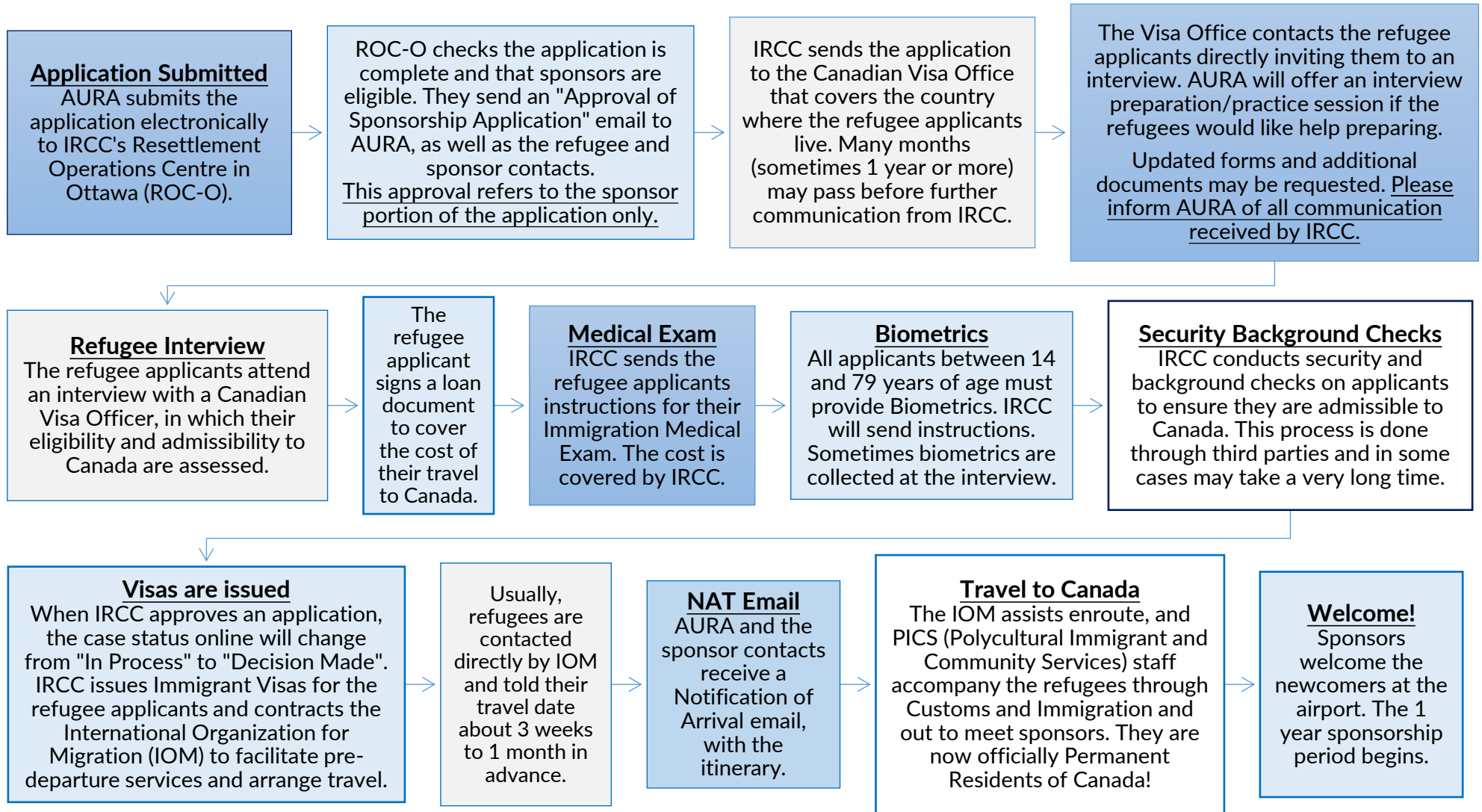# Refugee Sponsorship Application Submitted: Next Steps

This diagram outlines what happens after AURA submits a "Named Case" to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

Application Submitted
AURA submits the application electronically to IRCC's Resettlement Operations Centre in Ottawa (ROC-O).

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ROC-O checks the application is complete and that sponsors are eligible. They send an "Approval of Sponsorship Application" email to AURA, as well as the refugee and sponsor contacts. This approval refers to the sponsor portion of the application only.

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IRCC sends the application to the Canadian Visa Office that covers the country where the refugee applicants live. Many months (sometimes 1 year or more) may pass before further communication from IRCC.

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The Visa Office contacts the refugee applicants directly inviting them to an interview. AURA will offer an interview preparation/practice session if the refugees would like help preparing.

Updated forms and additional documents may be requested. Please inform AURA of all communication received by IRCC.

Refugee Interview
The refugee applicants attend an interview with a Canadian Visa Officer, in which their eligibility and admissibility to Canada are assessed.

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The refugee applicant signs a loan document to cover the cost of their travel to Canada.

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Medical Exam
IRCC sends the refugee applicants instructions for their Immigration Medical Exam. The cost is covered by IRCC.

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Biometrics
All applicants between 14 and 79 years of age must provide Biometrics. IRCC will send instructions. Sometimes biometrics are collected at the interview.

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Security Background Checks
IRCC conducts security and background checks on applicants to ensure they are admissible to Canada. This process is done through third parties and in some cases may take a very long time.

Visas are issued
When IRCC approves an application, the case status online will change from "In Process" to "Decision Made". IRCC issues Immigrant Visas for the refugee applicants and contracts the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to facilitate pre-departure services and arrange travel.

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Usually, refugees are contacted directly by IOM and told their travel date about 3 weeks to 1 month in advance.

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NAT Email
AURA and the sponsor contacts receive a Notification of Arrival email, with the itinerary.

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Travel to Canada
The IOM assists enroute, and PICS (Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services) staff accompany the refugees through Customs and Immigration and out to meet sponsors. They are now officially Permanent Residents of Canada!

→

Welcome!
Sponsors welcome the newcomers at the airport. The 1 year sponsorship period begins.

Throughout this process, IRCC communicates with refugee applicants using the email and phone number submitted in the application forms. Contact AURA for help updating contact information as soon as it changes. Sponsors and refugee applicants must inform AURA when they receive communication from IRCC.

The processing times and order of the steps vary based on the location and circumstances of each application. The average processing time is between 28 and 36 months. You can check average processing times online. You can check the case status online, however it lacks detail. There is no established mechanism for sponsors and refugee applicants to stay informed of the precise status of their application.