



BVOR NEWS

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

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The BVOR Sponsor Journey

Due to the disruption to normal operations in light of COVID-19, IRCC stopped posting any cases for consideration under the BVOR program on March 26, 2020 until further notice. However, during this pause on the BVOR program, it is a good idea to get a head-start on the ins and outs of the program, so that you can dive right in when the program resumes, particularly because it can generally take several months for a group to:

- Form
- Learn about the BVOR program
- Learn about their sponsorship responsibilities
- Determine which refugee(s) to sponsor, and
- Submit an application for the chosen refugee(s)

There are many ways to find members for forming a group. Here's a few:

- Use social media to invite friends, acquaintances or neighbours to join.
- Host a casual information session online for friends, family, coworkers or neighbours. During the Syrian refugee crisis, many successful sponsorship groups were formed by neighbours who did not yet know each other well.
- Invite people attending a milestone celebration to help you sponsor a refugee(s), instead of giving a gift.

RSTP has created a guide that will help you understand the BVOR sponsorship journey, and will direct you to resources that will help you get ready, to read the guide, [click here](#).

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.

COVID-19 Factsheets for Sponsors and Resettled Refugees

IRCC has produced factsheets for sponsors and resettled refugees.

The factsheets provide information on the symptoms of COVID-19 and how to prevent its spread; and, information on what will happen on arrival in Canada, including the procedures that will be followed at the airport and the mandatory 14-day quarantine.

The factsheets are available to download at the links below and will be made available in additional languages shortly:

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

BVOR Refugees and RAP Payment During COVID-19

You Asked

Are BVOR refugees still meeting with their RAP officer in person or has the process changed due to COVID-19?

Answer:

Please see IRCC's response below:

"Local offices are not meeting in person with clients at this time. The local office will reach out and provide instructions to sponsors shortly after arrival. The RAP agreement and other documents will be signed electronically by the RAP officer then emailed to the sponsor for them to print and have the refugee sign them. The sponsor will then scan the fully signed documents and email them back to the local office. The local office will provide instructions on what to do with the originals.

Intake interviews can be done by phone, but the local office will provide further details on how each office wishes to finalize the orientation with the clients and sponsors; and a good reminder that sponsors are still obligated to provide the interpretation for this, if needed. If sponsors have any questions regarding the process for their specific case, they can communicate directly with the local office managing their RAP file for more information."

BLENDED VISA OFFICE-REFERRED (BVOR) PROGRAM

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

Refugee
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CCS
Catholic Crosscultural Services



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

Travel Resumption Resource Kit for Refugee Sponsors

RSTP has created a resource kit for refugee sponsors that:

- Outlines the procedure that IRCC will follow before booking travel for sponsored refugees during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Summarizes the mandatory entry requirements that all persons arriving or entering Canada must follow, including sponsored refugees.

The kit is available to download on the RSTP [website here](#).

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: 1.877.290.1701
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.