



BVOR NEWS

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

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BVOR program on pause

Due to the disruptions to normal operations in light of COVID-19, IRCC stopped posting any cases for consideration on March 26, 2020 under the Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program until further notice.

This will not affect cases that had already been matched, and for which the sponsorship had already been approved by the Resettlement Operations Centre – Ottawa (ROC-O). However, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is not able to provide specific dates on when those cases might arrive in Canada, following the announcement of the Prime Minister on March 16, 2020 on travel restrictions.

IRCC will contact the sponsors directly by e-mail once the refugee they are sponsoring is ready to travel and to advise you on additional requirements with which they will have to comply in light of COVID-19.

Once normal program operations resume, you will be notified accordingly.

Below are some helpful resources for BVOR sponsors and newcomers during COVID-19

1) IRCC multi-language resources on COVID-19

IRCC has translated some existing COVID-19 related resources into various languages, including information on the financial assistance programs available to BVOR and PSR newcomers if they meet the eligibility requirements for each of the programs.

The resources can be accessed on IRCC's website at the following links:

- [English](#)
- [French](#)

The Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program

The BVOR Program helps resettle refugees identified by United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as the most vulnerable in need of resettlement. It is called blended because it is a cost sharing arrangement. Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) provides up to six months of income support for the newcomers, while private sponsors provide another six months of financial support, start-up costs and up to one year of social and emotional support.

2) What BVOR sponsors need to know about their cases in process.

IRCC will contact the sponsors directly by e-mail once the refugee they are sponsoring is ready to travel and will advise them on additional requirements with which they will have to comply in light of COVID-19.

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

The resources can be accessed on IRCC's website at the following links:

- [English](#)
- [French](#)

3) Latest information on COVID-19 and refugee sponsorship

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

- [English](#)
- [French](#)

4) Read RSTP's COVID-19 Fact Sheet

RSTP's COVID-19 fact sheet provides links to multi-language resources that can be used by sponsors and refugees sponsored under the BVOR program, as well as the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSRs), the Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) and the Government Assisted Refugees (GAR) programs.

5) Resources from Public Health Agency Canada (PHAC) on Covid 19

The PHAC has a number of multi-language awareness resources on COVID-19, including fact sheets on physical distancing, how to reduce the spread of COVID-19, how to self-isolate, taking care of your mental health during self-isolation and advice for mothers on pregnancy and caring for newborns.

The resources can be accessed on following links:

- [English](#)
- [French](#)

Questions about the BVOR program

The BVOR program staff is available to answer your questions regarding the BVOR program, cases that are in process as well any questions related to COVID-19 and BVOR sponsorships.

Tel: 416.290.1700 ext.2403

Toll-free: 1.877.290.1~701

E-mail: BVOR@rstp.ca

RSTP also continues to provide a full range of virtual services to Canada's refugee sponsorship community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please check our website, www.rstp.ca, for dates and times of upcoming online workshops and courses.

RSTP trainers across Canada are available for virtual consultation from 9 to 5 each day, by appointment. Among the services they provide by [telephone](#), [email](#) and virtual platforms are:

- Support with refugee sponsorship applications.
- Guidance for sponsors with post-arrival issues.


Please refer to our website's contact list for the name, phone number and e-mail address of the RSTP trainer in your region.

BLENDED VISA OFFICE-REFERRED (BVOR) PROGRAM

For more information, visit www.rstp.ca or email bvor@rstp.ca

Refugee
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 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

