

# Preparing for Month 13

The End of the Sponsorship Year

Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto  
(ORAT)



## Topics Covered:

- When should sponsors start preparing for Month 13.
- What to consider when preparing newcomers for Month 13.
- Services available for newcomers in Month 13.
- Evaluating the sponsorship and the post-sponsorship relationship.



# When to Begin Preparing the Newcomer(s) for the Post-Sponsorship Period?

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Sponsors are advised to begin preparing newcomer(s) for the end of the sponsorship period and transition to the post-sponsorship period **as early as Month 9.**

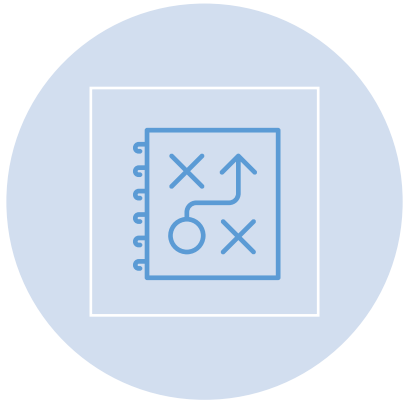


At the **beginning of Month 9**, sponsors are advised to conduct a needs assessment, which should be conducted in conjunction with the newcomer(s).

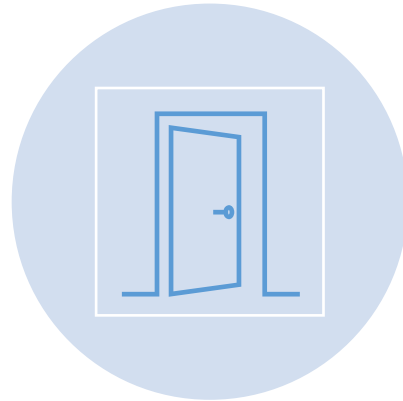


# What Should Sponsors Consider When the Sponsorship is Coming to an End?

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EVALUATING THE SPONSORSHIP PERIOD, INCLUDING YOUR EXPERIENCES AS SPONSORS.



THE SETTLEMENT NEEDS OF THE NEWCOMER(S) BEFORE THE SPONSORSHIP PERIOD COMES TO AN END.



THE SPONSORS' RELATIONSHIP WITH NEWCOMER(S) IN THE POST-SPONSORSHIP PERIOD.

# Informal Evaluation of the Sponsorship

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- Were your goals as a sponsor met?
- What were your successes? What was achieved? How was it achieved?
- What were the challenges? How were they overcome?
- Were your expectations met? Were they realistic?
- Were the needs of the newcomers met? Are they self-sufficient (consider their starting point – education, trauma, work history...)?
- What actions were taken to move newcomers toward self-sufficiency?
- What would you do differently? What did you learn?
- Would you sponsor again?

# What Information Should be Communicated to the Newcomer Before the Sponsorship Ends?

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- Access to Affordable Housing
- Eligibility for Subsidized Housing (When to Apply)
- How to Budget & Transfer Money Electronically
- How to Pay Rent and Other Household Bills
- Social Assistance (Eligibility and How to Apply)



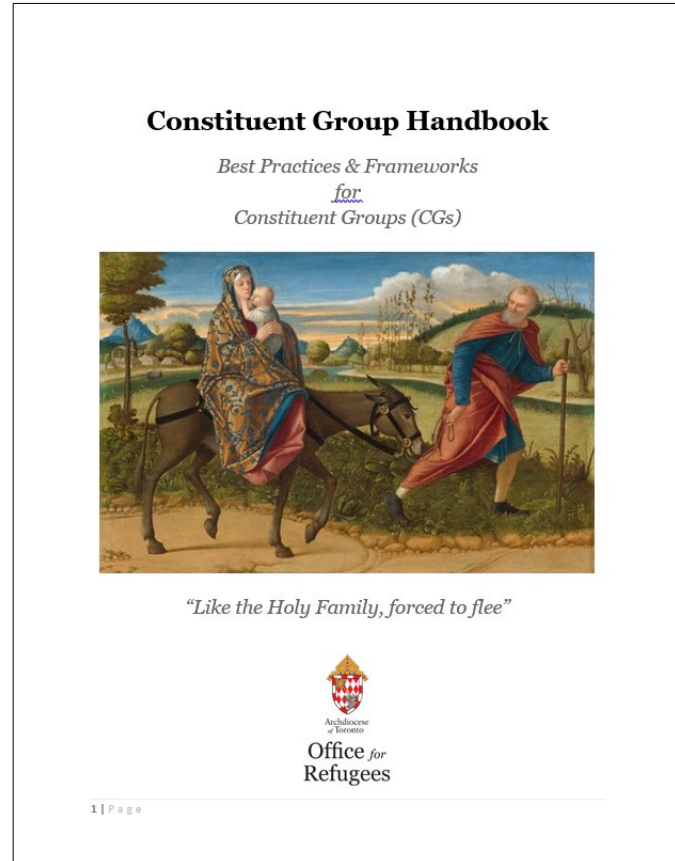
# What Information Should be Communicated to the Newcomer Before the Sponsorship Ends? (Cont.)

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- Taxes (Services Available, Tax Returns – How/When, Tax Benefits)
- Services Offered by Local Settlement Agencies
- Changes in Healthcare Coverage
- Educational Programs & Subsidies Offered
- How to Contact Emergency Services



# ORAT has Resources Available to Assist Sponsors with Settlement Needs



[o-cg-handbook.pdf \(archtoronto.org\)](https://archtoronto.org/o-cg-handbook.pdf)



[o-sponsor-resource-toolbox.pdf \(archtoronto.org\)](https://archtoronto.org/o-sponsor-resource-toolbox.pdf)

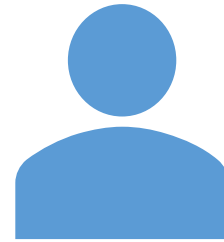


# How & When Should Newcomer(s) Who are not Self-Sufficient Apply for Social Assistance?

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Newcomer(s) in Ontario can apply for Ontario Works at the start of Month 12.



Newcomer(s) can apply for Ontario Works online, in-person, or by phone.



Newcomer(s) in Ontario advised to contact their local Ontario Works.

Website: <http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/social/ow/>



**ORAT**  
Office for Refugees  
Archdiocese of Toronto

# Month 13 Planning Checklist

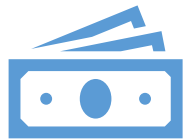
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- Sponsors are encouraged to use the Month 13 Planning Checklist to ensure that all key information is communicated to the newcomer(s) as well as ensuring that the newcomer(s) have the necessary skills, knowledge, and services for their post-sponsorship period.



- It is important for sponsors not to feel disheartened or discouraged if the newcomer(s) they have sponsored are not self-sufficient by the end of Month 12.



- If the newcomer(s) is not self-sufficient by the end of Month 12, they can apply for social assistance and welfare support, employment training support and community activities for social support groups that will help them achieve self-sufficiency.





# Planning Checklist

## Housing

- Do the newcomers need/want to relocate to another house or apartment or another town or city?
- If the newcomers need to relocate to another house or apartment, have you assisted them with finding suitable accommodation?
- Are the newcomers aware of their rights as tenants?
- Do the newcomers know when and how to pay their rent, and any other household bills (e.g., utilities, hydro, phone, internet, cable, etc.)?
- Are the newcomers aware of subsidized housing options?
- Do the newcomers understand and agree with the terms of their new lease?





## Documents & Application Forms

- Are newcomers receiving all the benefits they are entitled to such as the Canada Child Tax Benefits (CCB), GST/HST rebates, etc.?
- Do newcomers have all the documents that they require? Do they require your assistance with the application process for any remaining documents (e.g., travel documents, PR card, SIN, OHIP, Driver's licence, Library card, etc.)?
- If the newcomers have moved, do they need your help to change their address with government agencies, or their cards and documents, etc.?



## Employment

- Are the newcomers employed? If not, what can be done before the end of the sponsorship period to assist the newcomers with finding employment?
- Are the newcomers aware of any relevant bridging courses and vocational training opportunities?
- Are the newcomers aware of Canadian professional licencing requirements for their profession or vocation?
- Are newcomers aware of their rights as an employee or their responsibilities as an employer?
- If newcomers are working or will work in the future, do they know how to arrange for childcare?



## Finances



Do the newcomers need any further assistance with budgeting or banking? For example, can they take care of their finances on their own? Do they know how to transfer money electronically?





## Health

- Is the newcomer registered with a family doctor?
- Have you provided the newcomer(s) with relevant information on vaccinations?
- Do the newcomer(s) need counselling or any other mental health support? If so, have you made the appropriate referrals or provided them with the relevant information on how to access these services?
- Do the newcomers have any remaining medical needs that need to be addressed? If so, have you made a referral or provided them with the relevant information on how to access the necessary services?



## Health (continued)

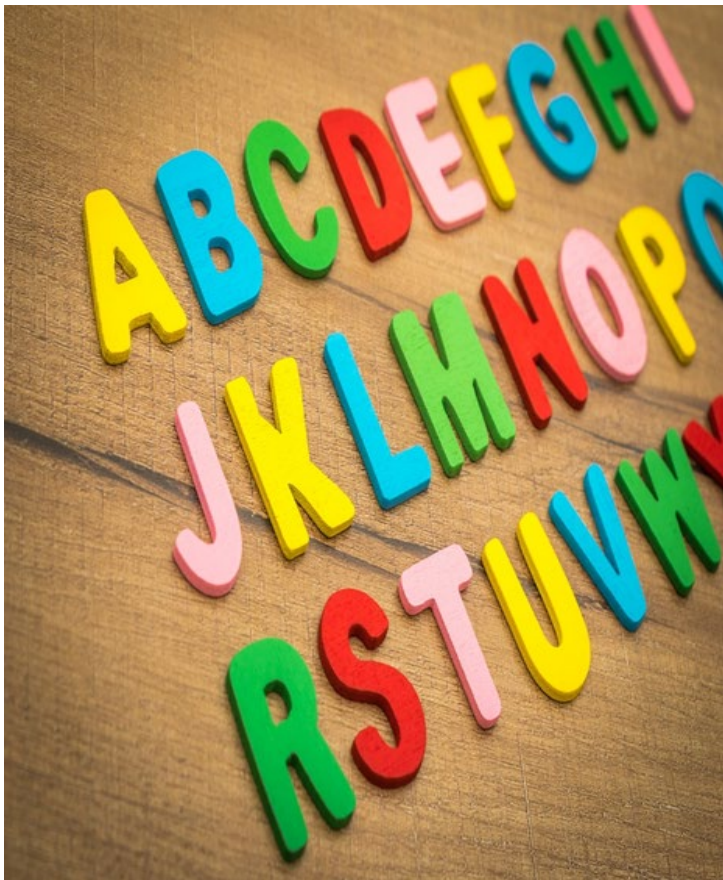
- Do the newcomers know how to contact emergency services in cases of emergency?
- Do the newcomers know how to navigate the medical system?  
Do the newcomers require any dental care?
- Do the newcomers understand that their benefits through the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) will end after month 12?
- Do the newcomers know what they are entitled to through their provincial health insurance?





## Education

- Are the newcomers interested in continuing with ESL classes? Do they know how to register for further classes?
- Are any children that are now old enough enrolled in school? If newcomers have moved or will move, have you assisted them to enroll their children in school?
- Do the newcomers wish to pursue further studies? If so, have you provided them with the relevant information on courses and institutions?
- Are the newcomers aware of the various vocational programs and academic courses they can access?
- Are there any specific educational needs that need to be addressed before the end of the sponsorship period?
- Do the newcomers need your support to find volunteer opportunities in their field?



## English Language Classes

- Do the newcomers wish to continue with ESL classes?
- Do the newcomers know how to access ESL classes if they need them later?



## Social Services

- ✓ Have you assisted the newcomers to apply for provincial social assistance (if necessary)?
- ✓ Does the newcomer understand the details of provincial social assistance, such as, what is necessary to apply, how much money will be provided, terms and conditions, reporting requirements, etc.?



## Transportation

- Do the newcomers know how to travel within the city?
- Are they comfortable taking public transportation?
- Do you need to provide further explanations or accompany them?
- If the newcomers move, do they need support in learning new transportation routes?



## Interpretation

- Do the newcomers know how to access interpretation support if needed?



## Community Support & Orientation

- ✓ Do the newcomers require more support to find community activities or events?
- ✓ Do the newcomers want your help connecting them with specific programs or groups in your community related to their interests?
- ✓ If the newcomers have or will move, do they need your support to orient them to the new community? For example, the nearest grocery stores?

# What Relationship Should Sponsors have with the Newcomer(s) in the Post-Sponsorship Period?

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- The role of the CG is to assist the newcomer(s) to gain self-sufficiency and independence.
- It is important for sponsors not to feel disheartened or discouraged if the newcomer(s) they sponsored are not self-sufficient by the end of Month 12.
- Financial support after the sponsorship period has ended is discouraged. It may affect any financial assistance the newcomer(s) seeks to receive from government.



# Post Sponsorship Relationship

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- Sponsors can continue to provide emotional and friendship support after month 12 to newcomer(s) at their discretion.
- The CG should inform the newcomer that they can say “No” to any offer to help, without any repercussion.
- The newcomer(s) need to know that they can approach CG members, even after the end of their sponsorship period.
- Encourage, where possible, continued conversation among CG then with newcomer to manage expectations.



# Support is Available

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RSTP's Month 13 FAQ, and Month 13 Planning Resource Kit  
[Month-13-Resource-Kit-v.1.4.pdf \(rstp.ca\)](#)

Contact ORAT's Outreach Team at:  
Email: [oratoutreach@archtoronto.org](mailto:oratoutreach@archtoronto.org)  
Phone: (647) 494-5419