



Improving settlement for privately sponsored refugees in Ontario

Allies for Refugee Integration (ARI)

ARI pilots new ways to help privately sponsored refugees integrate and settle in Ontario during their first year in their new home.

By connecting natural allies like privately sponsored refugees, sponsors and service providers we can identify and then overcome barriers to successful settlement and integration.

WHAT ARE STAKEHOLDERS SAYING? Through our research, we learned that:

77% strongly agree that collaboration is critical to the successful integration of sponsored refugees

51% agree that lack of understanding of each other's role and responsibilities was the main challenge to settlement service providers and sponsors working together

HOW CAN SETTLEMENT-SPONSOR COLLABORATION BENEFIT SPONSORED REFUGEES?



Sponsored refugees get access to the services they need



Reduce stress on sponsors and settlement workers



Avoid duplication of services



Avoid sponsorship breakdown

We've identified **4 MAIN AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:**



Facilitating an intentional connection in the pre-arrival stage between settlement and sponsors



Improved information sharing and opportunities for knowledge exchange



Access to better support for settlement planning



Expanded training opportunities for sponsors and settlement workers that emphasize roles & responsibilities

Through our collaborative design workshops in Ottawa, Toronto and Kitchener-Waterloo, we developed more than 15 pilot ideas.

We selected two — **Case Management** and **Knowledge Exchange** — to be tested in three sites:

Case Management Pilots

These pilots build on best practices in case management by including sponsors in every step of the settlement journey. This begins as a pre-arrival connection between sponsors and a settlement worker to set expectations and provide sponsors with resources. Once the sponsored refugee arrives, the pilots continue to create and test tools to guide a settlement journey that puts sponsored refugees in the driver's seat with settlement support from sponsors and settlement. These pilots are tested in partnership with:

- Catholic Crosscultural Services in the Greater Toronto Area
- Kitchener-Waterloo YMCA and the Mennonite Central Committee of Ontario



Knowledge Exchange Pilot

This pilot brings together service providers and sponsors in the Kingston area through a series of informal events to encourage dialogue and information-sharing around how best to support sponsored refugees in their community. Former sponsored refugees will also have the opportunity to share their experiences and recommendations, and tools and materials developed will be shared to allow other communities to learn and test ideas. This pilot is tested in partnership with:

- Immigrant Services Kingston and Area (ISKA)

Immigrant Services
Kingston and Area (ISKA)

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Project stakeholders:



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