

# RSTP Bulletin

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

## Inquiries on Housing

### Question



**Are there any best practices, guidelines or standards that sponsors can use when trying to secure temporary and/or permanent accommodation for sponsored refugees?**

### Answer

Information on suitable housing that can be used by sponsors as a best practice guide is available through Statistics Canada's [standard on housing suitability for private households](#), which is based on the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation's [National Occupancy Standards \(NOS\)](#).

The standard on housing suitability for private households and the NOS were developed through consultations with provincial housing agencies.

### Question

**What is considered to be 'suitable housing'?**

The NOS defines suitable housing as "...housing that has enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of resident households."

The standard on housing suitability for private households and the NOS defines 'enough bedrooms' as one bedroom for:

- Adults living as part of a married couple or a common-law couple.
- Single parents of any age.
- Single household members aged 18 years of age and over (including single parents).
- Same-sex children under the age of 18.

The standard on housing suitability for private households and the NOS also state that children under 5 years old of the opposite sex can share a bedroom if doing so would reduce the number of required bedrooms and a single adult living alone does not need their own bedroom (i.e. they may live in a bachelor or studio apartment and be considered to be living in suitable accommodations).

Both the standard on housing suitability for private households and the NOS state that there should be no more than two persons per bedroom, as any more persons per

bedroom would be considered overcrowding.

This standard differs from recommendations on crowding provided by the [United Nations, which considers three or more persons per room to be overcrowded](#). However, the United Nations notes that this level may be raised or lowered for national use.

### Question

**What should sponsors keep in mind when trying to locate and secure housing for sponsored refugees?**

### Answer

Ideally, sponsors would not rent or secure permanent accommodation for the sponsored refugees until they arrive in Canada.

There are a number of reasons for this, namely: the sponsored refugees' arrival in Canada could be delayed due to changes in their travel plan; the composition of the refugees' family or their needs may have changed since the sponsorship application was submitted; and, most importantly, the refugees should be given the opportunity to determine where they would like to live permanently and should be involved in the selection process.

Sponsors should ensure that the permanent accommodation is sustainable, so that the refugees are able to continue living there after the sponsorship period comes to an end and they can continue paying their rent in Month 13 and beyond, even though their earnings (either through employment, self-employment or social assistance) may be lower than the financial support that was provided by sponsors during the sponsorship period.

### Question

**Are there any resources that can provide sponsors and sponsored refugees with further information on housing?**

### Answer

General information on housing for newcomers can be found on the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation's website [here](#) and [here](#).

Province specific information can be found in the newcomer welcome guides available on the RSTP website [here](#).

# The Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) Program

## Many JAS Refugees are waiting to be sponsored!

**JAS PROFILE #:** 19-1153

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Burundi

**COUNTRY OF CURRENT RESIDENCE:** Tanzania

**FAMILY SIZE:** 2

A 20 year old mother from Burundi and her son are waiting in Tanzania to be matched with a sponsoring group. The mother's application is linked with her sister's application.

The mother and her son do not have any contacts in Canada and the mother has experienced several traumatic events throughout her life. As a result of these traumatic experiences, the mother is considered to be a Woman at Risk and would highly benefit from the support of a sponsor who can help her access child support and peer counselling programs, as well as providing her and her son with emotional and social support.

**IN-CANADA JAS PROFILE #:** 19-1145

**LOCATION:** Mississauga, ON

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Eritrea

**FAMILY SIZE:** 1

A 22 year old single newcomer from Eritrea is currently living in Mississauga, ON.

The newcomer suffers from paralysis on the left side of his body (he has some mobility in his left leg but his left arm is non-functional). The newcomer also suffered a head injury as a child which causes him to have daily seizures that affect his physical and mental wellbeing.

As a result of his medical conditions, the newcomer has experienced difficulties developing self-dependence, locating permanent housing and accessing community support. A sponsor would be able to provide the newcomer with emotional support and assist him with attending his medical appointments and with completing day-to-day errands and tasks, which in turn will provide him with the confidence to become self-dependent and find opportunities to become financially independent.

**IN-CANADA JAS PROFILE #:** 19-0477

**LOCATION:** Kingston, ON

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Iraq

**FAMILY SIZE:** 1

A 46 year old Iraqi father was accompanied to Canada with his adult daughter, but his wife and underage children did not accompany him to Canada. The father is a survivor of violence and torture and has epilepsy.

The father is illiterate due to his lack of formal education and continues to experience a number of challenges with trying to reunite with his family under the One-Year Window of Opportunity Provisions. A sponsor would be able to assist the father with navigating the Canadian healthcare system and assist him with learning English as he is not able to attend English language classes.

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](#)

# UPCOMING RSTP WEBINARS IN 2020!

## Webinars in January 2020

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

**Date:** Tuesday January 07, 2020

**Time:** 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST

**Registration:** <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/738112311339669003>

### The PSR Program: Who Can Sponsor and Who Can Be Sponsored

**Date:** Friday January 10, 2020

**Time:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST

**Registration:** <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5947209315626770955>

### The PSR Program: How to Prepare and Submit a Successful Application Package

**Date:** Tuesday January 14, 2020

**Time:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST

**Registration:** <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3878160429105817611>

### The PSR Program: Adding Dependents Post-Submission and Updating Applications

**Date:** Tuesday January 21, 2020

**Time:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST

**Registration:** <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3257748898505312011>

### The PSR Program: Supporting Settlement and Integration

**Date:** Friday January 24, 2020

**Time:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST

**Registration:** <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5502908761470432011>

### The PSR Program: Preparing for Month 13

**Date:** Wednesday January 29, 2020

**Time:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST

**Registration:** <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4160859162258216459>

## French Webinars in January 2020

### Pleins feux sur les responsabilités des groupes qui parrainent des réfugiés

**Date:** Mardi 7 janvier 2020

**Time:** 13 h à 14 h HNE

**Inscription:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4004254625102046987>

## Webinars with IRCC for SAHs in January 2020

### 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>



Anoush Newman, the RSTP Trainer for Calgary, delivering a workshop at the AAISA Conference in November 2019

## Find Your Nearest RSTP Trainer!

Have questions? Need assistance or support? Need training or looking for a workshop?

The contact details of the RSTP Trainers across the country can be found at:

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/contact-us/>



Doryann Dupuy (left), the RSTP Trainer for Ottawa, hosting a workshop for sponsors in Stittsville, ON



Refugee  
Sponsorship  
Training  
Program



**CCS**  
Catholic Crosscultural Services



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada