

# Blended VOR Program

# FAQ

## *What is Blended VOR?*

The Blended Visa Office Referred Program is designed to resettle refugees identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and submitted to Canadian visa offices abroad.

It is referred to as a “blended” program because it is a cost-sharing arrangement between the sponsorship group and the government to support the sponsored refugees. The government financially covers months 2-7. The 2019 BVOR Fund, thanks to Refugee Hub, covers months 8-12. Sponsors pay the initial costs and provide supports and resources throughout the resettlement process.

Refugees under this program have already met eligibility and admissibility criteria, making them travel-ready. However, they must be matched with a sponsor before they can travel to Canada.

## *What is expected of the sponsorship group under this program?*

### **Housing:**

When the family arrives, they will need a place to stay, with furniture and household items supplied. Finding them a house or apartment that is accessible to resources, or to your church/organization, can help the family settle and adjust better.

### **Transportation:**

Resources and schools may not always be close to the home of the family. Arranging for volunteers to drive them or show them how to use public transportation will be important for the newcomers' independence and adjustment to life in Canada.

### **Emotional support:**

Due in part to trauma in earlier life experiences and en-route to Canada, there may be support needed on an emotional level. Finding a support group, community with people of similar experiences and accessing counselling services can help the family settle and cope better with the transition.

### **Essentials:**

Include food, clothing, healthcare, schooling, language classes, etc.



## *What is expected of refugees under this program?*

The newly arrived refugee is expected to make every effort to become self-sufficient as soon as possible after arriving in Canada. This includes taking advantage of language classes, as well as other settlement services, and actively seeking employment.

Newcomers are responsible to repay their travel and medical loans. Upon arrival in Canada, they will receive a letter from the government with information about the total cost of the loan and a repayment plan.

159 Henderson Hwy, Winnipeg, MB R2L 1L4 | Treaty 1 Territory & Homeland of the Métis

For more information, please contact:

**Belloty Kabamba-Braun**, Migration & Resettlement Program Associate  
bellotykabambabraun@mccmb.ca | 204-925-1919



**Mennonite  
Central  
Committee**

# Blended VOR Program FAQ

## Next steps

Ask your church or organization about what opportunities you might have to sponsor a refugee family. Make sure to discuss the financial, emotional and physical requirements of sponsorship, and how many volunteers would participate.

Contact MCC via phone or email to ask questions or to book a presentation on BVOR sponsorship.

## What is the process of sponsoring refugees under the Blended VOR Program?

MCC selects profiles from available BVOR cases and matches a case to sponsoring group preferences

Sponsoring group accepts sponsorship

MCC completes necessary paperwork

MCC submits application to government

Sponsoring group can expect to welcome the refugee family within 1-4 months of submitting application

## Statistics on displacement and resettlement

- 68.5 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide.<sup>1</sup>
- 22% of Canada's privately sponsored refugees settled in Manitoba.<sup>2</sup>
- 10% of all immigrants to Manitoba are refugees.<sup>3</sup>
- Over half of all those displaced and resettled are under the age of 18.<sup>4</sup>
- Over 55,000 people have resettled in Canada since 2015.<sup>5</sup>



<sup>1</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

<sup>2</sup> Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Manitoba

<sup>3</sup> 2014 Statistical Report, Province of Manitoba

<sup>4</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

<sup>5</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

159 Henderson Hwy, Winnipeg, MB R2L 1L4 | Treaty 1 Territory & Homeland of the Métis

For more information, please contact:

**Belloty Kabamba-Braun**, Migration & Resettlement Program Associate  
bellotykabambabraun@mccmb.ca | 204-925-1919

