



Privately Sponsored Syrian Refugees

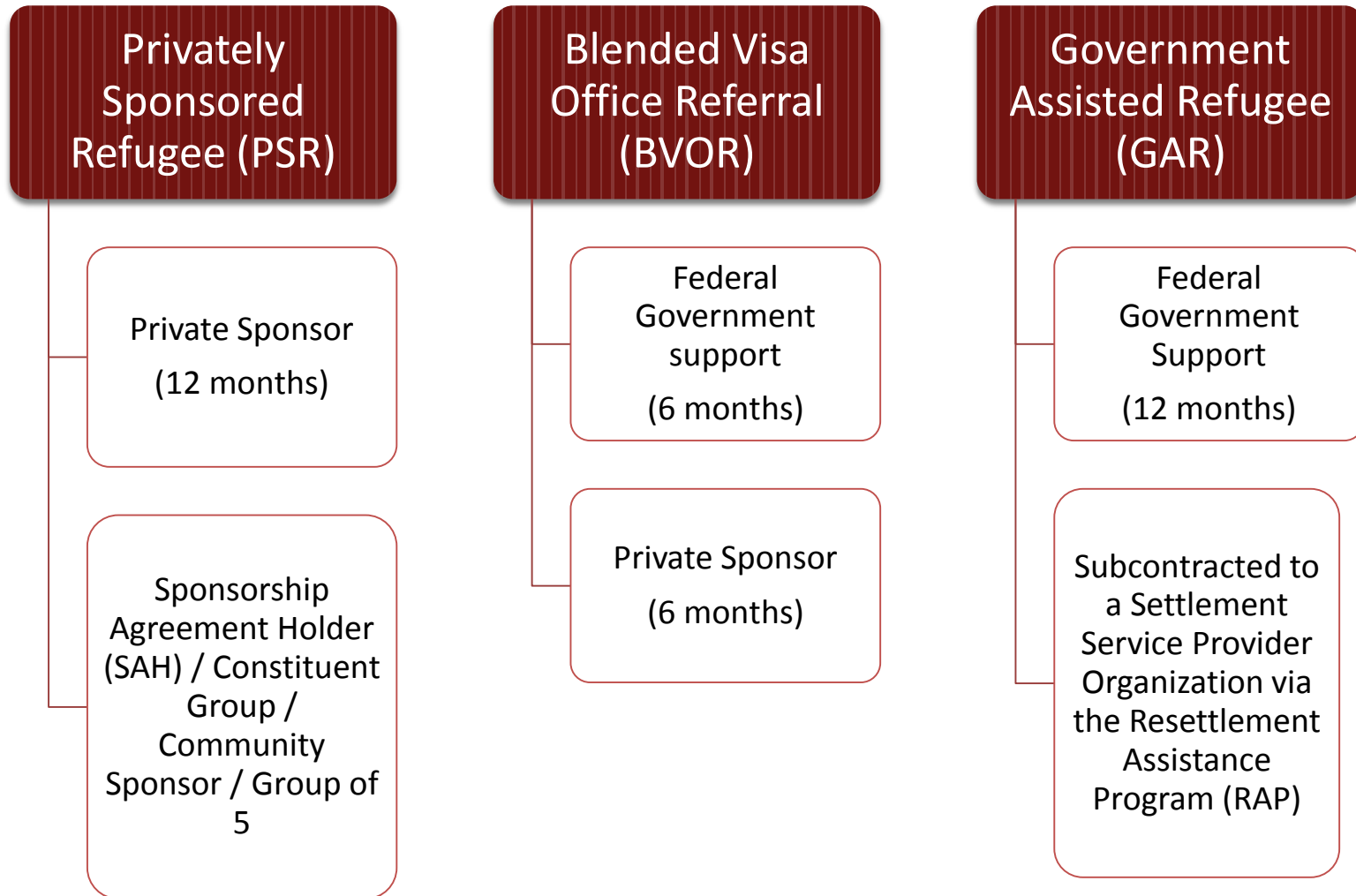
Part 1: Introduction & Overview

(adapted from Refugee Sponsorship Training Program)



WelcomeBC

Canada's Refugee Program



Refugee Resettlement Programs

There are three ways that refugees are resettled to Canada:

- [Government-Assisted Refugees \(GARs\):](#)
 - These are Convention refugees whose initial settlement (for up to one year) is entirely supported by the Government of Canada or by the province of Quebec. They are referred to Canada for resettlement by a referral organization like the UNHCR.
- [Privately sponsored refugees \(PSRs\):](#)
 - These are refugees who meet either the Convention refugee or the Country of Asylum definitions.
 - They are referred for resettlement by a private sponsor in Canada who agrees to provide financial and other support for the refugee for one year. Over 90% are named family reunification cases.
- [Blended Visa Office-Referred refugees \(BVORs\):](#)
 - These are Convention refugees referred by the UNHCR to a Canadian Visa Officer who are matched with a private sponsor in Canada. Unlike PSRs, the sponsoring group does not have any ability to name the individual. The Government of Canada provides up to six months of income support through the [Resettlement Assistance Program \(RAP\)](#), while private sponsors provide another six months of financial support and up to a year of social and emotional support.
- For more information, the [IRCC website](#) has comprehensive information on the refugee system in Canada.
- The Canadian Council for Refugees has published a [glossary of terms](#) related to immigrants and refugees.

What are the Responsibilities of the Sponsoring Group?

During the sponsorship period the sponsoring group must provide:

- Reception
- Care
- Permanent accommodations
- Settlement assistance for the sponsored refugees in the expected community of settlement

The sponsorship period is usually:

- 12 months from the date of arrival of the refugee or until the refugee becomes self-supporting and no longer requires settlement assistance, whichever is less.
- In exceptional circumstances, visa officers can ask for a longer sponsorship period (up to 36 months).

The Role of the Sponsoring Group

- The role of the sponsoring group during the settlement phase is:
 - to facilitate
 - to empower
- What is empowerment?
 - enabling an individual to gain greater control over his/her environment and attain his/her aspirations

What is settlement?

Settlement is...

A long-term, dynamic, two-way process through which newcomers would ideally achieve equality and freedom of participation in society, *and* in which the host society adjusts to the needs of newcomers

What Does a Privately- Sponsored Refugee Require to Settle in BC?

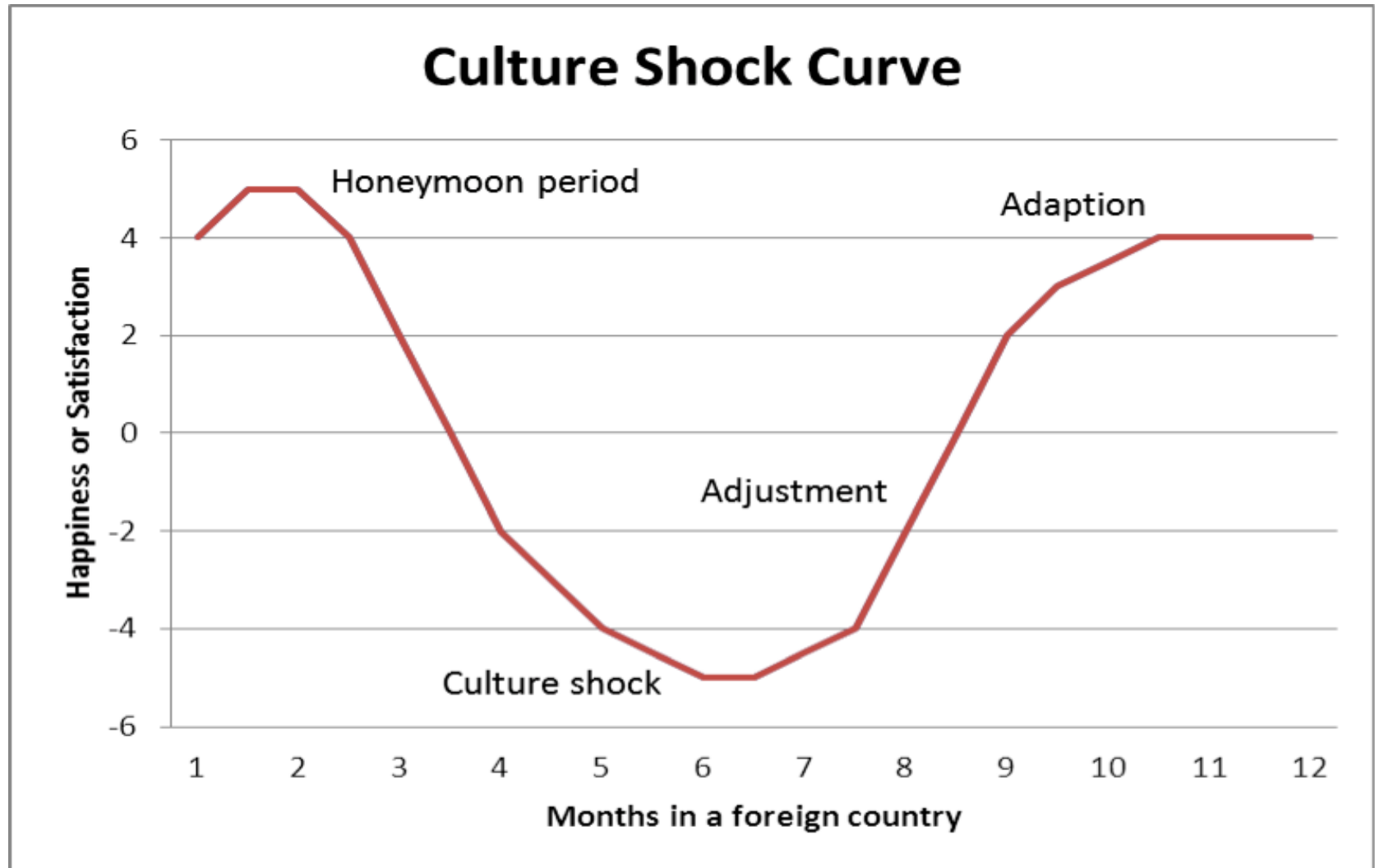
- Reception and transportation from the airport
- A place to live
- Language training
- Emotional support
- Employment
- Food
- Clothing
- Someone to show them around
- Help completing forms
- Money
- Medical care
- Friendship
- Education

When is a Refugee Family Settled?

When they are:

- Self-supporting
- Employed
- Secure
- Safe
- Feeling at home
- Confident in new culture
- Healthy
- Reunited with families

Stages of Settlement & Cultural Adaption



Stages of Settlement & Cultural Adaptation

- **Stage 1 - Honeymoon**

- An initial reaction of enthusiasm, fascination, admiration, and cordial, friendly, superficial relationships with hosts. (note – refugees may not come to Canada by choice and therefore less enthusiastic)

- **Stage 2 – Challenge and Crisis (Culture Shock)**

- Differences in language, concepts, values, and symbols lead to feelings of inadequacy, frustration, anxiety and anger.

Stages of Settlement & Cultural Adaptation

- **Stage 3 - Reconstruction and Recovery**

- The crisis is resolved as the person learns the language and culture of the host country.

- **Stage 4 - Adjustment / Adaptation**

- Newcomers begin to work in and enjoy the new culture, though there may be some instances of anxiety and strain, they are better able to manage the emotions.

Settlement Planning

- **Reception** - meeting at the airport, welcoming, ride from airport
- **Orientation** - to the group, to the new neighbourhood, to Canada
- **Housing** - arranging for temporary accommodation, helping find permanent accommodation, budgeting for housing expenses
- **Clothing** – weather appropriate, where to shop
- **Food** - where to grocery shop
- **Transportation** - orienting to public transit system, assisting in obtaining driver's license

Settlement Planning (cont'd)

- **Language** - assisting in scheduling language test, finding and registering for appropriate language program
- **Schooling** - helping in the registration of children, finding adult education programs/courses
- **Childcare** - helping arrange for child care when needed, informing about Canadian childcare practices and customs, sharing information about child protection laws
- **Emotional and moral support**