

Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) Program

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Refugee Sponsorship Handbook

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What is the BVOR Program?

The BVOR Program is designed to resettle refugees identified by the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** and submitted to Canadian Visa Offices abroad. It is referred to as a “blended” program because it is a cost-sharing arrangement whereby **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)** and private sponsors contribute financially to support the refugees. Private sponsors are also responsible for providing settlement support during the entire sponsorship.

How does the “blended” model work?

Refugees resettled under the BVOR Program receive income support from the Government of Canada through the **Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)** for six months after their arrival (months 2 through 7). Private sponsors offer another six months of financial support (months 1, and 8 through 12) plus the start-up costs.

Who can sponsor?

To sponsor refugees under this program, you must be a part of one of the following:

- Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) or Constituent Group (a group that can sponsor refugees under a SAH agreement)
- Group of Five
- Community Sponsor



What are the sponsor’s settlement responsibilities?

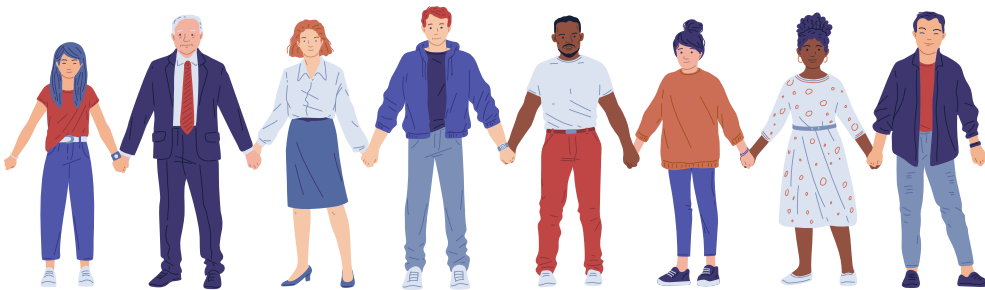
- Reception at the airport (refugees are not be taken to the Reception Centre);
- Housing & basic necessities (this is covered for six months through RAP income support, but sponsors cover start-up costs);
- Settlement assistance (including finding language classes, enrollment in school, finding health care providers, job search, etc.) and
- Emotional and moral support.

Populations sponsored under the BVOR Program include:

Refugees from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Somalia, Burma, Colombia, China and other countries.

The criteria used for selecting cases:

- Refugees are referred by UNHCR.
- Refugees have already been assessed and have met the Canadian government's resettlement criteria, making them travel ready. They just need to be matched with a sponsor before they can travel to Canada.
- Family configurations generally include smaller families or larger families with children younger than 18.
- BVOR refugees usually have low settlement and health needs.



Can I refer refugees to the BVOR Program?

BVOR refugees are referred by UNHCR to Canadian Visa Offices and not by private groups or organizations.

If you know of a particular refugee or refugee family that you would like to sponsor privately, please contact a sponsoring group or contact the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP) for guidance.

Why get involved?

This is a unique opportunity to sponsor refugees in need of resettlement, while allowing the Canadian government to resettle more refugees.

- **Less paperwork:** BVOR refugees have already been assessed and have met the Canadian government's resettlement criteria, making them travel ready.
- **Faster processing times:** BVOR refugees will be able to travel within one to four months of their sponsorship applications being approved.
- **Costs less:** refugees will receive six months of financial support from the Government of Canada while sponsors pay for only six months and start-up costs.

More Information

For more information on the BVOR Program and how you can get involved, please click this [link](#) or contact our Refugee Resettlement Project Worker (bvor@rstp.ca).

Please click on the links below for additional BVOR Program resources:

[BVOR Brochure](#)

[BVOR Factsheet](#)

[The BVOR Sponsor Journey](#)





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