Services For Refugees In B.C.

FEDERAL

Settlement services are primarily the responsibility of the federal government.

Under their Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) each government-assisted refugee is eligible for:

- Income support for up to 1 year:
  - Single person, approximately $8,800/yr
  - Single parent with three children, $14,400/yr
  - Family of four with two adults and two dependents, $16,200/yr

- Resettlement services for the first 4-6 weeks, including:
  - Reception services – airport pick-up; coverage of a meal at the airport; transport to temporary housing; information/brochures, etc.
  - Temporary accommodation and assistance with permanent accommodations

- Additional allowances:
  - Staple – to set up a household with basic food and cleaning supplies. $175 for a single person, $400 for family of four
  - Furniture – to set up a household with furniture, linens, pots/pans, etc. $1,330 for a single person, $2,945 for family of four; the government may provide in-kind support in place of cash payment

- Telephone installation – one-time allowance of $45
- Clothing – $325 per adult, $250 per dependent; additional amounts for winter clothing may be available
- Transportation for medical appointments – $15 per adult, $42 per dependent
- Dietary – supplements for clients with specific dietary needs confirmed by doctor or nurse (maximum $75 per month)
- Maternity – additional monthly food allowance of $75 and $200 one-time allowance for clothes for pregnant women
- Newborn – one-time allowance of $750 for baby supplies
- School start-up – one-time allowance of $750 for school supplies (ages 4-18 years)
- Funeral – equivalent to social assistance rates

- Financial information and planning
- Life skills training
- Interim Federal Health Care
- Canada Child Tax Benefit

PROVINCIAL

On average, B.C. welcomes 1,600 refugees and 37,000 permanent residents every year.

- Every new refugee in B.C. is eligible for the following services:
  - Health care through the Medical Services Plan:
    - Premiums waived for one year
  - Enrollment in B.C.'s public schools
  - Employment Program of BC – help with getting a job
  - Child Care Subsidy – up to $850 a month
  - BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit – up to $55 per month per child under age 6
  - BC Basic Family Bonus – up to $111 per child per month when combined with the National Child Benefit Supplement
  - Student Aid

- Since the federal government announced plans to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees into Canada, the Province has provided:
  - A $1 million Refugee Readiness Fund; and,
  - $1 million through the Canada-BC Job grant to help get refugees job training and match them with employers.

- The Province also provides $4 million for newcomers not eligible for federal services to access:
  - Orientation and community connections;
  - Formal/informal language training and practice; and,
  - Trauma counselling for refugee claimants.