

BULLETIN

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Question

What expenses does the Transportation Loan issued to sponsored refugees cover?

Answer

Refugees being sponsored and resettled to Canada under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program, the Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) program, the Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) program and the Government Assisted Refugee (GAR) program may receive a Transportation Loan that is intended to assist them with covering the cost of their travel to Canada.

The Transportation Loan is issued by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) via their [Immigration Loans Program \(ILP\)](#).

The Transportation Loan may cover the cost of the following pre-arrival services provided by the IOM to refugees sponsored and resettled to Canada under the PSR, BVOR, JAS and GAR programs:

- Transportation costs from the refugee's place of residence in the country of asylum to a city from which the refugee may board their flight to Canada (the cost of overnight accommodation and meals before departure are also covered);
- The cost of travel to Canada by the most direct route at the most economical rate available;
- The cost of any taxes or tolls;
- The cost of any operational escorts provided by the IOM; and,
- In-land transportation costs which may include the cost of overnight accommodation, meals and ground transportation.

Information about the types of expenses that are not covered by the Transportation Loan can be found [here](#).

Question

What is the maximum amount that can be issued for the Transportation Loan?

Answer

The maximum loan amount that can be issued [per family](#) is \$15,000 CAD.

Question

Can repayment of the Transportation Loan be deferred?

Answer

Yes, under special circumstances, IRCC may grant a deferral of loan payments for up to two years, a variation of payments or an extension of the repayment period.

To request a deferral, refugees must contact IRCC's Collection Services at 1-800-667-7301 or by email at IRCC.FINCollections-RecouvrementsFIN.IRCC@cie.gc.ca

Further information about Transportation Loans, including when sponsored refugees are expected to begin repayment and the repayment schedule, can be found in [this factsheet on the RSTP website](#).

INVESTING IN NEWCOMERS' SUCCESS: EMPOWERING THROUGH SETTLEMENT SERVICES

IRCC's article on "Investing in settlement services for newcomers" emphasizes the importance of supporting newcomers' successful integration through adequate investment in settlement programs.

The article highlights the collaborative approach with settlement agencies and community organizations to deliver effective services. It also discusses ongoing government commitment to expanding access to support and funding for newcomers across Canada, aiming to create welcoming communities and foster their economic and social integration.

[CHECK OUT THE ARTICLE BY CLICKING HERE](#)



UNLOCKING REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP: EXPLORING GROUPS OF FIVE AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS IN AN INTRODUCTION SESSION

On **June 10th**, from **10:00 AM to 1:00 PM PDT**, an information session aimed at individuals and groups interested in learning more about the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program, specifically focusing on the Group of Five and Community Sponsor categories. This session provides a comprehensive overview of the PSR program, eligibility criteria, and the roles and responsibilities of sponsors.

We are delighted to announce that this event has received support from the **Intercultural Association of Greater Victoria**. Their expertise and commitment to promoting intercultural understanding and refugee resettlement make them invaluable partners for this session.

Attending this information session will give you a deeper understanding of the Group of Five and Community Sponsor categories, the application process, and the importance of sponsorship in supporting refugees' successful resettlement. Whether you are an individual, a community group, or an organization, this session will equip you with the knowledge and resources necessary to impact the lives of refugees positively.

We'd like you to join us for this enlightening session and discover how you can create a welcoming and inclusive community for refugees. Together, let's embrace diversity and build a brighter future for all.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

UPCOMING RSTP WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS

WHO CAN BE INCLUDED IN ONE APPLICATION UNDER PSR PROGRAM: REVIEWING FAMILY COMPOSITION

In this informative session, we'll dive deep into the intricacies of family composition and dependency within the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program. Gain clarity on the IRCC's definition of family composition, understand the guidelines for including dependants, explore the concept of de facto dependants, and learn about including adult children.

But that's not all! We'll also tackle the One Year Window of Opportunity Program, a crucial aspect of refugee sponsorship you won't want to miss.

Whether you're a seasoned sponsor or new to the PSR Program, this webinar will provide valuable insights and practical knowledge to help you navigate the complexities of family composition in sponsorship applications.

Date: May 24th, 2023

Time: 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM EST

Virtually: via Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)



EMPOWERING REFUGEE SPONSORS: INSIGHTS FROM HELEN SMITH-MCINTYRE WORKSHOP SERIES

Join us for an extraordinary workshop series featuring the incredible Helen Smith-McIntyre as our trainer! In this comprehensive series, Helen will guide you through every step of the refugee sponsorship journey.

Sponsoring as a Group of Five: Discover the ins and outs of sponsoring as a Group of Five, including the unique responsibilities, collaboration, and support required to ensure a successful sponsorship.

Filling out the Forms: Learn the intricacies of completing sponsorship forms accurately and efficiently. From application forms to settlement plans, gain the confidence to navigate the paperwork with ease.

What to do Between the Application and Arrival: Explore the crucial actions and preparations needed during the waiting period between submitting your application and the refugees' arrival. Maximize your time and ensure a smooth transition.

How to Prepare for Pre-arrival: Get ready to welcome the sponsored refugees by understanding the pre-arrival process. From logistics to cultural orientation, you'll learn how to create a supportive environment for their arrival.

After the Refugees Arrive to Month Thirteen: Discover the essential post-arrival responsibilities and strategies for effective integration during the first year of sponsorship. Empower the newcomers and foster their successful settlement.

Date: May 30th to July 25th, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM PDT

Hybrid Sessions

[REGISTER HERE](#)



EARLY BIRD

SESSION REGISTRATION

INFORMATION SESSION ON BECOMING A SAH (BILINGUAL)

This information session is specifically for organizations that have been incorporated for at least two years and intend to apply to become a SAH in 2023.

In this webinar, you will learn about the eligibility requirements, the application process, and the required supporting documents for applying to become a Sponsorship Agreement Holder. This information session will be repeated monthly.

[REGISTER HERE](#)