

Workshop For Settlement Workers To Enhance Cooperation With Sponsoring Groups

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

**Refugee Sponsorship Training
Program (RSTP)**



CCS
Catholic Crosscultural Services



GOALS OF THE WORKSHOP

To help settlement workers improve their understanding of:

- ❑ The private sponsorship of refugees program
- ❑ Key areas of overlap in settlement and sponsor roles
- ❑ The value and challenges of working collaboratively
- ❑ Exploring ways to work together and best practices

Agenda

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About Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR)

3

The Role of Settlement Workers in Private Sponsorships

1

Allies in Refugee Integration & introduction



4

Putting it into practice

Jam Board discussion #1

Testing out the Jam Board (link in the chat)

- What do you want to learn today?
 - *Include your name and where you're from if you want!*

1

About Allies for Refugee Integration

We are an IRCC-funded project that aims to strengthen collaboration between settlement service providers and refugee sponsorship groups in Ontario to ultimately improve the settlement of sponsored refugees. Today's training with CCS is part of our pilot-testing of innovative ideas.



To learn about our other pilots and what we're learning, visit our webpage for more information: <https://ocasi.org/allies-refugee-integration>

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About the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR)

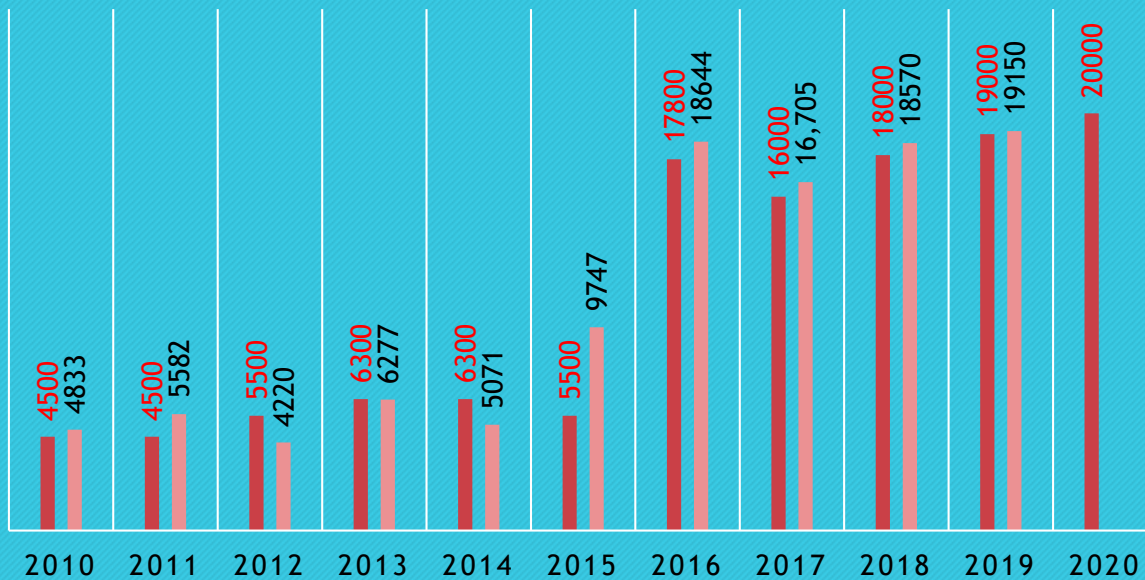
CANADIAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS

Canadian Resettlement Program:	Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR)	Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR)	Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)	Government Assisted Refugees (GAR)
Funded by:	Private sponsors for <u>12 months</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 months income support from government ➤ 6 months income support from sponsors 	Government for <u>2 years</u>	Government
Settlement support by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Private sponsors for <u>12 months</u> ➤ Settlement agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Private sponsors for <u>12 months</u> ➤ Settlement agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Initial settlement support by Refugee Reception Centres ➤ Private Sponsors for <u>2 years</u> ➤ Settlement agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Initial settlement support by Refugee Reception Centres ➤ Settlement agencies

WHY DOES REFUGEE SPONSOR AND SPO COLLABORATION MATTER?

PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP OF REFUGEES - TARGETS AND ARRIVALS

■ PSR TARGETS ■ ACTUAL ADMISSIONS



- Significant and sustained increase in arrival numbers of privately sponsored refugees
- Large number of sponsoring groups and people involved in sponsorship
- Increased interest and attention to post-arrival support for sponsored refugees
- Helpful for the sponsored refugees' long term integration

Who can sponsor refugees?

Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH)



&

Constituent Group (CG)

Co-sponsor



An incorporated organization that has signed an Agreement to sponsor refugees with the Government of Canada



Group of Five



Five Canadian citizens or permanent residents



Community Sponsor



Any organization, association or corporation

The Basics...

- Refugees must receive financial support to cover their basic needs for the entire sponsorship period (12 months after arrival), or until they become self-supporting - whichever comes first.
- Refugees must receive settlement support for the duration of the sponsorship period, regardless of whether they become self-sufficient during the sponsorship period.

Financial Support Provided

Minimum Financial Support = Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) Rates

(at the time of arrival)

Start-up Costs

- one-time payment
- In-kind deductions accepted up to pre-set maximum amount.

Monthly Income Support

- Varies by province
- In-kind deductions can be made for shelter

Check out RSTP's Minimum Financial Support Calculator here: <http://www.rstp.ca/calc/?lang=en>

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES & ONLINE CALCULATOR

The screenshot shows the website's header with the logo and navigation menu. The breadcrumb trail is Home > BVOR > RAP (Resettlement Assistance Program) Rates. The main heading is "RAP (Resettlement Assistance Program) Rates". Below it, a paragraph describes the program: "The Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) is a contribution program through which the Government of Canada provides assistance for resettled refugees to establish themselves in their new home. The program has two main components: income support and a range of immediate essential services. The income support also has two components: start up allowances and monthly income support." A sidebar on the right lists "Documents" with links for "Start-Up Costs", "Alberta", "Alberta (New rates as of 1 Nov 2019)", "British Columbia", and "British Columbia (New rates as of 1".

The screenshot shows the "Minimum Financial Support Calculator" form. It includes a title, a disclaimer, and several input fields. The "Family Situation" section has a "Clear All" button. The "Community of Settlement" section has dropdown menus for "Ontario" and "Toronto". The "Family Size" section has a dropdown for "Number of people:". The "Composition of Adults" section has a dropdown for "Select from the list". The "Number of Children" section has a dropdown for "Enter a number" with the value "0". The "Maternity" section has a dropdown for "Indicate if there is a pregnant family member or a new born child" with the value "No". The "Please indicate if there is a family member with special dietary needs" section has a dropdown for "No". The "Total Monthly Income (\$CAD)" section has a text input field for the amount and a dropdown for the currency symbol "\$". At the bottom, there are "Clear All" and "Calculate Minimum Support" buttons.

SPONSORS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND SETTLEMENT PLAN

B - SETTLEMENT NEEDS CHECKLIST

* Please identify who will be providing for the settlement needs by checking the relevant box (note: more than one party may provide for the same need).

Settlement Needs	SAH	CG (if applicable)	Co-sponsor (if applicable)
SETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE			
Meet refugee(s) at the airport and provide transportation to the final destination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arrange transportation for the refugee(s) to and from appointments and activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arrange for permanent housing and temporary housing if needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arrange for interpreter services (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Apply for provincial health plan and Interim Federal Health (IFH) Program (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Apply for Social Insurance Number (SIN), Canada Child Benefit (if applicable), other necessary federal/provincial programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assist refugee(s) in finding a family physician and dentist, and to see a health care worker shortly after arrival, if needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide orientation (financial and non-financial, e.g., public transportation, banking, shopping, rights and responsibilities, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide assistance in linking refugee(s) with community activities/groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enroll children in school (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make child care arrangements (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enroll adults in language training (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide assistance in finding employment or accessing support services to find employment (e.g., Settlement Program)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Settlement Planning

1. As sponsors, you must arrange proper housing for the refugee(s) you are sponsoring. Please describe your plans for arranging housing, including the anticipated number of rooms and the anticipated number of any other people who will be living there. If temporary housing will be arranged prior to the refugee(s) moving into permanent housing, please provide details. Please provide the address for planned temporary and/or permanent housing, if known at this time.

2. Which immigrant settlement assistance agencies will the refugee(s) likely access, and for which services?

3. As sponsors, you must plan and make arrangements for any additional needs of the refugee(s), including medical needs and/or special needs for persons who have suffered trauma and would benefit from crisis support and counselling. Please provide details of how these needs will be met.

SPONSORS' SETTLEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Welcoming them at the airport

Orienting them to life in Canada

Arranging temporary accommodation

Helping to find permanent accommodation

Transportation arrangements

Apply for health card

Find doctor, dentist, other medical services

Enroll children in school

Apply for tax benefits

Tax returns

Enroll in English or French classes

Facilitating & empowering

Apply for a Social Insurance Number

Promote activities that facilitate self-sufficiency

Connect with a settlement agency

Provide emotional and moral support

Connect with the community

Open a bank account

Follow up on PR card application

Financial orientation

Jam Board discussion #2

(Link in chat)

- Now that you know about sponsorship, what are the benefits of working WITH sponsors?

3

The Role of Settlement Workers in Private Sponsorship

What are the benefits of working with sponsors?

YOU

- Added value to the quality of settlement support
- Holistic support for PSR clients
- Expand your knowledge and network
- Save time down the road
- Avoid the duplication of efforts
- Opportunity to share your agency's programs with sponsors (newcomers themselves)

SPONSOR

- Receive informed settlement assistance to sponsored refugees
- Receive evidence of settlement support for IRCC's quality assurance activities
- Become aware of services
- Provide better settlement support to the PSRs

NEWCOMER

- Receive specialized services eg. counselling & mental health support
- Receive proper orientation
- Know their rights and be empowered to achieve settlement goals

The Role of Settlement Workers in Private Sponsorships

Your role likely depends on the funding that your organization receives, and organizational priorities and mandates, but may include:

- Providing **settlement support** and connecting with appropriate resources and services;
- Ensuring newcomers are aware of their rights;
- If necessary, assisting with managing expectations of newcomers and sponsors;
- Encouraging dialogue between sponsors and newcomers (especially if there is any miscommunication or conflict);
- If you are facilitating communication because of language barriers, conveying information accurately.



- **PSR RIGHTS IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES:** <http://www.rstp.ca/en/your-rights-as-a-privately-sponsored-refugee/>

Common Post-arrival Challenges for sponsored refugees

- The standard: housing, employment, language barriers, etc.
- Very little pre-arrival orientation
- Unsure of entitlements (financial, settlement)
- May not know rights and responsibilities
- Unrealistic expectations - newcomers and sponsors



The Role of Settlement Workers

In a private sponsorship, a Settlement Worker's role is **“supportive”**



Sponsors are ultimately responsible, so they need to be informed and engaged.

The Role of Settlement Workers

The level & type of support you provide may be impacted by various factors, including:

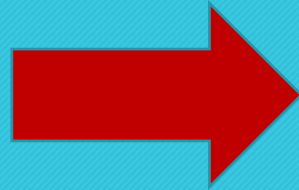
- The sponsoring group's **level of experience**.
- **How established the sponsoring group is**.
- The **Settlement Plan** that the sponsoring group created before arrival.
- **The specific needs of the newcomer**.
- The **relationship** between the newcomer and the sponsor.

4

Putting it into Practice – how to work together

How CCS is testing a new flow of working with sponsored refugees (pre-arrival)

CCS Settlement Manager assigns a Settlement Worker (based on language need, geographic location)



CCS Settlement Worker contacts CG/Co-sponsor to set up Pre-arrival orientation Session with involvement of:

- Sponsoring group Representative
- RSTP Trainer

How CCS is testing a new flow of working with sponsored refugees (post-arrival)

CCS Settlement Worker

- **Meets** with the sponsored refugees in the presence of the **co-sponsors and/or CG reps**.
- **Conducts** settlement needs assessment and discusses about the services available to sponsored refugees to draft settlement action plan.
- **Sends** meeting **feedback form** to **sponsors** and sponsored refugees after the meeting

Sponsoring Group Representative/s

- **Accompanies** sponsored refugees to the meeting
- **Makes plans** together with **settlement worker** based on the need assessment to help sponsored refugees receive all the support they will need and are available



Best Practices for Collaboration between Sponsors and Settlement Workers

- Train Settlement Workers to better understand the PSR program
- Encourage Settlement Workers to be open to working with Sponsors even if they don't get any immediate credit for meeting with Sponsors
- First post-arrival meeting to include Sponsor(s), Settlement Worker, and newcomer to discuss roles and responsibilities
- Build relationships from the start: Reach out to Sponsors in your area
- Encourage Sponsors to involve Settlement Workers in the Settlement Plan process prior to the arrival to clarify the roles
- Know where to go for help:
 - RSTP info@rstp.ca www.rstp.ca
 - PSR <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/guide-private-sponsorship-refugees-program/section-2.html>

Jam Board discussion #3

- What's one thing you learned today that you will take away into your work?
- What remaining questions do you have?

THANK YOU!

- Please complete the short evaluation survey so we can improve the training in the future!
- This training will be repeated again on January 26, you can sign up for the ARI newsletter to hear about this and other knowledge sharing opportunities:
<https://mailchi.mp/ocasi.org/ari2019>