

RSTP Bulletin

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

Information and Resources on COVID-19

At this time, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has assessed the public health risk associated with COVID-19 as low for the general population and does not currently expect an outbreak in Canada.

The PHAC will continue reassess the public health risk based on the available evidence as the situation evolves. For the latest updates on COVID-19, please visit the PHAC COVID-19 hub [here](#).

Below is some information and resources on COVID-19 that may be of assistance to sponsors and newcomers sponsored to Canada under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR), Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR), Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) and Government Assisted Refugees (GAR) programs.

Question

What special measures have IRCC implemented to assist applicants affected by COVID-19?

Answer

IRCC has introduced special measures to assist Chinese, Iranian and South Korean nationals, and individuals located in China, Iran or South Korea, that are affected by service disruptions or travel restrictions related to COVID-19.

Information about the special measures that are currently in effect, as well as any updates to these measures, can be found by clicking [here](#) and [here](#).

Question

Are there any resources on COVID-19 that we can share with our Constituent Groups, co-sponsors, group members and sponsored newcomers?

Answer

The latest information on COVID-19 in Canada, as well as information on being prepared, symptoms, treatment, travel advice, prevention and the Government of Canada's response, can be found on the PHAC COVID-19 hub [here](#).

There are also printable factsheets on [how to reduce the](#)

[spread of COVID-19](#); [how to isolate at home when you have COVID-19](#); and, [vulnerable populations that may be at enhanced risk from COVID-19](#).

Information and resources in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic are also available on the World Health Organization (WHO) website [here](#).

2020-2022 Immigration Levels Plan Released

IRCC have released details on the Government of Canada's Immigration Levels Plan for 2020-2022.

The 2020-2022 landing targets for the GAR, PSR and BVOR programs from the plan are below:

	Target		
	2020	2021	2022
Resettled Refugees - Government-Assisted	10,700	10,950	11,450
Resettled Refugees - Privately Sponsored	20,000	20,000	20,000
Resettled Refugees - Blended Visa Office-Referred	1,000	1,000	1,000

The landing target for the PSR and BVOR programs remain the same in 2020-2021 when compared to the [2019-2021 plan](#) and the same targets for both of these programs are carried through to 2022.

The landing target for the GAR program was increased by 250 for 2021 when compared to the [previous plan](#); the target for the GAR program for 2022 is 11,450.

The complete Immigration Levels Plan for 2020-2022 can be found at the following link on the Government of Canada's website:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/notices/supplementary-immigration-levels-2020.html>

The Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) Program

Many JAS Refugees are waiting to be sponsored!

IN-CANADA JAS PROFILE #: 19-0591

LOCATION: London, ON

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Syria

FAMILY SIZE: 1

A 62 year old Syrian newcomer woman is alone in Canada. The newcomer has several health issues, including vision loss, and has trouble getting to her medical appointments.

The support of a sponsor would help the newcomer become more comfortable with the public transit system so she is able to attend her medical appointments. A sponsor would also be able to provide the newcomer with emotional support to alleviate her isolation and feelings of loneliness, as well as providing her with a way to practice her English language skills.

IN-CANADA JAS PROFILE #: 19-0040 (Linked with #19-0041)

LOCATION: Winnipeg, MB

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

FAMILY SIZE: 1

A 65 year old Iraqi mother arrived in Canada in March 2019 with her adult children. The mother has been residing with her children since arriving in Canada and has been connected with community resources, volunteers, and language classes, but requires additional support.

The mother struggles learning the English due to her age and low levels of education. This hinders her confidence and the likelihood of successful integration. Additional formal or informal English practice will help reduce her feelings of isolation and the additional support of a sponsor could provide help in navigating different resources and activities for seniors in her community and moving her towards healing from the post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) she suffers from.

The mother's daughter is in-Canada JAS #19-0041.

IN-CANADA JAS PROFILE #: 19-0456

LOCATION: Calgary, AB

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Ethiopia

FAMILY SIZE: 1

A 41 year old Ethiopian father and husband recently arrived in Canada without his wife and two children. The newcomer has PTSD and is a survivor of violence and torture.

The newcomer has laryngeal nodules, which affects his voice and often leaves him inaudible. This in turn affects his ability to practice his English language skills.

A sponsor would be able to offer the newcomer support to help him navigate the Canadian healthcare system as he receives the long-term treatment and support for PTSD and laryngeal nodules.

The support of a sponsor would also enable him to build connections within Calgary and with his ethnic community to reduce feelings of isolation.

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

Workshops

Information Session and Forms Clinic for Groups of Five

Date: Saturday March 21, 2020

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM MST

Location: Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, 1111-11 Ave SW, Room 315, Calgary, AB, T2R 0G5

Registration: Information Session: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/information-session-about-groups-of-five-application-tickets-94453082713>; Forms Clinic: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/group-of-five-form-clinic-tickets-94467511871>

The PSR Program – An Overview of Community Sponsorship

Date: Thursday March 26, 2020

Time: 5:15 pm - 8:00 pm (EDT)

Location: Fairview Toronto Public Library - Room 3 (4th floor), 35 Fairview Mall Dr., Toronto, ON, M2J 4S4

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/private-sponsorship-of-refugees-overview-community-sponsorship-tickets-98698950217>

Don't Miss Our French Webinars in March 2020!

Tout sur les responsabilités des groupes qui parrainent des réfugiés

Date: Monday March 16, 2020

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (EST)

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7341231735633148939>

Les étapes d'une demande de parrainage de réfugiés et les personnes-ressources clés

Date: Monday March 23, 2020

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (EST)

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5067667089276089867>

La demande de parrainage de réfugiés : pleins feux sur l'Engagement de parrainage et plan d'établissement

Date: Monday March 30, 2020

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (EST)

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3314883926391964683>

Our March 2020 Webinar Series Continues!

The PSR Program: Supporting Settlement and Integration

Date: Tuesday March 17, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM PDT

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5470954754544135691>

The PSR Program: Preparing for Month 13

Date: Wednesday March 25, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM PDT

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8569752355570357515>

ICYMI: IRCC Anti-Fraud Videos on the PSR Program

IRCC have recently released a new anti-fraud video in [English](#), [French](#) and [Arabic](#) for refugees being sponsored under the PSR program. The videos were created with the objective of addressing some of the common fraud concerns and misconceptions faced by refugees in relation to the PSR program.

Sponsors and sponsored newcomers can report fraud in Canada's refugee sponsorship/resettlement programs by [emailing the Resettlement Operations Centre-Ottawa \(ROC-O\)](#) or by contacting the [Canada Border Services Agency \(CBSA\)](#).



Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

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