

# RSTP Bulletin

The latest news and updates on Canada's Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement Programs

## Special Program for Sponsoring Afghan Refugees

Under Canada's Private Sponsorship of Refugees program, Groups of Five and Community Sponsors must submit a Refugee Status Determination document issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or a foreign state with their sponsorship application.

However, IRCC has recently announced a temporary public policy that enables Groups of Five and Community Sponsors to sponsor Afghan refugees who do not have a refugee status document.

This temporary public policy recognises the vulnerability of Afghans who fled Afghanistan due to the collapse of the government of Afghanistan and the close ties between the people of Afghanistan and Canada. It aims to facilitate the resettlement of Afghan refugees under the PSR Program. IRCC will accept applications under this public policy from October 17, 2022, until October 17, 2023, or for up to 3,000 Afghan refugees (whichever comes first).

The sponsor who signs the refugee sponsorship application submitted under this public policy must attend a mandatory RSTP training and include a copy of their attendance certificate with the application package for the application to be considered complete. You can find further details on the [temporary public policy](#) and registration details for the [RSTP mandatory training](#).

## FAQs about the Special Program

### 1. Q: When should applicants submit applications for Sponsoring Afghan Refugees?

A: You can apply to sponsor through this program starting **October 17, 2022, at 12:01 (EDT Ottawa Time)**. Send your complete application to the email address or mailing address listed in the instruction guide

### 2. Q: How can applicants prove that they are outside Afghanistan if they don't have any documents from the UNHCR or local government of the country of asylum?

A: Applicants must indicate their current address in the application forms. And in Schedule 2, applicants will have to provide detailed information about why they fled and details of their journey from their country of origin to their country of asylum.

### 3. Q: Can I sponsor as a G5 member if I have already sponsored another refugee family?

A: Yes. Sponsors can commit to sponsoring multiple refugees/ refugee families, provided sponsors have enough funds (if they contribute funds), availability, and time to support all sponsored refugees with settlement and integration. We recommend enclosing a cover letter explaining how this sponsor plans to assist and settle all the sponsored applicants.

### 4. Q: Can one G5 sponsor multiple applications?

A: Yes, it is possible, but the group must make sure they have enough funds and sufficient capacity to support all sponsored applicants/ families

### 5. Q: Can the same sponsor be part of several Groups of five (G5)?

A: Yes, it is possible, but the sponsor must realistically assess their funds and their capacity (their time and availability) to be able to support all the applicants who are being sponsored. Please add a cover letter indicating that you are also sponsoring as part of another G5 and explaining how you will be able to provide support to all sponsored newcomers.

### 6. Q: Where I get more information or help?

A. We recommend that you carefully and thoroughly review the application form's instruction guide and follow it. The instruction guides can be accessed from these links:

**Groups of five:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/application-forms-guides/guide-sponsor-refugee-groups-five.html>

**Community sponsorship:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/application-forms-guides/guide-sponsor-refugee-community.html>

### Q: Can donations to the funds held in trust come from donors outside of the group or even outside of Canada?

A: Yes, donations can come from sponsors who are not group members. And contributions can come from donors who are outside Canada. Key things to remember:

- Funds cannot come from the refugees being sponsored, even if they have enough money for sponsorship. Funds must be raised by sponsors in Canada.
- Groups must provide a detailed explanation about how the funds were gathered.
- We recommend including a note from the donors with their names and contact info, confirming that they contributed funds and their motivation. We would also recommend asking donors to provide the following information:
- Proof of transaction from their account to the sponsorship account
- Any financial documents they are comfortable sharing – ideally a Canadian Notice of Assessment (if in Canada) or an equivalent (if outside Canada)
- It is up to the sponsor to provide evidence to IRCC that the funds did not come from the refugees being sponsored, so we recommend being very detailed and providing as much information as possible.

### 8. Q: Can criminal record checks obtained through third-party providers be submitted with the application?

A: Yes, IRCC confirmed that they accept third-party criminal record checks.

### Q: Can a sponsorship application be submitted with proof that a criminal record check has been requested, and then the criminal record check be submitted later?

A: No, this is not possible. If you apply without a valid criminal record check or any other mandatory document, your application will be returned or rejected for being incomplete.

### 18. Q: Where can I get more information or help?

A. We recommend you carefully and thoroughly review the application form's instruction guide and follow it. The instruction guides can be accessed from these links:

- [Groups of five](#)
- [Community sponsorship](#)

You may also find answers to common questions on refugee sponsorship on [our website](#)

If you require further help, please contact us via [E-mail](#) or contact any of our RSTP trainers in your area. To find the contact info of our trainers, go to this [link](#).



# RSTP Bulletin

The latest news and updates on Canada's Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement Programs

## Upcoming RSTP Webinars & Events

### Special Program for Sponsoring Afghan Refugees Mandatory Training Sessions

**Important!** When completing the registration form for the training session, please ensure that your first and last name exactly match the name that is used on the copy of the document that you include with the sponsorship application package as proof of Canadian citizenship, Indian status, or permanent residence status, so that your certificate is issued correctly.

Saturday October 15, 2022, 2 PM – 4 PM EDT  
(English): <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4066394647931554316>

Wednesday October 19, 2022, 3 PM – 5 PM EDT  
(English): <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3412298479277582348>

Tuesday October 25, 2022, 6 PM – 8 PM EDT  
(English): <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4366173194884913675>

### The IRCC & the University of Lethbridge Research project: Refugee resettlement and sponsorship in rural and smaller communities across Canada

Are you a private refugee sponsor or resettled refugee living in a rural or smaller Canadian community (with a population of 125,000 or less)? We want to hear from you! Please help us improve refugee resettlement and integration knowledge outside urban centres by sharing your experiences anonymously in our [online survey](#). This project is funded by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada.

### CCR Fall 2022 Consultation is Open

This consultation will address critical challenges in our refugee and immigration system. Participants will learn, brainstorm, hear from and give input to government officials and share resources and strategies to respond to these issues in a series of workshops, caucuses, and meetings.

Key dates:

- The event will take place from **November 24-26**, in Toronto
- Registration Link: [Click Here](#)

### RSTP Monthly Webinar Series

#### 4 – Preparing for Arrival and Orientation

Hooray! Aliya's brother and his family are due to arrive! Follow along with Aliya and the Group of Five as they make sure they have everything ready to welcome and give orientation to Samuel, Estelle and their 2 children. This interactive webinar will provide a recap of sponsors' settlement responsibilities; review ethical considerations that are important to keep in mind when sponsoring refugees; the power imbalance that exists in the sponsor-sponsored newcomer relationship and tips on how to mitigate the imbalance; and the importance of managing expectations.

Date: October 20, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3263809433682320400>

#### 5 – Fulfilling Your Obligations through Assurance

Our case study group has an information request from IRCC! Join this interactive webinar and learn with Aliya and her group about how to keep sponsorship records and respond to IRCC's requests. Plus, learn about the purpose and process of Assurance.

Date: October 24, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1557632369676291855>

#### 6 – Completing a Successful Sponsorship Year

What exactly happens at the end of the sponsorship year? Join this interactive webinar and learn with Aliya's group and Samuel's family as they plan how to work towards Samuel and Estelle's independence and complete the 12 months of sponsorship!

Date: October 26, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EDT

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1546397559863707403>

