

# BULLETIN

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

## WHAT IS THE IFHP?

**How does it relate to provincial healthcare coverage for newcomers who arrived under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) or Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) programs?**

The [Interim Federal Health Program \(IFHP\)](#) provides limited, temporary coverage of healthcare benefits for specific groups of people in Canada, including sponsored refugees. It is administered by Medavie Blue Cross on behalf of IRCC.

In most provinces, newcomers who arrived as sponsored refugees are exempted from the three-month wait period for provincial healthcare coverage. Please check the eligibility requirements with your provincial healthcare department.

While they wait to qualify for provincial healthcare or to receive their provincial health card, newcomers who arrived as sponsored refugees receive healthcare coverage via the IFHP.

### WHAT TYPE OF COVERAGE DOES IFHP PROVIDE? HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?

After the arrival of the sponsored refugees, IFHP provides two broad categories of coverage:

1. **Basic coverage** (until the newcomers are eligible for provincial coverage, to a maximum of 3 months after arrival), including:

- Doctor visits
- Hospital care
- Laboratory, diagnostic and ambulance services

2. **Supplemental coverage** (until the end of the sponsorship period—usually 12 months—even if the newcomer qualifies for provincial healthcare), including:

- Limited vision care
- Urgent dental care
- Mental health services
- Prescription medications

IFHP also covers the cost of the pre-departure Immigration Medical Exam (IME) for sponsored refugees.

### HOW DO NEWCOMERS APPLY FOR IFHP?

There is generally no need for sponsored refugees to apply for IFHP. Sponsored refugees are usually provided with an IFHP Certificate of Eligibility by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) upon arrival in Canada at the Port of Entry. Some refugees may also receive their certificate overseas, but where this is the case, they will receive another one on arrival in Canada. Note: It takes two business days from the day the certificate is issued for the eligibility information to be reflected in the Medavie Blue Cross system.

### HOW DO NEWCOMERS APPLY FOR IFHP?

Beneficiaries will not be reimbursed if they pay upfront for a product or service covered by the IFHP. They must request services from a healthcare provider who is registered with Medavie Blue Cross and who will be able to receive reimbursement for services or products delivered under the IFHP. Beneficiaries must therefore first identify healthcare providers who are registered with Medavie Blue Cross before accessing a service or product. To find a list of IFHP providers registered with Medavie Blue Cross, please consult the following website: <https://ifhp.medaviebc.ca/>

### DOES IFHP COVER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?

Yes, mental health services provided by physicians and by mental health hospitals is covered under the Basic Coverage. Mental health services provided by clinical psychologists, psychotherapists, or counselling therapists is also covered under the Supplemental Coverage. For more information, please visit: <https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=1332&top=33>

IRCC is piloting the extension of the mental health counselling covered by the IFHP for sponsored Afghan refugees that arrived on or after June 01, 2022. Through this pilot, sponsored Afghan refugees who have undergone an initial assessment for mental health counselling in their first year post-arrival will continue to be covered under the IFHP for counselling sessions and related interpretation services for an additional year, for a total of two full years.

Other resources:

- [IFHP Information Sheet](#)
- [IRCC webpages about IFHP](#)



## INVITATION TO INFORMATIVE WEBINAR: SUPPORTING PRIVATELY SPONSORED REFUGEES

The Settlement Support Connection Team at RSTP is delighted to invite front-line settlement staff for an engaging webinar focused on supporting Privately Sponsored Refugees.

Professional Development Webinar for Settlement Front-Line Staff!

**Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 1:00 - 4:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).** Registration (on Zoom):

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

This session aims to provide settlement workers with valuable tools to enhance support for clients who have arrived as sponsored refugees and foster effective collaboration with their sponsors to ensure a seamless settlement experience.

During the webinar, the following topics will be covered:

- Key elements of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) and Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) programs.
- Expectations set by IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) for sponsored refugees to access government-funded settlement services.
- Complementary roles of sponsors and settlement professionals in delivering settlement support.
- Overview of the Settlement Support Connection project.
- Best practices for fostering collaboration with sponsors.

This is an excellent opportunity to stay updated on the latest information from IRCC regarding these programs.



## UPCOMING RSTP WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS

### 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.

**How to Prepare for Pre-arrival:** By understanding the pre-arrival process, prepare to welcome the sponsored refugees. 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: June 27th to July 25th, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM PDT

Hybrid Sessions

[REGISTER HERE](#)



### Mastering Application Forms: Workshop for Groups of Five and Community Sponsors

For sponsors in Ottawa, we invite you to join our upcoming workshop to learn the basics of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. Discover who can sponsor and who can be sponsored, and explore the incredible opportunity to make a difference in the lives of refugees. Don't miss out on this informative session.

Date: July 18th, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM EST

Location: Catholic Centre for Immigrants, Rooms 113 & 114, 219 Argyle Avenue, Ottawa, K2P 2H4

[REGISTER HERE](#)



### EMBARK ON A JOURNEY OF COMPASSION: LEARN THE BASICS OF THE PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP OF REFUGEES PROGRAM

For sponsors in Ottawa, we invite you to join our upcoming workshop of Refugees Program. Discover who can sponsor and who can be sponsored, and explore the incredible opportunity to make a difference in the lives of refugees. Don't miss out on this informative session.

Date: July 13th, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM EST

Location: Catholic Centre for Immigrants, Rooms 113 & 114, 219 Argyle Avenue, Ottawa, K2P 2H4

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## JULY MONTHLY WEBINARS

**5th** BEFORE YOU APPLY TO SPONSOR

**10th** PREPARING A SETTLEMENT PLAN

**12th** PREPARING A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

**17th** PREPARING FOR ARRIVAL AND ORIENTATION

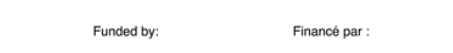
**24th** FULFILLING YOUR OBLIGATIONS THROUGH ASSURANCE

**26th** COMPLETING A SUCCESSFUL SPONSORSHIP YEAR

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS](#)



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