

RSTP Bulletin

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

Inquiries

Question #1

Are sponsored refugees able to apply for Employment Insurance (EI) during the sponsorship period (if they are eligible for EI); are there any consequences for sponsors if refugees apply for EI during the sponsorship period; and, is EI considered earned income?

Answer

Sponsored refugees are able to apply for [Employment Insurance \(EI\)](#) during the sponsorship period if they are [eligible](#) to do so. Income received through the EI program is [considered to be earned income by IRCC](#) and sponsors can adjust the monthly financial support they provide to the refugees using the [standards for earned income](#) if they are receiving EI.¹ As the income received via the EI program is comparable to employment earnings and earned income, there are no consequences for sponsors (or their Sponsorship Agreement if they are a Sponsorship Agreement Holder) if sponsored refugees apply and receive EI during the sponsorship period. Receiving income via the EI program is not the same as receiving social assistance during the sponsorship period.

PEACE BY
CHOCOLATE
A SYRIAN FAMILY TRADITION
UNE TRADITION FAMILIALE SYRIENNE

The “Welcome Bar” from **Peace by Chocolate** launched last week! Sales of the bar benefit the work being done by the University of Ottawa’s Refugee Hub and can also be used as a fundraising tool by other groups. Visit [Peace by Chocolate](#) to get yours today!

Question #2

If a sponsor indicates that they are unwilling or unable to support the sponsorship of the Principal Applicant’s (PA) non-accompanying family members via the One Year Window of Opportunity Provision (OYW), even though the family members were listed on the PA’s sponsorship application, will a sponsorship breakdown be processed for the whole application (including for the PA and any accompanying family members that are already in Canada)?

Answer

As stated in the Obligations, Consents and Declarations section of the [Sponsorship Undertaking](#), sponsors have a legal obligation to sponsor and support the Principal Applicant (PA) and all of the PA’s accompanying and non-accompanying family members, including biological children born after the application is submitted to IRCC.

If a sponsor indicates that they are unwilling or unable to support the non-accompanying dependents who were included on the PA’s initial application through the One Year Window of Opportunity Provision (OYW), IRCC will review the case and situation to determine how to proceed and may declare a sponsorship breakdown for the whole application. It is important to remember that sponsors must continue to provide financial and non-financial support per the [PSR program requirements](#) to the refugees that have arrived in Canada until IRCC declares a sponsorship breakdown.

Question #3

How do we calculate the level of financial support required for a separated minor who is a de facto dependent of another family member?

¹ See Q.23 and Q.24 of the FAQs on Post-Arrival Support for PSRs (available at: http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/EN-FAQs-update-Summer-2019-AUG-19-update_FINAL.docx-3.pdf)

Answer

As noted in the [Resettlement Assistance Program \(RAP\) Program Delivery Instructions](#), separated minors are not automatically eligible for financial assistance under the RAP.

When calculating the level of financial support for a separated minor that is a de facto dependent of another family member, the separated minor is to be considered as being a part of the family unit they have the de facto relationship with.

For example, if a separated minor is being sponsored as a de facto dependent of a single adult, they would be considered as being a family of two when calculating the required level of support using the RAP rates if the minor is residing with, and is under the care of, the single adult.

Question #4

Can sponsors do in-kind deductions for the utility installation allowance that is a part of the one-time start-up costs?

Answer

Sponsors cannot do in-kind deductions for the utility installation allowance that is part of the one-time start-up costs.

The [RAP Program Delivery Instructions](#) state: *“The one-time utility installation allowance of \$75 includes services such as telephone/internet connection fees and the installation and/or hook-up of utilities (e.g. water, gas, electricity) and should be provided on each adult file regardless of whether or not they are residing in the same household as other families (e.g., roommates or adult dependent children).”*

However, as noted in Q.7 of the [FAQs on Post-Arrival Financial Support for PSRs](#), *“Start-up costs may be reduced in shared living situations, including... [the] cost of utility/phone installations and deposits, as applicable.”*

IRCC may accept a reduced cost for utility installation in shared living situations, but only if the household’s total utility installation costs have been covered by the sponsor and are clearly demonstrated.

The Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) Program

Many JAS Refugees are waiting to be sponsored!

Including the Following In-Canada Cases:

JAS PROFILE #: 19-0477
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq
LOCATION: Kingston, ON
LOCAL IRCC OFFICE: Kingston, ON
FAMILY SIZE: 1

The newcomer is a 46 year old Iraqi man and was accompanied to Canada by his adult daughter. The newcomer’s wife, and two of their underage children did not accompany him to Canada, however, he intends to submit a One Year Window of Opportunity Provision (OYW) application to reunite with them. Due to a lack of formal education, the newcomer is illiterate and continues to experience a variety of challenges when dealing with paperwork. The newcomer’s epilepsy impacts his memory and he cannot remember the details of healthcare or other service providers that he has accessed or had appointments with. The newcomer is a survivor of violence and torture and is struggling with his mental wellbeing.

Global Refugee
Sponsorship Initiative

Help the **Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI)** promote refugee sponsorship at the Global Refugee Forum by uploading a video! Please visit the following link for more information:

<https://t.co/nTl45e2v5J>

A sponsor would support access to essential medical and other services which the newcomer cannot navigate independently. A sponsor would also assist with English learning as the newcomer is unable to attend English language classes. The newcomer would also benefit from a sponsor who would implement tools to address literacy, psychological and physical barriers and help him develop independence and assist him to manage his budget.

JAS PROFILE #: 19-0497
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Syria
LOCATION: Calgary, AB
LOCAL IRCC OFFICE: Calgary, AB
FAMILY SIZE: 4

The newcomer family are a 25 year old man accompanied by his spouse and their two children, aged four and two. The 25 year old has completed 12 years of education and has worked as a tailor. He is fluent in Arabic and has attended some English language training. His spouse is a homemaker.

Although the family has received settlement support, they still require extra support to assist with their settlement and integration in Calgary. Since arriving in Canada, the newcomers have experienced many medical and literacy-related challenges. The spouse is currently awaiting results from a surgical biopsy. As a result of the medical complications, she has only been able to enroll in part-time English classes and, as such, has had difficulty in improving her English language skills. While the 25 year old is enrolled in full time English classes, many are missed due to his spouse's medical appointments and having to care for their two young children. The ongoing medical needs of his spouse has in turn hindered the family from engaging in other settlement services and accessing various community resources. Additionally, given their limited social support in Calgary, along with the language barriers and cultural differences, the family has felt increasingly isolated and helpless.

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 could assist the family in navigating the medical system as well as supporting the family as the PA's spouse undergoes the necessary treatments pending her medical diagnosis. Given the needs of this family, they would highly benefit from the support of a sponsor in order resolve their feelings of isolation in Canada. A sponsor could assist with child care and providing informal English language assistance to the family in order to lessen the stress experienced by this family.

JAS PROFILE #: 19-0045
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq
LOCATION: London, ON
LOCAL IRCC OFFICE: London, ON
FAMILY SIZE: 4

The newcomer family are a 36 year old Iraqi woman, her spouse and their two children. The family arrived to Canada in early 2018. Since arriving to Canada, she has experienced ongoing challenges which have impacted her settlement and integration in Canada. Her past traumatic events have continued to impact her ability to handle daily tasks. Her challenges include literacy skills, employment, community mapping and lack of knowledge of Canadian culture. Her physical and mental health difficulties constrains her from developing life skills that would help her promote her social and mental well-being.

A sponsor could provide her with the time and support she needs to obtain a better understanding of Canadian culture. The sponsor can assist with escorting her to medical appointments, becoming more independent and encouraging her to attend English classes. Due to the family's lack of formal education, they could also benefit from the opportunity to improve their English skills outside of a formal classroom setting. The additional support would assist her in navigating community services and leading her and her children to attend social events to better integrate into Canadian society.

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 (CGs)**

For more information about a particular JAS profile or the JAS Program, please [click here](#)

RSTP WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS!

Workshops

Working with a Sponsorship Agreement Holder for Current and Potential Refugee Sponsors

Date: Saturday November 02, 2019

Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm (lunch provided)

Location: Stittsville United Church, 6255 Fernbank Road, Stittsville, ON, K2S 1A5

Registration: <https://workingwithasah.eventbrite.ca>

Workshop on Sponsoring Refugees under the PSR Program (Arabic)

Date: Monday November 04, 2019

Time: 5:30pm – 8:00pm

Location: Fairview Library, Room 4 (4th Floor), 35 Fairview Mall Drive, Toronto, ON, M2J 4S4

Registration: Please email Lamia Zoudeh (lamia.zoudeh@hotmail.com) or May Amouri (mamouri@rstp.ca)

Workshop on Financial Support Standards for Sponsored Refugees

Date: Monday November 04, 2019

Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Location: Newcomer Welcome Centre, 1st Floor, 2332 11th Ave, Regina, SK, S4P 0K1

Registration: Please email Helen Smith-McIntyre (hsmithmcintyre@rstp.ca)

Introduction au parrainage privé des réfugiés

Date: Samedi 9 novembre 2019

Heure: 13 h 30 -- 15 h 30

Lieu: North York Central Library, Salle 101 (premier étage), 5120, rue Yonge, Toronto, ON, M2N 5N9

Inscription à l'événement:

https://parrainage_des_refugies_toronto.eventbrite.ca

Webinars

The PSR Program: Preparing for Month 13

Date: Wednesday October 30, 2019

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm CDT

Registration:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5350546136674375947>



Webinars with IRCC for SAHs

Using the Minimum Financial Support Calculator to Determine Start-Up and Monthly Support

Date: Monday November 18, 2019

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm EST

Registration:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2119402523444700417>

IRCC's Case Review Process (Part 1)

Date: Monday January 13, 2020

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm EST

Registration:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1352876892629043201>

IRCC's Case Review Process (Part 2)

Date: Monday January 20, 2020

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm EST

Registration:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/820617607273849089>

Recordings of September 2019 Webinars with IRCC Now Available!

Please visit:

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/resources/video/past-webinars/>

A Friendly Reminder for SAHs:

We are approximately 77% of the way through the year and 63% of the spaces available to SAHs have been used. Please submit your applications as soon as possible so that there is not a rush of applications being submitted at the end of the year.

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program



CCS
Catholic Crosscultural Services



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada