

FAQs ON TEMPORARY PUBLIC POLICY TO FACILITATE THE SPONSORSHIP OF AFGHAN REFUGEES BY GROUPS OF FIVE AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Proof of RSD

1. Q: Sponsors asking if applicants need to provide any document to prove refugee status (not RSD document but anything else)?

A: No, under the rules of the special program, applicants are not required to provide proof of their refugee status. Some might not have formal refugee recognition, depending on the country where they reside. Applicants still must meet the definition of [Convention refugee](#) or [Country of Asylum refugee](#). A determination will be done by a Canadian visa officer later in the process.

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. 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.

Eligibility of Sponsors

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.

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: Can family members residing at the same address be part of the same G5?

A: Yes, family members who individually meet eligibility criteria can be part of the same G5

7. Q: Can a newcomer to Canada (who arrived less than a year ago) be part of a sponsorship group?

A: Newcomers are not prevented from sponsoring; however, they should consider the following:

- They must meet all eligibility criteria including being a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.
- The sponsors may not be able to provide the required documents for proof of funds (if they want to contribute funds) because they may not have filed taxes and may not have their T4 or other income tax documents yet.
- If this person came to Canada as a Government-assisted refugee or privately sponsored refugee and is supported financially through the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) or by their sponsors, they cannot contribute funds to sponsorship.

Proof of Funds

8. 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.

9. Q: Do all members of G5 have to provide their financial information?

A: No, only the G5 members who are contributing funds to the funds held in-trust account or pledging funds from their income must provide proof of income and complete the Financial Profile form

Criminal Record Check

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

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

11. 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.

Sponsors in Quebec

12. Q: Does this program also apply to sponsors who are in Quebec?

A: Quebec has its own process for sponsoring refugees. For sponsors in Quebec, visit [refugee sponsorship in Quebec](#).

Submitting applications:

13. Q: Can sponsorship applications under the special program be mailed to IRCC? Which option is preferred, sending by mail or emailing applications?

A: Yes, applications can be mailed or emailed.

You should consider applying by email, as it will be processed faster.

To submit by email, follow the [instructions here](#) and send your application to:

IRCC.INROCO-CORORI.IRCC@cic.gc.ca .

To submit by mail, follow the instructions in your sponsorship application guide. ([Groups of 5](#) / [Community Sponsors](#))

14. 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 am EDT (Ottawa Time)**. Send your complete application to the email address or mailing address listed in the instruction guide.

Processing times:

15. Q: How long will it take to process these applications? Are they being prioritized?

A: Applications submitted under this special program will be prioritized as part of IRCC's current commitment to resettle Afghan refugees. We don't know precisely how long it will

take to finalize applications, as it depends on various factors, including the political situations where Afghan refugees reside.

Applicants who are in Iran

16. Q: Can we sponsor Afghan refugees who are in Iran?

A: There are no restrictions on sponsoring Afghan refugees out of any particular country. However, there have been challenges with accessing refugees inside Iran and processing their applications due to a lack of diplomatic presence in the country.

Certificates

17. Q: I have not received my training certificate. Could you help me?

A. Certificates are sent automatically to participants an hour after the end of the session. Please make sure to check the email address that you have used to register for the session. Also, make sure to check your junk or spam folder, and contact us if you need further help.

We advise you to join the webinar via the link in your email. The system cannot send you a certificate if you call into the session.

For more information or help

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: <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>

You may also find answers to common questions on refugee sponsorship in the IRCC Help Centre: <https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/results-by-topic.asp?top=11>

If you require further help, please contact us via sponsorafghan@rstp.ca or contact any of our RSTP trainers in your area. To find the contact info of our trainers, go to this link <https://www.rstp.ca/en/contact-us/>.