

Global Refugee
Sponsorship Initiative

GUIDEBOOK



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**Community Sponsorship
of Refugees
Guidebook and
Planning Tools**

WHAT IS THE GUIDEBOOK?

The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI) Guidebook on the Building Blocks of Community Sponsorship is a tool designed to help government officials, civil society organizations, and community members understand community sponsorship and assist those designing new sponsorship programs in their own countries.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Guidebook contains both operational considerations and overarching policy questions and principles that might impact on program design and implementation. The Guidebook identifies and organizes an expanding series of questions that actors should ask themselves when designing their programs. Each question is linked to a page explaining how Canada has chosen to answer that question in its policies and program design.

LAYER 1: THE MODULES	
REFUGEES: FROM ELIGIBILITY TO ARRIVAL	 SPONSORS: FROM MOBILIZATION TO ENGAGEMENT
SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION	REFUGEE-SPONSOR RELATIONSHIP

LAYER 2: THE BIG QUESTIONS
SPONSORS: FROM MOBILIZATION TO ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...
How will you mobilize private actors to support refugee resettlement?
 Who will be eligible to sponsor and what will their relationship to government be?
How will you ensure sponsors are aware of their responsibilities? What steps will sponsors need to take to prepare for the arrival of refugees? Are there any options other than sponsorship for communities to support refugees? How will you screen sponsors? What training and resources will be needed for sponsors prior to and after refugees arrive?

LAYER 3: KEY CONSIDERATIONS

WHO WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO SPONSOR AND WHAT WILL THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT BE?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...

How are sponsors matched to refugees?

How many members are required in a sponsoring group?

What are the criteria regarding the place of residence of group members vis-à-vis the intended place of residence of the resettled refugees?

 What are the types of eligible sponsoring groups?

What is the date on which the sponsoring group's responsibilities take effect?

What are the criteria organizations need to meet before entering into sponsorship agreements with the government? What safeguards are in place for newly approved organizations?

What is the requisite financial capacity of the sponsoring group members, individually and collectively, and how is their financial capacity determined?

What makes a sponsoring group or individual ineligible to become a sponsor?

LAYER 4: HOW CANADA DOES IT – SUMMARY

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF ELIGIBLE SPONSORING GROUPS?

Individuals and groups can sponsor refugees to Canada by forming one of three types of eligible sponsoring groups: Sponsorship Agreement Holders, Groups of Five, and Community Sponsors. Sponsoring groups commit to providing financial, emotional, and integration support to sponsored refugees during their first 12 months in Canada. Often, refugees have family members in Canada who organize sponsoring groups and undertake many of the resettlement responsibilities. It is also common for diaspora and co-ethnic organizations to organize to sponsor particular populations of refugees by forming sponsoring groups.

THERE'S MUCH MORE!

Each Canadian example page provides further in-depth information on every consideration, and a list of resources, giving readers the option to dig even deeper into a particular topic. The Guidebook also highlights the real-life experiences of several Canadian sponsors through a series of case studies.

Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative

Want to know more? Visit us at:
refugeesponsorship.org

IS THERE ONLY ONE WAY TO DO COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP?

The Guidebook demonstrates how Canada's government structures its program and how civil society and private sponsors have organized in Canada. Canada's program has evolved considerably since it began and is just one example of how government and civil society can collaborate to provide protection to refugees and support their settlement once they arrive in their new country.

Building on the information and insights in the Guidebook, GRSI can help stakeholders in other countries adapt the Canadian experience of community sponsorship to their own contexts.

WHERE CAN I FIND IT?

The Guidebook is available in **English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese** on GRSI's website: refugeesponsorship.org/guidebook

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