

RSTP Bulletin

The latest news and updates on Canada's Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement Programs

Guidance from IRCC for Private Sponsors Regarding COVID-19

IRCC have produced a document intended to assist sponsors in understanding how refugee sponsorship applications in process are affected by COVID-19 and, for sponsored newcomers that have already arrived in Canada, how sponsors can continue to fulfill their sponsorship role while also addressing the unique settlement needs of the newcomers during this difficult time.

The document can be accessed in English and French on RSTP's COVID-19 hub [here](#).

If sponsors have case specific questions that are not addressed in the document at the link above, they should contact the following IRCC departments directly:

- Pre-arrival questions (i.e. for applications currently in process): contact the Resettlement Operations Centre – Ottawa (ROC-O) via [email](#); or,
- Post-arrival (i.e. for sponsored newcomers that have already arrived in Canada and are within their sponsorship period): contact the Resettlement Services Assurance Team (RSAT) via [email](#).

IRCC have also translated some existing COVID-19 resources into various languages, including information on the financial assistance programs available to newcomers, temporary residents and refugees (if they meet the eligibility requirements for each program):

- English: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19/financial-assistance.html>
- French: <https://www.canada.ca/fr/immigration-refugies-citoyennete/services/coronavirus-covid19/aide-financiere.html>

The latest information on how COVID-19 is affecting refugee sponsorship to Canada and other immigration programs can be found on IRCC's website at the following links:

- English: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19.html>
- French: <https://www.canada.ca/fr/immigration-refugies-citoyennete/services/coronavirus-covid19.html>

One Time Increase to the Canada Child Benefit Payments for May 2020

Families receiving the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) will receive an extra \$300 per child in May 2020 as part of their regular monthly payment to assist with the pressures caused by COVID-19.

The increase is a one-time payment and families who already receive the CCB do not need to apply for this increase as it will be administered as part of the regular payment for May 2020. To find out more about this one-time increase in the CCB payment for May 2020, please click [here](#) and [here](#).

Newcomers sponsored under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) and Blended Visa Office-Referral (BVOR) programs who are [eligible](#) for the CCB, along with the [GST/HST credit](#), should apply for these tax benefits immediately after their arrival in Canada.

Sponsored newcomers should not wait for when they file their tax returns to apply for the CCB or the GST/HST credit.

Sponsors can assist sponsored newcomers with applying for the CCB and the GST/HST credit, but most [settlement agencies](#) are also able to assist the newcomers with applying for these tax benefits.

For further, detailed information on applying for the CCB and the GST/HST credit please click [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Question

Can sponsors make deductions from the monthly income support they provide based on sponsored newcomers receiving funds from the CCB or other provincial/territorial tax benefits or rebates?

Answer

No, sponsors cannot make deductions from the monthly income support they provide to newcomers sponsored under the PSR and BVOR programs based on the newcomers receiving payments from the CCB or other provincial/territorial tax benefit or rebate programs.

As noted in Q.15 of the [FAQs on Post-Arrival Financial Support for PSRs](#), the CCB, along with other provincial/territorial tax benefits or rebates, are not considered to be earned income and the receipt of these tax benefits or rebates has no impact on the minimum amount of financial support a sponsor is expected to provide.

UPCOMING RSTP WEBINARS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Webinars

How to Prepare a Successful Application Package under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program

Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Time: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm EDT

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4972819919653559051>

How to Submit a Refugee Sponsorship Application to ROC-O Via Email and Updating Applications After Submission

Date: Friday, May 15, 2020

Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm EDT

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3870860778994144267>

Preparing for Arrival and Providing Post-Arrival Support: Handling Unrealistic Expectations and Practicing Ethical Consideration

Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm EDT

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5021684415415232011>

Preparing and Transitioning to Month 13

Date: Friday, May 29, 2020

Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm EDT

Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/805001247801263883>

How to Submit a PSR Application to ROC-O Via Email

If you are submitting a new PSR sponsorship application to ROC-O, you are strongly advised to do so [via email](#) so the [application can be processed](#).

Please ensure that all new PSR applications are complete, and all the required forms and supporting documents are included with the application package, as currently there are no exemptions from the application requirements for new PSR applications being submitted to ROC-O.

Detailed instructions on how to submit an application to ROC-O via email can be found in the guides for [SAHs](#), [Groups of Five](#) and [Community Sponsors](#).

A video explaining how to prepare and submit an refugee sponsorship application to ROC-O via email can be found [here](#).

Webinar on Refugee Mental Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT

Registration:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7567656366225260303>

Have Questions? Contact Your Nearest RSTP Trainer

RSTP Trainers are still available to provide online workshops and webinars, assistance and support to refugee sponsors.

To find your nearest RSTP Trainer, and the contact details of other RSTP staff, please [click here](#).

Subscribe to RSTP's Email List

Subscribe to the RSTP email list by clicking [here](#) to receive the latest updates on how COVID-19 is affecting refugee sponsorship/resettlement to Canada, as well as to get the details of all of our upcoming online trainings, workshops and webinars as soon as they are posted.



Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

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