

Costs of Refugee Sponsorship

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/5413ETOC.asp#appendixA>

Although the cost of living varies from one region to another, the following table can assist the sponsoring group in estimating the cost involved in sponsoring a refugee family for 12 months. The required financial resources indicated in the Sponsorship Cost Table are roughly equivalent to local social assistance rate figures, which will vary from region to region. (The realities of the actual cost of living may require you to consider additional support in your budget.)

Family Size	12 Months of Income Support	Start-up Costs	Estimated Total Annual Settlement Cost (\$) ¹
1	9,800 (12 x 817)	2,800	12,600
2	16,800 (12 x 1400)	4,400	21,200
3	17,700 (12 x 1475)	5,300	23,000
4	20,000 (12 x 1667)	7,000	27,000
5	22,500 (12 x 1875)	7,200	29,700
6	24,500 (12 x 2042)	8,000	32,500
Additional member	1,550 (12 x 129)	1,000	2,500

Note: For *Blended Visa Office Referred* refugee cases, the government pays the first 6 months of income support, while the sponsors are responsible for start up costs and the last six months of income support. The cash needed for start-up costs will depend on what start-up needs can be covered by in-kind donations.

Please see the **in-kind deduction table** at the following link to help to monetize the in-kind contributions within your budget:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/5413ETOC.asp#appendixA>

The chart on the following page provides an overview of some issues for sponsoring groups to consider as part of their settlement planning – it is adapted from:

- the RSTP Handbook: <http://www.rstp.ca/images/resources/handbook/30factsheet7.3.pdf> and
- CIC's Settlement Plan <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5440E.pdf>.

¹ Updated: March 2014

Sample Start up costs and monthly budget and issues to consider		
Item	Cost	Questions to Consider
Start Up Costs		
Clothes	\$ Initial amount (CIC indicates \$325 for basic clothing and \$175 for winter clothing - for a single person)	Consider costs of undergarments, winter boots and other clothing – things that cannot be hand-me-downs and that will be sure to keep the newcomers warm. Show newcomer how to make use of second-hand and bargain stores.
Furniture	\$ Initial amount	Use donations and second-hand stores. Furniture should be the newcomers' to keep.
Household effects, bedding and linen	\$ Initial amount (CIC indicates \$345 - for a single person)	Consider what cannot be given in kind
Food staples	\$ Initial amount (CIC indicates \$175 - for a single person)	Consider what cannot be given in kind
Hook up costs (telephone, utilities, etc.)	\$ Initial amount (CIC indicates \$260 - for a single person)	
Rent (last month's rent)	\$ Initial amount	
Monthly costs		
Rent	\$/mo (CIC indicates \$376/month - for a single person)	Is rent at a level that newcomers will be able to afford after sponsorship ends? Budget for reasonable rent costs during the year, unless the newcomers are very close family members who can reasonably be expected to live permanently with relatives already in Canada. <u>Note:</u> Sponsored refugees are eligible for the National Housing Supplement - \$75 approximately \$75/month for a single person.
Utilities	\$/mo	Include electricity, heat, water.
Food	\$/mo (CIC indicates \$230/month for food and incidentals - for a single person)	Take into account the newcomer's need to have some national foods in his/her diet. Help newcomers to comparison shop and buy in bulk.
Transport	\$/mo (CIC indicates \$128.50/month- for a single person)	Availability of public transportation. Look into bus and metro passes. <u>Note:</u> The dollar amount is likely set at the cost of a monthly transit pass.
Clothes	\$/mo	Any additional clothing needs during the year.
Phone/ Post/Internet Access	\$/mo	Decide whether to fund long distance calls and, if so, to what extent. Remember that newcomers will need to communicate with family and friends elsewhere. Consider using pre-paid phone cards.
Supplies	\$/mo	Take into account laundry and cleaning supplies as well as toiletries and baby supplies.
Health	\$/mo	Plan for costs not covered by IFH or provincial health plans, any special costs.
Discretion	\$/mo	Pocket money, recreation.
Education	\$/mo	School supplies, school trips, books, day care to allow parents to study English and to look for jobs
Reserve	\$/mo	Allow a minimum extra of 5% for unanticipated expenses.