### Refugee Sponsorship Training Program

# BULLETIN

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

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### YOU ASKED

In Section 3.1(b) of the new <u>Post-Arrival Requirements for Private</u>
<u>Sponsorships document</u>, winter clothing is listed as an example of an item that can be deferred if it is not needed right away.

Could this also apply to furniture in situations where the newcomers are living in temporary accommodation on arrival before transitioning to permanent accommodation (the furniture would be provided once they are in the permanent accommodation)?

## IRCC'S RESPONSE

This could be applied to furniture as well, within reason and on a case-by-case basis (not standard practice).

IRCC's Resettlement Services Assurance Team (RSAT) would look for things such as proof of funds available, a plan to disperse the items at a future date, etc. Sponsors can connect with **RSAT via** email for guidance on specific cases as needed.

# YOU ASKED

In Section 2.2 of the new Post-Arrival Requirements for Private Sponsorships document, it is mentioned that sponsors should explain subsidized housing options to the newcomers if they are eligible.

Is the intention behind listing subsidized housing on pg.12 to assist with the transition to Month 13 (and not that the newcomers should receive subsidized housing during the sponsorship period)?

# IRCC'S RESPONSE

Yes, that is correct, the instructions under Month 7 - 9 are about explaining subsidized housing options, and then in Month 10 - 12 to apply for subsidized housing is meant as a transitionary step to Month 13.

instances when newcomers have been eligible for subsidized housing during their sponsorship year, but that varies on provincial and municipal rules around subsidized housing.

Further information on subsidized

RSAT advised there have been

housing for each province and territory is available **here**.

#### STRENGTHENING OF TEMPORARY PROTECTION STATUS FOR VENEZUELAN REFUGEES IN COLOMBIA

CANADA SUPPORTS

Canada is actively supporting Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia through the reinforcement of the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) program. Colombia, hosting the highest number of Venezuelan refugees globally (approximately 2.9 million), established the TPS in March 2021, allowing eligible Venezuelans to regularize their stay for ten years, providing access to rights such as identification, healthcare, education, employment, and financial inclusion. Canada's support, a joint project with UNHCR worth 1 million Canadian dollars from 2023 to 2025, focuses on legal assistance for refugees, improved refugee status determination procedures, and streamlined regularization processes. This aid aims to facilitate integration, stability, and livelihood opportunities for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia, aligning with the Global Compact on Refugees objectives. The initiative has already shown tangible results, including over 40,000 people receiving legal assistance in 2023. UNHCR's Communications Officer in Colombia, Rocío Castañeda, expressed gratitude for the collaborative efforts, emphasizing the importance of reinforcing Colombia's TPS as a beacon of hope and commitment to humanitarian values.

FOUND HERE

THE OFFICIAL UNHCR ARTICLE CAN BE

#### IT TAKES A LOCAL: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH BVOR PROGRAM AWARENESS

The "It Takes a Local" initiative highlights Canada's longstanding commitment to global refugee sponsorship, emphasizing the crucial role of local communities. The focus is on raising awareness about the Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) program, a government initiative matching Canadian volunteers with UNHCR-identified refugees lacking personal ties to Canada. The initiative seeks to mobilize community support, stressing that many refugees in urgent need of safety rely on well-intentioned sponsors. BVOR refugees are ready to travel within weeks, streamlining the process for swift action. The goal is to encourage more Canadians to become sponsors, contributing to a more compassionate and multicultural Canada. **CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THE** 

**EMPOWERING EFFORT** 

# WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

HEARTFELT THANKS AND SEASON'S GREETINGS TO OUR DEDICATED SPONSORS

# As we approach the festive season, we find ourselves reflecting on the incredible journey we've undertaken together, guided by the spirit of compassion and community. The Bi-Weekly Bulletin from The Refugee Sponsorship Training Program serves as a

testament to the unwavering commitment of sponsors like you who play an indispensable role in reshaping the lives of refugees.

This year has been marked by challenges and triumphs, and through it all, your dedication to the cause of refugee sponsorship has shone brightly. Your commitment to offering a new beginning, a sense of belonging, and a safe haven has made a profound

of you for your tireless efforts, generosity, and the invaluable local knowledge you bring to this vital initiative. Your contributions have not only transformed individual lives but have also contributed to the rich tapestry of a more inclusive and compassionate society.

As the holiday season approaches, we want to

impact on the lives of those seeking refuge in our communities.

We extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one

ones a joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with hope, warmth, and the promise of new opportunities. May the spirit of giving and solidarity that defines the refugee sponsorship community continue to inspire us all in the coming year.

Please remember that your efforts, no matter how big or small, have a lasting impact.

take a moment to wish you and your loved

Together, we are creating a more welcoming and supportive world for those in need, one sponsorship at a time.

Thank you for being an integral part of the refugee sponsorship community. Your generosity and kindness truly make a

difference.



### Web Portal Submission Workshop

**UPCOMING RSTP WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS** 

# Workshop Join us for a groundbreaking webinar, "Submitting Sponsorship Forms Through to

**Revolutionizing Sponsorship:** 

"Submitting Sponsorship Forms Through the Web Portal." Uncover the future of sponsorships as we delve into the streamlined process of submitting refugees via a web portal.

Virtually: Via Zoom

Time: 4:00 PM EST

Date: January 1st, 2024

**REGISTER HERE** 

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9th L'ACCOMPLISSEMENT DES
OBLIGATIONS ET L'ASSURAN

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OUT OUR WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS

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