

# RSTP Bulletin

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

## How to Add a New Family Member to an Existing Application

If the Principal Applicant (PA) on a refugee sponsorship application gets married, has a newborn child or legally adopts a child after the application has been submitted to the Resettlement Operations Centre – Ottawa (ROC-O), this new family member must be added to the application as an accompanying or non-accompanying family member **before** the PA travels to Canada.

For more information on the definition of a “family” used by the Canadian immigration system and the difference between accompanying and non-accompanying family members, please [click here](#).

### Question

**Why it is important to add the new family member before the PA travels to Canada?**

### Answer

If the new family member is non-accompanying, and they are not added to the application **before** the PA’s departure for Canada, they are not eligible for the [One Year Window of Opportunity Provision \(OYW\)](#) and cannot be reunited with the PA in Canada using this provision.

Any family members that meet the definition of a “family” that are declared by the PA on arrival in Canada may be eligible to be sponsored under the pilot program for undeclared family members. For more information about the pilot program for undeclared family members, please [click here](#).

### Question

**How do we add a newborn biological child to an existing application?**

### Answer

If a newborn biological child is being added to an existing application, either the SAH, Group of Five, Community Sponsor or the PA can notify the appropriate IRCC office.

If the sponsors are notifying IRCC, they must submit an updated [Generic Application Form for Canada \[IMM 0008\]](#) signed by the PA that lists the PA, any previously declared family members and the newborn biological child to [ROC-O](#)

[via email](#) with a copy of the newborn child’s birth certificate or new UNHCR family document.

If the PA is notifying IRCC, they must submit an updated [Generic Application Form for Canada \[IMM 0008\]](#) signed by the PA that lists the PA, any previously declared family members and the newborn biological child to the [Visa Office](#) either at the interview or via email with a copy of the newborn child’s birth certificate or new UNHCR family document.

### Question

**How do we add a new spouse or legally adopted child to an existing application?**

### Answer

If a new spouse or legally adopted child is being added to an existing application, only the SAH, Group of Five or Community Sponsor should inform IRCC by submitting the following to [ROC-O via email](#):

- A [Request to Add Family Members to a Private Sponsorship Undertaking \[IMM 5618\]](#);
- An updated [Generic Application Form for Canada \[IMM 0008\]](#) signed by the PA that lists the PA and any previously declared family members along with the new spouse or legally adopted child being added;
- A [Schedule A – Background/Declaration \[IMM 5669\]](#) for the new family member being added (if they are over the age of 18); and,
- A copy of the marriage certificate, adoption certificate or new UNHCR family document.

### Question

**Do SAHs need cap spaces for the new family member being added to an application?**

### Answer

SAHs do not require a cap space if a newborn biological child is being added to an existing application.

However, cap spaces are required if a new spouse or legally adopted child is being added to an existing application.

### Need More Information?

Please see Appendix B in the guides for [SAHs](#), [Groups of Five](#) and [Community Sponsors](#).

# The Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) Program

## Many JAS Refugees are waiting to be sponsored!

**JAS PROFILE #:** 20-0013

**LOCATION:** India

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Somalia

**FAMILY SIZE:** 1

A single refugee woman, who is a survivor of violence and torture and is at risk of being subjected to sexual and gender-based violence if she is returned to Somalia, is currently residing in India. Her other family members (JAS Profile #20-0012) have been referred for resettlement to Canada and they wish to settle in the same community.

The refugee has experienced many hardships stemming from her race. She has completed 12 years of education and has experience working as an interpreter. As a result of the hardships and challenges she has experienced, the refugee will likely need additional support on arrival in Canada and would greatly benefit from the support of a sponsoring group.

**IN-CANADA JAS PROFILE #:** 20-0011

**LOCATION:** Saint John, NB

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Syria

**FAMILY SIZE:** 1

A single 30 year old woman arrived recently arrived in Canada. The newcomer has completed 14 years of education, but has experienced challenges engaging with her new community as she suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder that is emphasized by the lack of family support in Canada.

The newcomer has been provided with a basic orientation on finance, medical and education services and in-home support services, but a sponsor would be able to provide the newcomer with more personalized support that will help alleviate some of the social isolation that she experiences and assist with her integration into the community.

**IN-CANADA JAS PROFILE #:** 19-0070

**LOCATION:** Calgary, AB

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Iraq

**FAMILY SIZE:** 3

A 37 year old single mother and her two children arrived in Canada in early 2019. The family were accompanied by her brother and his family.

Due to her traumatic background, and because she is a single mother in a new and unfamiliar environment, the mother struggles with raising her children. The mother is highly dependent on her brother for emotional support as he is the only male in the household. The mother also worries for the well-being of family members they were forced to leave behind in Iraq.

A sponsor could provide the family with the assistance they need to reduce their feelings of isolation and loneliness. The sponsor could assist the mother in accessing resources in the community which will increase her overall independence and confidence.

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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS!

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Upcoming Events with IRCC for SAHs, Groups of Five and Community Sponsors across Canada

RSTP and IRCC will be hosting a series of events across Canada in February and March 2020 for SAHs, Groups of Five and Community Sponsors.

By attending these events, you will not only receive training and information from RSTP and IRCC, but you will also have the opportunity to provide feedback to IRCC on various aspects of the refugee sponsorship process.

The workshops will be held in the following cities on the dates listed below:

- **Ottawa, ON:** Monday February 10, 2020
- **Winnipeg, MB:** Tuesday February 18, 2020
- **Saskatoon, SK:** Wednesday February 19, 2020
- **Edmonton, AB:** Thursday February 20, 2020
- **Calgary, AB:** Friday February 21, 2020
- **Vancouver, BC:** Monday February 24, 2020
- **Toronto, ON:** Tuesday March 3, 2020
- **Hamilton, ON:** Wednesday March 4, 2020
- **Kitchener, ON:** Thursday March 5, 2020
- **London, ON:** Friday March 6, 2020
- **Moncton, NB:** Tuesday March 10, 2020
- **Halifax, NS:** Wednesday March 11, 2020

Further information on the time, venue and agenda for the events will be shared via the SAH and PSR Lists shortly.

## SAH CONFERENCE 2020

This year's SAH conference will be held in Toronto, ON from **Monday May 25, 2020 to Wednesday May 27, 2020**.

Registration and venue details will be shared via the SAH List once they have been finalized.

## Our February 2020 Webinar Series Starts Next Week:

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

**Date:** Wednesday February 05, 2020

**Time:** 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM CST  
**Registration:**  
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6424895440849002507>

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

**Date:** Wednesday February 12, 2020

**Time:** 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM CST  
**Registration:**  
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4319667124216071691>

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

**Date:** Tuesday February 18, 2020  
**Time:** 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM CST  
**Registration:**  
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4123316337727843595>



## 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](mailto:etraining@rstp.ca)

Refugee  
Sponsorship  
Training  
Program

[www.rstp.ca](http://www.rstp.ca)



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