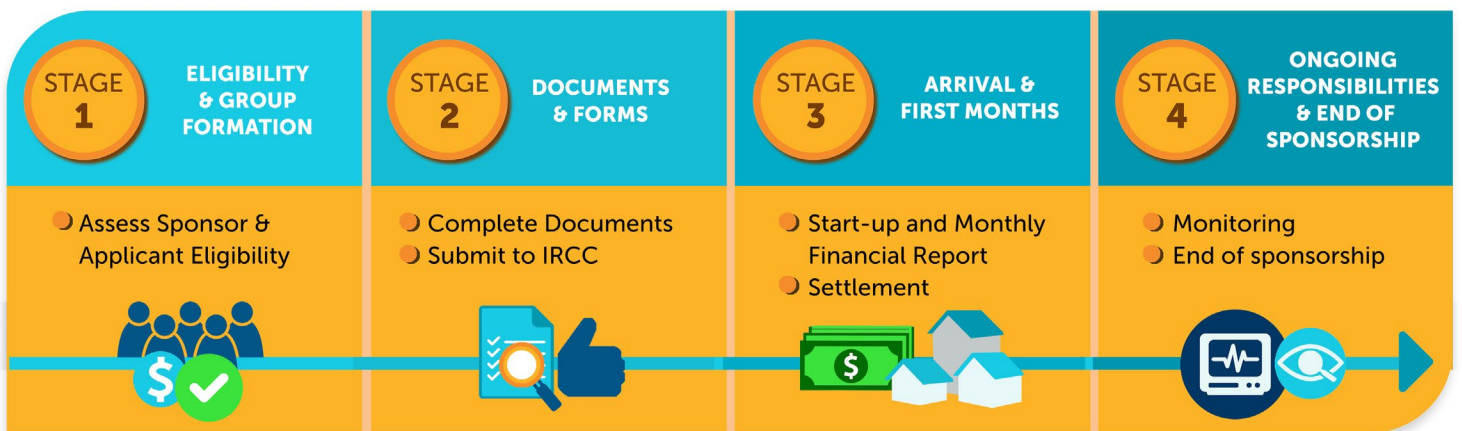


Private Sponsorship of Refugees

Sponsoring Relatives



STAGE 1

ELIGIBILITY & GROUP FORMATION

- Q. The relatives I want to sponsor are in different countries; the father is in a host country seeking protection while the mother and children are in their home country. Am I able to only sponsor the father?**
- A.** No, the entire nuclear family (spouse/common-law partner and dependent children under the age of 22) must be included on the same application.
- Q. The refugees overseas would like to contribute some money if we can sponsor them. Can I accept this?**
- A.** No, sponsors are prohibited from accepting money from the refugees they are sponsoring either before their arrival or any time after their arrival.

STAGE 2

DOCUMENTS & FORMS

- Q. Are the refugee documents and forms the same for SAH and Group of Five sponsorships?**
- A.** Yes, the IMM 0008 Generic Form, IMM 5669 Schedule A and IMM 0008 Schedule 2 need to be completed for all refugee sponsorships.
- Q. How do I know if the Principal Applicant has a Refugee Status Determination (RSD) document?**
- A.** Generally, an RSD will clearly state the words 'refugee status determination/ recognition' or 'recognized refugee.' Documents that state 'asylum seeker certificate' or 'refugee registration' are not RSDs. To be sure, please contact the [Refugee Sponsorship Training Program](#) to confirm.

STAGE 3

ARRIVAL & FIRST MONTHS

- Q. The family we are sponsoring is set to arrive soon, but we are unable to find housing. One of the members of our group has a basement suite that is currently being rented but they would like to make it available to the newcomers. Is this okay?**
- A.** First, you need to review tenancy laws in your province. In most provinces a landlord cannot evict a tenant for the purposes of renting the home to sponsored refugees. Second, it is important to consult with the newcomers to see if that is where they would like to live.
- Q. When I first signed the Sponsorship Undertaking, I planned on providing free housing in my spare bedroom, but I recently had a child, and the bedroom is no longer available. We do not have enough money in the budget for my sponsored relative to rent their own home. What should I do?**
- A.** For this reason, it is recommended to budget at a minimum the shelter allowance RAP rate even if housing is meant to be provided in-kind. In this situation, your group has no other option but to fundraise the minimum shelter allowance because it is the group's responsibility to provide housing to the newcomer.
- Q. The person I sponsored was seven months pregnant when they arrived, and I had not been previously informed. My group only has funds available for a single person. Do we have to provide additional support for the newborn child?**
- A.** Yes, monthly supports are calculated based on the family size and composition at the time of arrival and during the 12 months of sponsorship, not at the time of application.

STAGE 4

ONGOING RESPONSIBILITIES & END OF SPONSORSHIP

- Q. A member of the family I have sponsored wants to move to a different city, but the rest of the family wants to stay. Am I still obligated to provide them both monthly financial support?**
- A.** The sponsors need to inform IRCC immediately of these changes and depending on the situation, IRCC may issue a partial sponsorship breakdown. In that case, you will only be responsible for providing financial supports to the newcomers who have remained in the original community of settlement.
- Q. The sponsorship year is almost over, and the newcomers are still learning English and have not found employment. Do I need to continue supporting them past month 12 of the sponsorship?**
- A.** No, the end of month 12 marks the end of the sponsorship period and of your responsibilities as sponsors. If the sponsorship is about to end and the newcomers are not working, you should guide them as to how to apply for provincial social income assistance. The newcomers should also be encouraged to continue to access settlement supports via settlement service providers to meet their ongoing needs.
- Q. My financial situation has changed, and I can no longer provide financial support to the newcomers. Can I encourage the newcomers to apply for social income assistance in our province?**
- A.** No, the sponsorship group is required to provide all financial supports and newcomers are not allowed to access provincial social assistance during the sponsorship year. If sponsors are unable to provide financial support IRCC should be notified and a sponsorship breakdown may be declared, which may affect future sponsorships.
- Q. The person I have sponsored is working full time and they say they do not want me to keep providing monthly payments. Can I stop providing monthly supports?**
- A.** Sponsors are only allowed to make deductions as follows: If the newcomer earns more than 50% of the RAP rates, for each additional dollar earned, sponsors can deduct one dollar.

Groups of Five

Q. Can I form a group with fewer than five members?

A. No, at a minimum, you must have five members in your group that are 18 years of age or older, Canadian citizens or permanent residents and [meet additional eligibility requirements](#).

Q. If one of the five group members is only providing financial support, not settlement support, are they allowed to live in a different city/ town?

A. No, all group members must reside in the community where the refugee(s) will live.

Q. If I am unemployed, can I still be part of a Group of Five Sponsorship?

A. Yes, it is only necessary for three out of the five group members to meet the financial requirements.

Q. The refugees I am trying to sponsor do not have any documentation, but they are registered by the host country and/or with the UNHCR and hold an asylum seeker certificate. Are they eligible?

A. No. To sponsor under the Group of Five program, the Principal Applicant must have a Refugee Status Determination document, not an Asylum Seeker certificate or registration document.

Q. I don't have experience completing immigration applications, where can I get help?

A. The RSTP can provide free help to potential sponsors. Please visit rstp.ca for more information.

Q. If I am not making any financial contributions, do I have to submit a financial profile?

A. No, only the G5 members who are contributing funds (either into funds held in trust or pledging from their income) will have to complete a Financial Profile form.

Q. I signed up to help some friends with their sponsorships a few years ago but I was not assigned any responsibilities and have not been involved in their sponsorships. Should I still disclose this in my new Group of Five application to IRCC?

A. Yes- it is a common mistake, sometimes resulting in returns or rejection of applications, not to indicate a member was involved in previous sponsorships. IRCC maintains a database and might cross-reference a sponsor's involvement with previous sponsorships.

Q. A member of our sponsorship group has moved to another province. What should I do?

A. You must find a new member to take their place and contact IRCC to seek approval of these changes.

Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH)

Q. What is a SAH?

A. An incorporated organization that has signed an agreement with the Government of Canada to regularly sponsor refugees. Some SAHs only sponsor refugees locally and some work nationally. To find a list of all SAHs you can visit the [IRCC website](#).

Q. I can't find a SAH who is able to take my case. Can I sponsor without them?

A. If the refugee you are trying to sponsor has a Refugee Status Determination (RSD) document, you do not need a Sponsorship Agreement Holder and can sponsor on your own through the Group of Five stream.

Q. Do I need five people to sponsor with a SAH?

A. Each SAH makes their own rules. Some SAHs chose to sponsor alone, some require one or two co-sponsors and some work with Constituent Groups (CGs) of five or more people.

Q. Are applications submitted with SAHs processed faster than Group of Five applications?

A. No, applications submitted by SAHs are not treated with any priority. If you are having difficulties finding a SAH, it may actually be faster to submit your own Group of Five application (if the Principal Applicant has an RSD) given that there are currently no limits or quotas for that sponsor stream.

Q. Is the Financial Profile (IMM 5373B) form required for SAH applications?

A. No- although a SAH may choose to ask for information about your finances, the IMM 5373B is not required to be submitted to IRCC.

Q. Are sponsorships less expensive with a SAH than with a Group of Five?

A. No- no matter the sponsor stream, all private sponsors must provide, at a minimum, the financial support rates listed for the [Resettlement Assistance Program](#).

Q. The SAH through which I sponsored my relatives is also a settlement agency. Are they able to provide all the settlement supports for my relatives?

A. No. While a settlement agency can help with some settlement supports, they should act only as supplemental support. You, as a private sponsor, are the primary provider of [settlement](#) and financial support.