

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP: AN OVERVIEW



WORKING TOGETHER TO
HELP REFUGEES

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WHO IS A REFUGEE?

A refugee is someone outside their country of nationality, unable or unwilling to return because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a social group. For resettlement to Canada, a refugee must also demonstrate that their current country of asylum is not a "durable solution", meaning they cannot live there permanently.

WHAT IS REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP?

Refugee sponsorship is Canadians personally welcoming refugee newcomers into their communities, thus enabling their resettlement. A volunteer sponsor group commits to providing financial, emotional and settlement support to a refugee individual or family for their first year in Canada. The program began with the 'Boat People' in the 1970s and has earned Canada recognition worldwide.

SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Reception:** Meet the newcomers at the airport.
- **Lodging:** Provide suitable housing, basic furniture, and household items.
- **Care:** Food, clothing, public transportation and basic necessities.
- **Settlement Support:** Help newcomers adjust to life in Canada (language training, employment or education, day-to-day life, expectations).
- **Financial Support** for one year.

ESTIMATED COST:

The total cost of a sponsorship depends on many factors, including type of application (Named vs. BVOR - see reverse), family composition and available in-kind supports. Approximately 70% of the total required funds must be raised before an application can be submitted to the Government of Canada.

Family Size	Approximate Cost
1	\$20,000 - \$25,000
2	\$30,000 - \$35,000
3	\$35,000 - \$40,000
4	\$40,000 - \$45,000
5	\$45,000 - \$50,000
6	\$50,000 - \$60,000

AURA is a Canadian charitable organization providing support and expertise to groups involved in refugee sponsorship and resettlement. We manage a refugee sponsorship agreement held in partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

Since 1991, AURA has facilitated the sponsorship of refugees from over 25 countries or origin.



AURA works closely with Anglican parishes to develop, submit and support refugee sponsorship applications.

We provide information and guidance throughout the entire process.

We receive thousands of requests for sponsorship every year. We need more parishes to join in welcoming refugees.

AURA provides training and support to all sponsor group members. Our detailed Sponsorship Handbook contains detailed information to guide you, and lessons learned from over 30 years of sponsorships.

**AURA WILL BE THERE TO HELP
YOUR GROUP NAVIGATE THE
REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP PROCESS**

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We deeply value the integrity of the refugee sponsorship program and have policies and guidelines in place based on decades of experience. AURA will meet with your sponsor group to answer questions and explain the process.

TYPES OF REFUGEE APPLICATIONS:

AURA works with 2 types of refugee sponsorship applications: Named and BVOR

Private Sponsorship Case Type:	Who identifies the refugees to the government of Canada?	Do they have family in Canada?	Have they been accepted by Canadian Government?	Is there funding available?	Average application processing time	Number of cases AURA can submit
Named	Family members and/or organizations in Canada	Usually	No - an application is required	No. Sometimes family members contribute	1.5-3 years (Submission to arrival)	Limited by a yearly allocation system
BVOR - Blended Visa Office Referred	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Sometimes	Already accepted and "travel ready"	Government provides financial assistance for 6 months	2-4 months (Submission to arrival)	Unlimited

Overview of Application Process

- AURA meets with sponsors to assess commitment and capacity. Named Cases: AURA assesses refugee eligibility.
- AURA explains the process and officially opens a case file. Where possible, AURA seeks to match family/community groups with Anglican Churches for a partnership.
- Sponsors must raise or provide the funds required to support the refugee newcomer(s) for 1 year. Funds are held by the Parish or AURA, and must be in place prior to AURA submitting the application to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).
- AURA works with the sponsors and refugees to complete the necessary application forms. Named Cases require extensive refugee application forms.
- AURA finalizes the application and submits it to IRCC.
- Sponsors provide AURA with contact info and police checks, and a Settlement Plan and Budget Plan.
- IRCC begins processing. For Named Cases, this takes 1.5 - 3 years and includes security and medicals checks and interview with a Visa Officer who makes the final decision. For BVORs, sponsors prepare for an arrival in 2-4 months from the submission date.
- All sponsors must attend a settlement training session with AURA prior to the refugee's arrival date.
- When the refugees arrive, they become Canadian Permanent Residents and the sponsorship period begins.
- For the next year, sponsors support the refugees' integration into their new community, including providing housing, care and settlement assistance. The funds are disbursed by the Church/AURA directly to the newcomers throughout the year.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THE MANY STEPS INVOLVED.

Steps vary based on the unique factors of each sponsorship. AURA will seek the necessary approvals from the Anglican Diocese.

Are YOU ready to get involved?

Invite AURA: To speak to your outreach committee or sponsorship group.

Contact AURA: To learn more about sponsorship opportunities for your community.

Donate to AURA: Donations from refugee supporters enable us to continue our work supporting sponsors!