

All About Transportation Loans

Refugees being sponsored and resettled to Canada under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program, the Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) program, the Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) program and the Government Assisted Refugee (GAR) program may receive a Transportation Loan that is intended to assist them with covering the cost of their travel to Canada.

The Transportation Loan is issued by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) via their [Immigration Loans Program \(ILP\)](#).

How is the Transportation Loan issued to the sponsored refugee?

During the sponsored refugee's interview, the Migration Officer will assess the refugee's [ability to repay the Transportation Loan](#).

If the Migration Officer determines that the refugee has the ability to repay the Transportation Loan, the Officer will explain the terms and conditions of the loan to the refugee and provide them with information about the repayment schedule.

The Migration Officer and the refugee will then sign the [Terms and Conditions of Loan \[IMM 0502\]](#) form as an indication that the Transportation Loan has been approved.

Once the sponsorship application has been approved and the refugee is travel ready, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will produce a detailed travel costs sheet that outlines the cost of the refugee travelling to Canada.

Before departure, the refugee will sign this costs sheet and will be provided a copy of it by an IOM representative.

For further, detailed information about how the Transportation Loan is issued, please [click here](#).

What does the Transportation Loan cover?

The Transportation Loan may cover the cost of the following pre-arrival services provided by the IOM to refugees sponsored and resettled to Canada under the PSR, BVOR, JAS and GAR programs:

- Transportation costs from the refugee's place of residence in the country of asylum to a city from which the refugee may board their flight to Canada (the cost of overnight accommodation and meals before departure are also covered);
- The cost of travel to Canada by the most direct route at the most economical rate available;
- The cost of any taxes or tolls;
- The cost of any operational escorts provided by the IOM; and,
- In-land transportation costs which may include the cost of overnight accommodation, meals and ground transportation.

Types of expenses that are not covered by the Transportation Loan include, but are not limited to:

- Excess baggage fees;

- The cost of shipping personal and household effects;
- The cost of transporting pets;
- The cost of DNA testing and medical interventions to ensure the refugees are fit-to-fly;
- Pre-departure services covered by the [Interim Federal Health Program \(IFHP\)](#), such as the cost of the refugee's Immigration Medical Exams (IMEs), vaccinations and any medical escorts; and,
- The cost of transportation, accommodation and meals associated with the delivery of the Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA) program delivered by the IOM.

The maximum loan amount that can be issued [per family](#) is \$10,000 CAD.

Are Immigration Medical Examinations (IMEs) still covered by the Immigration Loans Program (ILP)?

The ILP no longer covers the cost of the refugee's Immigration Medical Exams (IMEs). The cost of IMEs are now covered by the [Interim Federal Health Program \(IFHP\)](#).

For further information about the IFHP, please [click here](#) or [here](#).

Is interest charged on the Transportation Loan?

No, interest is no longer charged by IRCC on Transportation Loans.

When are sponsored refugees expected to repay the Transportation Loan?

Sponsored refugees are expected to begin repaying their Transportation Loan one year and one month after the issuance of the loan, but refugees can start paying off their loan before this date if they choose to do so.

For example, if the loan was issued/the refugees arrived in Canada on June 01, 2019, the first payment will be due on July 01, 2020.

Exceptionally higher-needs refugees resettled to Canada under the GAR and JAS programs may be eligible for a waiver of the Transportation Loan. For more information, please [click here](#).

Refugees can make repayments by personal cheque; a certified cheque; a postal or money order; a credit card; directly at participating financial institutions; and, internet banking through participating financial institutions.

Repayments may also be made via a payroll deduction scheme at the discretion of IRCC.

What is the repayment schedule for the Transportation Loan?

The repayment schedule for the Transportation Loan depends on the size of the loan. The repayment schedule was recently extended to provide sponsored refugees with additional time to pay back their loans.

The repayment schedule is as follows:

- Loans up to but not exceeding **\$1,200** must be repaid within 36 months.
- Loans over **\$1,200** but not exceeding **\$2,400** must be repaid within 48 months.
- Loans over **\$2,400** but not exceeding **\$3,600** must be repaid within 60 months.
- Loans over **\$3,600** but not exceeding **\$4,800** must be repaid within 72 months.
- Loans over **\$4,800** must be repaid within 96 months.

Can sponsored refugees defer repayment of the Transportation Loan?

Under special circumstances, IRCC may grant a deferral of loan payments, a variation of payments or an extension of the repayment period.

Refugees sponsored and resettled to Canada under the PSR, BVOR, JAS and GAR programs may be granted a deferral for up to two years.

To request a deferral, refugees must contact IRCC's Collection Services at 1-800-667-7301 or by email at IRCC.FINCollections-RecouvrementsFIN.IRCC@cic.gc.ca

Are sponsors expected or required to assist the sponsored refugees with repaying their Transportation Loan?

Sponsors are not expected or required to assist sponsored refugees with repaying their Transportation Loan and sponsors will not be held responsible for repaying the loan or be required to do so. However, sponsors may choose to help the refugees pay back their Transportation Loan.

If sponsors do assist the refugees with paying back their Transportation Loan, the amount sponsors pay cannot be deducted from the monthly financial support being provided by the sponsors to the refugees.

For further information, please see Q.14 of the [FAQs on Post Arrival Financial Support for PSRs](#).

Need further information or have questions about the Transportation Loan?

Sponsors or refugees wanting more information about Transportation Loans can consult IRCC's Collection Services toll-free at 1-800-667-7301 or by email at IRCC.FINCollections-RecouvrementsFIN.IRCC@cic.gc.ca

Further information can also be found on the IRCC website [here](#).

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Last updated: December 2019