



2019 Submission Process

ORAT is currently waiting to receive our 2019 allocation from Immigration, Citizenship and Refugees Canada (IRCC). Until we receive our 2019 allocation we are not able to submit any sponsorship applications to the government.

Once the allocation is received we will determine whether additional “Introduction to Resettlement” Information Sessions are needed. Attendance at this session marks the first step in sponsoring a refugee through ORAT. Should the Introduction to Resettlement sessions be needed, we will post information on our Website and Facebook page directing you to our Eventbrite page, where you can register for this session.

We are requesting individuals interested in sponsorship to continue to monitor our website and Facebook page for this future announcement. Be advised that we do not have a waiting list. All calls to our office requesting to be put on a waiting list will be redirected to our Facebook page and our Website.

If you wish to sponsor a refugee, we encourage you to also consider alternative options that may be available, such as Group of 5 Sponsorship, Community Sponsorship, or other non-refugee immigration avenues.

You may also wish to contact other Sponsorship Agreement Holders in your area to see if they are accepting applications for sponsorship.

IRCC Monitoring continues in 2019

Beginning in January 2019, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) began to invite privately sponsored refugees, who have arrived in Canada within the past 6 months, to participate in a survey, either online or by telephone. They are doing so in order to learn more about their resettlement experience, and to assess the financial and settlement support that they have received. We are encouraging all sponsors to continue their tireless work of helping to resettle refugee families, all the while ensuring that they are abiding by IRCC’s updated rules.

About the survey

It is important to note that neither the SAH, CG nor cosponsor are notified by IRCC when they extend an invitation to the newcomer to complete the survey.

To help cosponsors and CGs with this task we have developed a budget workbook that will help simplify the complex calculations of refugee sponsorship that IRCC has created. The budget workbook is available free of charge and can be accessed from our website ([click here](#)). We encourage cosponsors and CGs to share this budget tool with newcomers, which will help them to manage their own budgets.

To learn more about this budget tool we offer an Information Session entitled “How to Use the Budget

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IRCC Monitoring continues in 2019

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Workbook”. Please visit our online registration site to book a seat at this session. Click [here](#) to register.

The following are some important questions, which you may use to guide your work and ensure that you are abiding within IRCC’s guidelines:

1) Was the newcomer provided with the required start-up support (financial and/or in-kind)? And, was the newcomer provided with the required monthly financial support as per the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)?

- *There are specific financial requirements for support and limits to the in-kind support that can be provided.*

2) Was monthly financial support from the sponsor reduced because of monies received by the newcomer from the Canada Child Benefit (CCB)?

- *IRCC’s current guidelines prohibits CCB from being used to decrease the financial support obligations of sponsors.*

3) Was monthly financial support from the sponsor reduced because of employment income received by the newcomer?

- *Deductions can be made after net employment income exceeds 50% of the monthly support payment (RAP).*

4) Did the newcomer receive all the settlement support required

- *Please refer to the Settlement Plan (Click [here](#)).*

5) Was the newcomer encouraged to take advantage of settlement services? And, if English language training was required, was the newcomer enrolled in a language training course? And, was the newcomer encouraged to take advantage of employment counselling?

- *A refugee’s should be encouraged to participate in activities that will help them become self-sufficient and independent, which may include settlement activities, language training, employment preparation programs and employment.*

6) When the newcomer has their own financial resources, was the newcomer required to submit their funds to be managed by others?

- *Refugees have the right to manage their own finances, and should be encouraged to do so. Sponsors cannot require the newcomer to submit their funds for management by others.*

7) Did you as the sponsor acting on behalf of refugees accept funds from the refugee(s) either before or after their arrival in Canada for the submission of a sponsorship, or as prepayment or repayment for lodging, care and settlement assistance, or as a deposit to guarantee that the newcomer will remain with the sponsor for one year post arrival?

- *SAHs, CGs or Cosponsors acting acting on behalf of the SAH, will not accept funds from the refugees either before or after their arrival to Canada for the submission of a sponsorship nor as a prepayment or repayment for lodging, care and settlement assistance...*

We ask that you please take the time to become familiar with these key changes and to understand your role as a sponsor. We have included a FAQ (Post Arrival Support) on our website. Click [here](#) to access. We encourage all stakeholders to review this important document.

Should you have any questions about these key changes please do not hesitate to contact the Outreach department at oratoutreach@archtoronto.org

Upcoming Sessions

Please note that you are required to register to book your seat for any session you wish to attend. You may register for the following sessions by clicking on the attached link:

<https://orat.eventbrite.ca/>

The Eventbrite logo is displayed in white text on an orange rounded rectangular background.

Thank you Leon's

The Archdiocese of Toronto's, Office for Refugees wishes to express our sincere thanks to Leon's for their generous gift of furniture in support of the vital work of ORAT to address the needs of countless refugee families. We are deeply grateful for Leon's kind donation to support this work.

Over the years, we have collaborated closely with a number of Eastern Rite and Orthodox churches whose parishioners have been especially effected by the global refugee crisis. In a particular way, it is through these communities that we have been able to bring countless refugee families to Canada, and to help them start a new life here. Together, we have worked tirelessly to welcome and settle these families into our communities.

Since these communities were sponsoring many refugee families simultaneously and because they had the organizational structure in place to ensure that the donated goods were distributed to the refugee families that were in greatest need, the Leon's donation was offered to these groups. As a result, the Leon's donation has helped to lessen the tremendous financial burden upon the sponsors of these families, many of whom are recent immigrants themselves. In

these communities, the refugee families have had to flee their homeland where they faced great peril and persecution, oftentimes because of their Christian faith. The practical demonstration of Leon's concern for them has provided comfort to these families and has helped to make the beginning of their new life in Canada that much easier.

To assist Latin Rite Parishes and other Constituent Groups, who are directly sponsoring Project Hope refugee families, Leon's has provided ORAT with gift certificates to purchase needed furniture for the newcomers. Please contact the Outreach team if you would like to inquire whether your refugee committee can access these gift certificates. You can email your inquiry to oratoutreach@archtoronto.org.



ORAT, along with the many refugee families that have been helped, are so very grateful to Leon's for their generous donation.

Financial Liabilities for 2019

The table below outlines the cost of sponsoring a refugee. These monies are required to assist a refugee during their first 12 months of their arrival to Canada. Since IRCC requires that sponsors provide newcomers with financial support based on the year of arrival and not on the year of submission. The figures below represent the estimated liability amount for cases submitted in 2019 with an expected arrival date in 2021.

Family Size	Estimated amounts for cases submitted in 2019 and expected arrival is 2021	
1	\$18,300	Financial Deposit: For cases that have dependent children 16 years of age or older but under the age of 22 at the time of submission to IRCC, each dependent child will be treated as an individual rather than as part of a family unit. \$18,300 is required for each dependent child. Please adjust the financially requirement for the remaining members of the family accordingly.
2	\$27,500	
3	\$29,600	
4	\$31,800	
5	\$35,700	
6	\$39,200	
7 or more, for each additional member, add	\$3,300	Immigration Forms: Any family with dependent children 16 years of age or older but under the age of 22 will be treated as one case.

Resources for Newcomers

Helping Newcomers Work

Helpingnewcomerswork.ca is a website designed to help sponsors assist newcomers with their job search efforts. The site focuses exclusively on training and employment for refugee newcomers. It features job postings as well. It is a key resource, which will help newcomers begin their job search process.

Click on the link to get more information <https://helpingnewcomerswork.ca/>



Low-interest loans to pay for Canadian credentials



Among the many challenges faced by immigrants and refugees is the inability to get the Canadian credentials they need to continue their careers. Whether they are nurses, dentists, engineers or tradespeople, the costs of retraining and/or relicensing can be out of reach, especially if the process takes a long time, or requires a full-time commitment.

Windmill Microlending has been helping skilled immigrants and refugees overcome this barrier since 2005. A registered charity, Windmill offers low-interest microloans of up to \$10,000 to pay for the costs of obtaining Canadian credentials. Their website features a short quiz to indicate whether a newcomer is eligible.

Christy Sarmiento came to Canada from the Philippines with a background in computer science, but was employed as a personal support worker. A loan from Windmill helped her afford Canadian credentials, and she now works as a data analyst in the healthcare system.

Windmill supports immigrants and refugees in all areas of Canada, including the Greater Toronto Area. For more information visit <https://windmillmicrolending.org/>

Volunteering Opportunities at ORAT

Refugee resettlement work is not possible without our many dedicated volunteers who assist with administration, reception, event coordination, interpretation, translation, information sessions and case management. Volunteers at ORAT develop useful skills while contributing to our world in a meaningful way.

There will be more volunteer opportunities opening up at ORAT shortly. If you are interested in becoming part of our volunteer team, please contact Hazem at: orateducator@archtoronto.org



Questions and Answers

Why is ORAT limiting the number of sponsorships when there are so many in need?

As a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH), we are able to submit refugee sponsorship applications to IRCC. However in 2018, the number of spots we received from IRCC for refugee sponsorship was quite limited. We have no control over how many or how little our organization receives. We encourage individuals to lobby their Member of Parliament to advocate for increased allocations for SAHs.

I was unable to register for the public info sessions. What can I do?

You can click [here](#) for other SAHs in the GTA and inquire about their sponsorship process. You can also check with the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP) regarding other streams of refugee

sponsorship such as Group of 5 sponsorships or Community sponsorships. You can find further information from RSTP at <http://www.rstp.ca/en/>

How do I fill the Sponsorship Steps at ORAT form? What kind of documents do I have to provide?

You can download the Sponsorship Steps at ORAT document from our website (Click [here](#)). The form is fillable. Please refer to question number 21 regarding additional documents that need to be provided.



Your input is welcome

If you would like to contribute an article to ORAT's newsletter, have any feedback on past articles, or have suggestions for future articles, please email us at: orateducator@archtoronto.org

Join us on Facebook

Become a member of the ORAT Facebook Page to get the latest news and updates on resettlement issues. Please visit our [Facebook page](#)

ORAT Website

Please visit ORAT's website to find details about our mandate, goals, and policies, as well as to obtain immigration forms and info session materials.

<https://www.archtoronto.org/refugee/>



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