

Needs Assessment 2022



Allies for Refugee Integration (ARI) checked in with sponsors, settlement workers, and other community members in December 2021 to get their input on the future of the project.

Funded by IRCC, ARI aims to build capacity for settlement agencies and sponsorship groups in Ontario to deliver responsive and coordinated settlement and community services for sponsored refugees.

[Learn more about the project](#)

What did we hear?

Participants highlighted factors affecting how they support sponsored refugees:



Settlement agencies are helping clients to navigate virtual service delivery, and clients from Afghanistan want information on how to sponsor relatives

Sponsorship Agreement Holders are strengthening their capacity to respond to challenges like a new program integrity framework and backlogs



We heard from participants about how they're currently working on sponsor and settlement capacity to support sponsored refugees;

- the [Refugee Sponsorship Training Program](#) in connecting G5 sponsors to settlement workers,
- the SAH Navigation Unit building SAH capacity,
- the [Network of Refugee Sponsors](#)- Ontario leading peer support,
- and [ReSpo](#) working on sponsor recruitment and retention.

What gaps can ARI help to fill?

The most important needs identified were raising awareness of settlement services, and clarifying roles and responsibilities among both sponsors and settlement workers, including:

1

Helping settlement agencies know how to proactively reach out to sponsors & sponsored refugees and better understand the PSR program

2

Supporting sponsors to access up to date information on what is offered at settlement agencies and how they operate

3

A special focus on Group of 5 sponsors and Francophone sponsors was suggested

THANKS FOR ALL THE GREAT INFORMATION ON RESOURCES OUT THERE. THERE IS SO MUCH HAPPENING! 🗨️

- needs assessment participant

What resources or information can ARI contribute?

Participants identified the following information gaps for ARI to fill:

- 1** Hosting opportunities to connect and share information. Virtual check-ins and training are useful for sponsors to talk to one another and to settlement workers in order to avoid duplication and stay up to date on current issues.

We asked: What are your preferred topics for future events?

The top responses were:

- How settlement can promote their services with sponsors
- Finding affordable housing
- Sharing positive examples of sponsorship
- How to leverage technology to support sponsored refugees

- 2** Development of practical tools and resources that put ARI's knowledge about collaboration into practice, such as:



In-depth role & responsibilities and FAQs



A resource for sponsors that clarifies available and up to date services



A resource geared to settlement workers to help them advise clients who want to sponsor their family



A tool to guide the safe release of confidential information with sponsors as needed

What's next?

Based on the needs identified, ARI will:

- Host roundtables and webinars for settlement & sponsor communities to check in and learn together
- Work with Ambassador Agencies & other partners to create and share practical tools

Sign up to the ARI newsletter for updates 

WHAT DO WE NEED? MORE FOLLOW UP AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AGENCIES AND SPONSORS

- needs assessment participant