

The Sponsorship Process



Step 1 Getting Started

The church or sponsoring group reaches out to PWS&D to begin the process. The church or sponsoring group forms a Refugee Sponsorship Committee to help steer the process. The sponsoring group works with PWS&D to identify the type of sponsorship they want to undertake (named or BVOR). PWS&D works with the church or sponsoring group to ensure all finances are in order to support the refugees. This involves budgeting, providing proof of sponsorship funds, and fundraising. The Refugee Sponsorship Committee prepares a thorough settlement plan and completes all paperwork necessary.

Step 2 Application

The Refugee Sponsorship Committee works with PWS&D to prepare and submit the sponsorship application to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). IRCC sends the application to the Canadian visa office overseas.

Step 3 Visa Office Processing

This step takes place primarily in the regional Canadian visa office overseas. This is a time for patience as an interview will take place, followed by medical and background checks for the refugee. The waiting period for this step can be lengthy, up to three years. The waiting period can be much shorter for BVOR refugee cases.

Step 4 Arrival

After receiving the Notice of Arrival from IRCC, the Refugee Sponsorship Committee prepares for the arrival of the refugee. This includes revising the budget, reviewing the settlement plan, and ensuring readiness.

It's finally time to meet each other! The church or sponsoring group meets the newcomer at the airport and provides transportation to the community of resettlement.

Step 5 Settlement

The church or sponsoring group provides orientation and connects newcomers to settlement agencies for services such as ESL education, employment services, applying for identification and health care, and more as needed. They fund monthly and start-up costs for newcomers.

Sponsors build relationships with the new arrivals and follow up to help address questions and provide general support. Sponsors support the independence and integration of the newcomers and help them to become more at home in Canada.

[WeRespond.ca/get-involved/refugee-sponsorship](https://www.werespond.ca/get-involved/refugee-sponsorship)



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