cost of utility/phone installations and deposits, as applicable.

The basic allowance may be provided in-kind to a maximum of 50% **only if the refugee(s) is residing with a party to the sponsorship.**

## You Asked

Is the guidance on housing provided in the footnote on pg.3 of the FAQs (Information through Statistics Canada's standard on [housing suitability for private households](#), based on the [National Occupancy Standards](#)) to be used as a best practice when finding suitable accommodation or should sponsors ensure that all housing complies with these standards?

## RSAT Answer

Yes, guidance on housing provided in the footnote on pg.3 of the FAQs is to be used as a best practice when finding suitable accommodation.

## You Asked

Should the timeline provided in the [RAP manual](#) be used when issuing cheques to PSR refugees? If so, in situations where temporary housing is provided without cost for the first few months, should sponsors still issue the cheque for start-up costs in Month 1 or wait until the newcomers move to permanent accommodation? Similarly, if the refugees arrive in the summer, should the winter clothing allowance be issued on arrival or at a later date?

## RSAT Answer

The timeline provided in the RAP manual is a good starting point for guidance. Start-up should be provided when the

## RELATED WEBINAR

### Webinar with IRCC on Financial Responsibilities for SAHs

**Date:** Tuesday September 24, 2019

**Time:** 1 PM EST

This webinar will provide:

- An in-depth look at sponsors' financial responsibilities as outlined in the Sponsorship Agreement, Appendix A of the IMM 5413 Guide and Section F of the Sponsorship Undertaking [IMM 5373] form; and an overview of the RAP Rates and a demonstration on how to use them to calculate the minimum level of financial support required on arrival, and provide guidance on how financial support should be tracked and documented by SAHs.

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

### Who is a party to the Sponsorship?

Someone who has signed the Sponsorship Undertaking. This can include:

- A SAH rep
- CG or Co-Sponsor
- Group of five(G5) members
- Signing authority of Community Sponsors (CS)

**REFSIS** (RSTP database)

**Date:** September 17, 2019

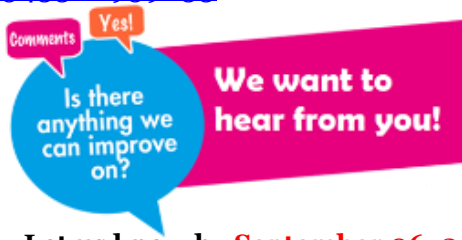
## Orientation Webinar

**Time:** 1 pm to 3 pm EST

We are organizing an orientation webinar on using REFSIS (RSTP database) system with WhiteCap Canada, the company that developed the database. Send us your questions so the team can answer your questions and hear any other input you may have!

To join the webinar, register via this link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6269999543360959233>



Let us know by **September 06, 2019!**

refugee arrives or shortly after arrival since it is intended to cover their initial cost of settling in Canada which includes more than furniture and household items. If the refugee will reside in temporary housing for a while, start-up funds should still be issued and the purpose of the start-up funds should be communicated clearly to the sponsored person/family. Winter/summer clothing allowance should be issued on arrival, again, with the purpose clearly communicated.

## 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**



**Many JAS (including In-Canada JAS) refugees waiting to be sponsored!**

**Including**



**JAS REFUGEE PROFILE #: 19-0593**

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Uganda

**COUNTRY OF CURRENT RESIDENCE:** Kenya

**PREFERRED DESTINATION:** Toronto, ON

**FAMILY SIZE:** 1

**Background:** A 26-year old Ugandan male but identifies as female. She has completed 13 years of education and has experience as a musician and cook, and speaks fluent English. She is unable to return to her country of origin due to fear of persecution based on her gender identity.

**Support Needed:** The applicant would benefit from extra help and support upon arrival to Canada in order to help her successfully resettle within her community.

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

## In-Canada JAS

**In-Canada JAS REFUGEE PROFILE #: 19-0477**  
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Kingston, ON  
**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Iraq  
**FAMILY SIZE:** 1

**Background:** A 46 year old Iraqi man and 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. His epilepsy 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 a sponsor who would implement tools to address literacy, psychological and physical barriers, help him develop independence and assist him to manage his budget.

**In-Canada JAS REFUGEE PROFILE #: 19-0500**  
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Calgary, AB  
**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Syria  
**FAMILY SIZE:** 5

**Background:** A 41 year old Syrian man accompanied by his spouse and their three children, aged twelve, eleven, and seven. He has completed 6 years of education, has worked as a farmer, and is fluent in Arabic. His spouse is a homemaker. Despite the ongoing health-related issues, the couple's three children have been performing well in school and are adapting quickly.

All of the couple's children are visually impaired; the middle child is in significant physical pain and is on ongoing medication. The middle child is also currently undergoing a cornea transplant to restore his vision and is waiting for his second surgical procedure. The youngest child will undergo the same procedures soon. All three of the couple's children attend different schools for special-needs children and this in itself has been challenging for the principal applicant as he must drive them to the different schools. While he is an enthusiastic individual, he is finding it challenging to keep up with the numerous medical appointments and is often left feeling helpless.

**Support needed:** The assistance of a sponsor would provide the family with a support system to help with their daily challenges as well as allowing them to dedicate the time necessary to develop their English language skills and fully connect and integrate within their local community. Specifically, a sponsor would assist in helping the family understand the children's medical situations and navigate the health care system.

Also, a sponsor would also be able to connect the family with community resources specific to the children's visual disabilities, which would provide much needed support to the parents as they three their children with disabilities in a foreign environment. A sponsor would be able to ensure that the family has access to the emotional and social support that they greatly require. Particularly, the PA would benefit from the emotional support as he bears the majority of the family's responsibilities. As such, this family will benefit greatly from the physical, emotional, and social support provided by a JAS sponsor.

## FRENCH WORKSHOP

### Le parrainage de réfugiés ou d'un membre de la famille

**Date :** Samedi 14 septembre 2019

**Heure :** 11 h – 14 h

**Lieu :** FRAP-PASE, 8627, rue Marie-Anne Gaboury (Salle 104), Edmonton AB

**Description :** Cette séance co-animée avec Francophonie Albertaine Plurielle-Portail d'accueil et services d'établissement (FRAP-PASE) abordera les sujets suivants :

- Quelles sont les responsabilités du ou des répondants?
- Qui peut présenter une demande de parrainage?
- Qui peut être parrainé?

#### Inscription :

[https://parrainage\\_refugies\\_regroupement\\_fa\\_milial.eventbrite.ca](https://parrainage_refugies_regroupement_fa_milial.eventbrite.ca)



# UPCOMING RSTP WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS



## WORKSHOPS

### Information Session on Groups of Five and Community Sponsorship of Refugees

**Date:** Saturday, September 7, 2019

**Time:** 10:00 am - 2:00 pm MDT

**Where:** Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, 1111-11 Ave SW, Calgary AB

**Description:** Topics covered in sessions are:

- Recent changes and updates to the PSR Program;
- The sponsorship process;
- Eligibility and admissibility requirements for refugees being sponsored; -Specific requirements for Groups of Five and Community Sponsorship;
- How to identify an acceptable proof of refugee status; and
- Which forms need to be completed, and the required supporting documents.

For registration, please click: [groups five - community sponsorship Sep 7](#).

### Information Session on Groups of Five and Community Sponsorship of Refugees

**Date:** Wednesday, September 11, 2019

**Time:** 4:30 PM – 8:00 PM MDT

**Where:** Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, 1111-11 Ave SW, Calgary AB

**Description:** Topics covered in sessions are:

- Recent changes and updates to the PSR Program;
- The sponsorship process;
- Eligibility and admissibility requirements for refugees being sponsored; -Specific requirements for Groups of Five and Community Sponsorship;
- How to identify an acceptable proof of refugee status; and
- Which forms need to be completed, and the required supporting documents.

For registration, please click: [groups five - community sponsorship Sep 11](#).

For more information, please visit:

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

## WEBINARS

### An Introduction to Canada's Refugee Sponsorship Programs

**Date:** September 11, 2019

**Time:** 1 PM MDT.

**Description:** This webinar will cover: who can sponsor under the PSR program; the specific requirements for Groups of Five and Community Sponsors; who can be sponsored; refugee status documents: what are they and who needs them; sponsors' financial & settlement responsibilities under the PSR program; and, the OYW and how it works.

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

### The PSR Program: Who Can Sponsor and Who Can be sponsored

**Date:** September 17, 2019

**Time:** 1 PM MDT.

**Description:** This webinar will cover: the application process; recent updates and changes to processing; who can be included in one application package; what supporting documents need to be included in the application package; how to complete the forms for Groups of Five; the proof of funds requirements for Groups of Five; how to complete the forms for Community Sponsors; proof of funds requirements for Community Sponsors; and, how to complete the refugees' forms.

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



RSTP Alberta Trainer Anoush Newman with Eritrean Global Missions Ministry members

Refugee  
Sponsorship  
Training  
Program



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada



Catholic Crosscultural Services

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada