

## New Rules for Sponsors

### Please Read:

- The Canadian government has **new** rules for sponsors
- If you sponsor with ISANS, you **must** follow these rules

### Family-Link Sponsors: Financial Responsibilities

1. **Start-Up Costs:** When refugees arrive, sponsors must give them a 'start-up allowance' in cash or donations (for example – donations of clothes or furniture). Here is the amount and items you must give: [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Sponsorship-Cost-Table\\_May-2018.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Sponsorship-Cost-Table_May-2018.pdf)
2. **Monthly Income Support: Sponsors must give refugees money every month.** Here is the amount you must give: <http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Nova-Scotia-RAP-rates.pdf> OR
  - **Shelter Allowance:** You need to give them free rent for 1 year OR you must pay them \$300/month for a single person OR \$570/month for 2 people OR \$620/month for a family.
  - **Basic Needs Allowance:** You must give them \$275/month for a single person OR \$275/month for single person + 1-2 children OR \$550/month for a couple/family.
  - If you are the Cosponsor and signed the Undertaking, you can reduce this Basic Needs amount by up to 50%.
  - **Keep receipts for any money you give the refugees.**
  - **Communication allowance** – You must give the refugees \$30/month per application
  - If you sponsor:
    - A family with a child who is 18 - 19 years - you must give them an extra \$150/month
    - A pregnant family member – you must give them an extra \$75/month
3. **Refugees cannot send money to their sponsors from overseas.** If the refugee has money, they can bring it with them to Canada. If the refugee starts working during their first year in Canada, you can lower the amount you pay them when their net income is higher than 50% of the monthly support.
4. If the refugees want to move, they are permanent residents and have the right to move. However, during their first year in Canada, if they move to a different community, you **must** tell ISANS immediately. **You must also continue to give them money and support until IRCC releases you of this duty.**

### Family-Link Sponsors: Settlement Responsibilities:

- Settlement: Newcomers must be referred to a Settlement Agency (ISANS) soon after arrival.
- Healthcare: Newcomers must be registered for provincial health care coverage (MSI) and Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) soon after arrival.
- Sponsorship Rights: Newcomers should understand who they were sponsored by, the program they were sponsored under, and who is responsible for them.

- Language: Newcomers must be connected to language learning programs in English and/or French, in the community (for example, Language Assessment Services of Nova Scotia).
- Finances: Newcomers should understand their budget for the sponsorship year and have a bank account. Sponsors should teach refugees how to pay their rent and other bills.