



BVOR NEWS

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

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Secondary Migration and BVOR Refugees

This issue will focus on the impact of secondary migration for BVOR refugees and sponsors.

What is secondary migration?

Secondary migration occurs when a refugee moves from their initial settlement to a new location. This can happen for various reasons, such as finding a better job, being closer to family and friends, or finding a place where the cost of living is lower.

Common reasons for secondary migration include:

- Being closer to family and friends;
- Being closer to the ethnic or religious community that the sponsored refugee identifies with;
- Finding a place where the cost of living is lower; and/or
- Better job prospects.

A change of address in the same community of settlement is not secondary migration. Secondary migration happens for many reasons. It is not necessarily a bad thing nor a problem for the sponsoring group as long as the correct steps are taken to ensure the "residency requirements" are met. Residency requirements mean that there is a group or a community willing to support the refugee in the new community of settlement.



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.

What are the impacts of secondary migration for BVOR refugees?

- The newcomer may not receive the same services as in their initial community of settlement, as services provided by settlement agencies and community resources may vary depending on the community.
- The sponsoring group may not be able to find another sponsoring group in the new community of settlement, so the refugee may no longer have a sponsoring group.
- The newcomer may no longer receive financial support from the sponsoring group.

What impact will this have on their RAP payments (government financial support)?

- The sponsored refugee's ability to receive a RAP payment could be affected – if the refugee does not have a sponsor in their new community of settlement, they cannot receive their RAP payments.
- The RAP payment amount may change slightly with the change of community of settlement.

- The resettled family may not receive adequate settlement support due to not having sponsors in the new community.

What should the sponsoring group do when secondary migration occurs ?

- Inform IRCC immediately
- Sponsoring groups must make reasonable efforts to fulfill their obligations outlined in the undertaking and settlement plan, even if the refugee moves to a different location.
- Identify a replacement Constituent Group and/ or Co-sponsor or Group of Five to meet residency requirements in the new community and resubmit an updated sponsorship undertaking.
- Transfer the sponsorship to a new sponsoring group. In a transfer of sponsorship, the new group signs a sponsorship undertaking for the remainder of the sponsorship period. The new undertaking replaces the first, and the original group is no longer considered the sponsor.
- Appoint representatives in the new community by submitting an Appointment of Representative(s) in Expected Community of Settlement form ([IMM 5956](#)) ([PDF, 138 KB](#)).
- Ensure that the residency requirements are met and collaborate with IRCC to find a resolution when replacement of the sponsoring group is not possible.


For more information on procedures regarding residency requirements, [please click here](#)

BLENDING VISA OFFICE-REFERRED (BVOR) PROGRAM

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

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

Please note: if a sponsor cannot meet the residency requirements when a sponsored family has moved, the case may lead to a no-fault or fault sponsorship breakdown. For more information on breakdowns and possible defaults, please see the following on [Sponsorship Disputes and Breakdowns](#).

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 as 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. 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.