



BVOR NEWS

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program



The Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program

The BVOR Program helps resettle refugees identified by the 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.



ATTENTION SAH REPRESENTATIVES!

Keep a lookout for a brief survey coming to your email inbox soon!

We need your help determining how many BVOR refugees might be sponsored this year.

(Please note: This is NOT an announcement about restarting the program)

ENVIRONICS INSTITUTE MARKET STUDY REPORT

Did you know that Environics Institute for Survey Research, in partnership with Refugee613, has recently completed a market study on Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program?

The study looks at who are the Canadians who sponsor refugees and how can they be reached with the training, resources, and information available about sponsorship.

Some of the findings about the Blended Visa Office Referred Program include that:

- ◆ Approximately four million Canadians would consider participating in a sponsorship, with more than 450,000 would definitely consider it.
- ◆ The greatest interest is expressed by those who know someone else already involved in refugee sponsorship and those who believe the program is very effective.
- ◆ The top reasons why people said they were not interested in considering a sponsorship were about personal circumstances rather than only a small group who indicated they did not support the program.

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Canadians are open to various ways of being involved in refugee sponsorship including: language training, assistance with paperwork, driving refugees to appointments, helping with education, skills training, and finding employment.

The market study also highlighted a challenge with the BVOR program especially. Promotion to the wider Canadian population has not been as effective as was hoped. Few Canadians outside the refugee sponsorship field are familiar with the details about how the BVOR program works. This leads to many questions potential sponsors will have. Participants in the survey indicated they wanted to know more details about logistics of sponsorship.

Majorities say they would like to get answers to such questions as:

- ◆ what supports are provided by the government
- ◆ the time commitment expected of sponsors
- ◆ how long a sponsorship lasts
- ◆ how much it costs to sponsor a refugee
- ◆ what skills and abilities are required.

Based on this information, RSTP is working towards developing new and better resources for sponsors considering a BVOR sponsorship. We have already introduced a BVOR Info Webinar for potential sponsors that will be repeated again in September. And will be working with IRCC towards better and broader promotion of the program. We look forward to working with SAHs and CGs, Groups of Five, and Community Sponsors who have experience in sponsorship and those who are brand new to it.

For those interested in reading the full report, it may be found on the Environics Institute website: <https://www.environicsinstitute.org/projects/project-details/private-refugee-sponsorship-in-canada---2021-market-study>

BLENDING 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

RSTP services to sponsors continue virtually until October 18

While many parts of Canada are starting to reopen offices, our main office at CCS has shared a reopening plan that will see RSTP return to the office on October 18 (subject to change based on current conditions at the time). In the meantime, we will continue to provide a full range of virtual services to Canada's refugee sponsorship community. 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

See our website's [contact list](#) for the name, phone number and email address of the RSTP trainer in your region.