

RSTP Bulletin

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

Earned Income, Deductions & Reductions

A sponsored refugee's focus during their first year in Canada (i.e. during the sponsorship period) should be to participate in activities that will help them become self-sufficient and independent. These activities may include engaging in employment, self-employment or work experience, settlement activities, English and/or French language classes, college or university courses and employment preparation programs.

Some sponsored refugees may begin working during the sponsorship period and may earn income through their employment or self-employment. While the declaration of employment earnings is voluntary, and cannot be forced or coerced, sponsored refugees are expected to declare any earned income to their sponsoring group as it may impact the level of financial support that is being provided to them.

Question

What is considered to be earned income?

Answer

The [Program Delivery Instruction on the Resettlement Assistance Program \(RAP\)](#) states that any income received from the following sources is considered to be "earned income":

- Full or part-time employment;
- Employment Insurance or workers' compensation benefits;
- Training allowances (however, any allowances for tuition, books, supplies or tools is not considered earned income);
- Paid work experience programs (however, any allowances for supplies and tools is not considered earned income); and,
- Student grants or scholarships (only the living allowance portion).

When income is earned by a refugee who is attending secondary school on a full-time basis (regardless of their age), the income is not considered to be earned income.

If income is earned by a refugee who is attending secondary school on a part-time basis (regardless of their age), the income is considered to be earned income and is not exempt from deductions if it reaches the thresholds outlined below.

Question

When can sponsors begin reducing the level of monthly financial support they are providing to the refugees on the basis of earned income?

Answer

When a refugee's total net earned household income has surpassed 50% of the monthly income support provided by the sponsoring group, deductions can be made for every dollar earned above that threshold.

For example, if a single adult in Winnipeg, MB is receiving \$1045.10 per month from their sponsor, the sponsoring group can start reducing this amount dollar for dollar once the sponsored refugee's net earned income exceeds \$522.55.

Question

When can sponsors stop providing monthly financial support to the refugees on the basis of earned income?

Answer

Once a refugee's total net earned household income is 150% of the monthly income support provided by the sponsoring group, the refugee may no longer require financial support from their sponsor and may be considered to be financially self-sufficient if they can sufficiently support themselves and their family on an ongoing basis.

For example, if a single adult in in Winnipeg, MB is receiving \$1045.10 per month from their sponsor, the sponsoring group can stop providing financial support to the refugee once their earned income exceeds \$1567.65.

Even though a sponsoring group may stop providing financial support to a refugee whose earned income reaches the 150% threshold and no longer requires financial support, the sponsoring group must continue providing settlement support to the refugee until the end of the sponsorship period and must be prepared to resume financial support if the refugee's earned income drops below the 150% threshold.

Further information on earned income can be found in Q.23-Q.24 of the [FAQs on Post-Arrival Financial Support for PSRs](#).

RSTP's [Minimum Financial Support Calculator](#) can assist sponsors with calculating what deductions can be done on the basis of earned income.

The Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) Program

Many JAS Refugees are waiting to be sponsored!

JAS PROFILE #: 19-1153 (Linked with JAS profile #19-1154)

LOCATION: Tanzania

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Burundi

FAMILY SIZE: 2

A 20 year old single mother and her son, both originally from Burundi, are currently in Tanzania. Their case is linked with the mother's sister (JAS profile #19-1154). The mother has experienced various traumatic events throughout her life and is a survivor of gender based violence and torture. As a result of her experiences, the mother is considered to be a Woman at Risk (AWR).

The mother, her son and sister do not know anyone in Canada and would greatly benefit from the support of a sponsoring group. A sponsoring group would be able to assist the mother with finding and accessing child support and peer counselling programs, as well as assisting them with connecting with their community and providing them with physical, emotional and social support.

IN-CANADA JAS PROFILE #: 20-0010

LOCATION: Toronto, ON

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Burma (Myanmar)

FAMILY SIZE: 3

A 48 year old Burmese father and his two children are currently in Toronto, ON. The father has partial vision and mobility impairments and has required partial care with daily activities since arriving in Canada; the two children have been attending school.

The father is currently in hospital as he has received several treatments for a brain tumor and is currently using a feeding tube. When he leaves hospital, the father will require long-term rehabilitation, speech therapy and physiotherapy. His daughter has been referred to a rehabilitation hospital where she will receive a customized wheelchair and a prosthetic leg.

While the family have been provided with a financial orientation and are accessing medical services and in-home support services, the additional support of a sponsor would alleviate some of the challenges the family will face when the father is discharged from hospital. A sponsoring group would also be able to provide emotional and personal support to the family.

IN-CANADA JAS PROFILE #: 20-0011

LOCATION: Saint John, NB

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Syria

FAMILY SIZE: 1

A single 30 year old woman who is a survivor of violence and torture recently arrived in Saint John, NB. As a result of her previous experiences, the newcomer suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and, as a result, has experienced challenges engaging and participating in her community.

The newcomer has been provided with a financial orientation and is accessing medical services and in-home support services. The additional support of a sponsor would provide the newcomer with more specialized and tailored support that would alleviate the social isolation she currently experiences, help her with advancing her language skills and assist her with integrating within her community.

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 WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS!

Workshops in January 2020

Overview of How to Sponsor Refugees under the PSR Program as a Group of Five

Date: Saturday January 25, 2020

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM MST

Location: Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, 1111 11 Avenue Southwest, Room 315, Calgary, AB, T2R 0G5

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/private-sponsorship-of-refugees-for-individuals-utilizing-groups-of-five-tickets-89685015295>

How to Prepare and Submit a Group of Five Application Package

Date: Saturday January 25, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM MST

Location: Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, 1111 11 Avenue Southwest, Room 315, Calgary, AB, T2R 0G5

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/learn-how-to-complete-groups-of-five-application-forms-tickets-89687171745>

The PSR Program: An Overview of How to Sponsor as a Group of Five and a Community Sponsor

Date: Wednesday January 29, 2020

Time: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM EST

Location: Fairview Toronto Public Library, 35 Fairview Mall Dr., Room 2, North York, ON, M2J 4S4

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/private-sponsorship-of-refugees-overview-group-of-five-and-community-sponsorship-tickets-89255095393>

Our Winter E-Training Course Starts on February 03, 2020!

RSTP's free online course, *An Introduction to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*, is a 10 week course that provides sponsors, service providers, and other interested community members with information about Canada's Private Sponsorship of Refugees program as well as the international context in which it operates.

The course consists of 8 weekly readings and quizzes, and a final exam. Upon successful completion of the course, participants will be issued with a certificate and will have the chance to register in RSTP's advanced online course.

The winter term of the *Introduction to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program* course will **begin on Monday February 03, 2020.**

The deadline to register for the course is Friday January 31, 2020 at 1:00 PM EST.

For more information about this course, and to register, please email: etraining@rstp.ca

Webinars with IRCC for SAHs in January 2020

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>

Our January 2020 Webinar Series Continues Next Week:

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>



Refugee
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