



AURA

Working Together to Help Refugees

YOU CAN HELP REFUGEES THROUGH SPONSORSHIP

There are millions of refugees around the world who have fled their homes and are not able to live in their current countries. Canada is one of the few countries that offers a solution to thousands of these refugees in the form of Private Refugee Sponsorship programs.



Syrian Refugees in Greece

Photo: Daniel Etter for The New York Times

The Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program allows Canadians to sponsor some of the worlds most vulnerable refugees.

AURA's main program is the promotion, management, and facilitation of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program. AURA has nearly 30 years of working with the community while ensuring refugees are able to begin positive new lives here in Canada.



About Refugee Sponsorship



Refugee sponsors help those forced from their homes by: war, persecution and political upheaval.



Refugee sponsorship is a long and complicated process. Refugee arrivals can take as little as nine months or as long as several years.



In Canada Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs), Groups of Five (G5), and Community Sponsors (CSs) are all groups who can submit private sponsorship applications.



Private sponsorship does not rely on public resources to work. Refugee sponsors come from faith communities, ethnic groups, families and other associations.

ABOUT US

AURA is a Canadian charitable organization assisting in the sponsorship and resettlement of refugees. We represent the Anglican Diocese of Toronto and the Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder with Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

ABOUT SPONSORSHIP

The Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program allows refugees to build new lives in Canada by being sponsored by Canadians. Refugee sponsors commit to providing financial assistance, Canadian experience and emotional support to refugees usually for the first year of their new life.



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Connect with AURA:



Refugee Sponsor Responsibilities:

Refugee Sponsoring groups are responsible for the following:

- Formally creating a sponsoring group.
- Raising enough funds to support the newcomer(s) for their first year in Canada. These funds and/or in-kind donations will include:
 - The cost of food, rent, utilities and other day-to-day living expenses
 - Providing clothing, furniture and other household goods.
- Develop a settlement plan that the group will use to support the newcomer by:
 - Providing orientation to daily activities like:
 - Accessing services,
 - Banking,
 - Transportation,
 - Shopping,
 - Adjusting to Canadian culture and customs.
 - Assisting with applying for provincial health-care coverage.
 - Enrolling children in school and adults in language training.
 - Selecting a family physician and dentist.
 - Locating interpreters (if needed).
 - Connecting with other people in their community.
 - Assisting in the search for employment.
- Providing emotional support

Estimated Sponsorship Costs:

The cost of living varies from region to region, but the following table can be used to estimate the cost involved in sponsoring a refugee family for 12 months. These rates are based on social assistance rate figures.

Family Size	12 Months of Income Support	Start-up Costs	Estimated Annual Total
1	\$9,800	\$2,800	\$12,600
2	\$16,800	\$4,400	\$21,200
3	\$17,700	\$5,300	\$23,000
4	\$20,000	\$7,000	\$27,000
5	\$22,500	\$7,200	\$29,700
6	\$24,500	\$8,000	\$32,500
Each Additional	\$1,550	\$1,000	\$2,500

There are many factors that can reduce the amount of financial support the sponsoring group must provide. Use the following chart for estimated values of specific in-kind donations.

Family Size	Shelter	Clothing	Furniture	Start-up Costs	Food Staples
1	\$6,000	\$500	\$1,500	\$325	\$175
2	\$6,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$350	\$250
3	\$7,800	\$1,375	\$2,500	\$375	\$325
4	\$7,800	\$1,750	\$3,000	\$400	\$400
5	\$9,600	\$2,125	\$3,500	\$425	\$475
6	\$9,600	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$450	\$550
Each Additional	\$900	\$375	\$500	\$25	\$150

Refugee Sponsorship Process in Canada

1. A refugee must have left their country of origin, meet the legal definition, and have no other “durable solution,” before they will be considered for resettlement to Canada.



2. The refugee sponsoring group must be in complete compliance (regulations, training, and finances) before selecting a refugee case to sponsor.



3. All refugee sponsorship applications must be completed by AURA with input from the refugees and the refugee sponsors.



4. Once the application is complete, it is submitted to Citizenship and Immigration Canada’s central processing office in Winnipeg.



5. If approved, the application is sent overseas for an interview, then security and medical screenings. If all of these are successful, travel arrangements are made.



6. Once the refugees land in Canada they are granted permanent resident status. Sponsors greet the newcomers at the airport and begin helping them adjust to their new lives.

