

Know the Facts

Refugee Sponsorship

Who Qualifies for Resettlement?

People who can resettle from outside Canada fall into two categories:

1. Convention Refugees, “any person who has a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.” Anyone can become a refugee. No one is a refugee by choice.
2. Country of Asylum Class



What is Refugee Sponsorship?

Sponsoring groups agree to provide financial, material and settlement support to refugees. The duration of the sponsorship period is one year starting from the refugee’s arrival in Canada or until the refugee becomes self-sufficient, whichever comes first. The decision to sponsor refugees should not be made lightly.

Refugee Sponsorship Options

Private sponsorship applications can be submitted by the following groups:

Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH)

Established organizations that have signed sponsorship agreements with the Government of Canada. SAHs can authorize constituent groups to sponsor under their agreements to provide support for refugees.

Groups of 5

Five or more Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents who are at least 18 years of age and who live in the community where the refugee is expected to settle.

Community Sponsors

Organizations, associations or corporations that have adequate financial capacity and are based in the community where the refugee is expected to settle.

Joint Assistance Sponsorship Program

The Government of Canada may partner with organizations to resettle refugees with special needs.

Responsibilities of Sponsors

- Reception
- Orientation
- Ongoing Settlement
- Financial Support
- Emotional and Mental Health Support
- Housing
- Transportation
- Shopping
- Health
- Language
- Interpretation



Guiding Principles

- Be inclusive, respectful, and sensitive to diversity
- Fully respect the rights and dignity of the individual
- Be responsive to needs as defined by users
- Foster client empowerment

Resources

YWCA Settlement Services

jhundt@ywcaste.ca

519-631-9800 ext. 240

General Information about Refugees

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/>

Information for Privately Sponsored Refugees

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/index.asp>

Sponsoring Group Handbook

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/resources/handbook-for-sponsoring-groups/>

Interim Federal Health Benefit Overview

www.cic.gc.ca/English/refugees/outside/summary-ifhp.asp