

Pathways for Resettled Refugees, Refugee Claimants and Displaced Ukrainians

Canada has several established pathways for resettled refugees and refugee claimants to seek safety in the country. New pathways are periodically developed to rapidly address emerging situations.

In March 2022, the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) was implemented to support Ukrainians and their family members. Providing a free, temporary visitor status, CUAET allows successful applicants to live, work and study in Canada until it is safe to return to Ukraine.

This tool summarizes the key similarities and differences between Canada's humanitarian pathways—including CUAET—to help communities understand and address each group's unique situation and needs. Note that changes to all pathways can occur as the federal government adapts to changing situations, particularly in the case of CUAET.



Resettlement Eligibility

Government Assisted and Privately Sponsored Refugees

To be a Government Assisted Refugee (GAR) or Privately Sponsored Refugee (PSR), individuals must be referred and cannot apply directly to the Government of Canada as a refugee. The UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency, a designated referral organization, or a private sponsorship group can make referrals/applications for resettlement consideration. To be referred, individuals fall into one of two refugee groups:

Government Assisted and Privately Sponsored Refugee Groups	Eligibility includes:	Can be sponsored by:
<p>Convention refugee abroad</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are outside of home country, and • cannot return there due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - race - religion - political opinion - nationality, or - membership in a particular social group. Examples:gender, sexual orientation, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Government of Canada (government-assisted refugees), • a group of people or an organization (privately sponsored refugees), or • a mix of both (blended visa office-referred refugees).
<p>Country of asylum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are outside of home country, or the country where they normally live, and • have been seriously affected by civil war or armed conflict, or • have been denied basic human rights on an ongoing basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a group of people or an organization (privately sponsored refugees) • can also be in this group if the individual has the funds to support themselves and their family after arriving in Canada, but must still be referred by the UNCHR, a referral organization or a private sponsorship group.

For more information on Government Assisted Refugees:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/help-outside-canada/government-assisted-refugee-program.html>

For more information on Privately Sponsored Refugees:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/help-outside-canada/private-sponsorship-program/refugees-information.html>

Refugee Claimants

Refugee Claimants (often referred to as Asylum Seekers) are people who have fled their country and are asking for protection in another country. A refugee claim may be made at a Canadian port of entry with the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA), or inland at an Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) office. Once in Canada, government agencies such as CBSA or IRCC will screen the claimant's identity to complete security checks. Once a claim is filed, the individual will go to a hearing and receive a positive or negative decision on their claim. To be eligible, the individual must meet the criteria for a Convention refugee or a person in need of protection.

Convention refugees are outside of their home country or the country they normally live in. They're not able to return because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on

- race
- religion
- political opinion
- nationality
- being part of a social group, such as women or people of a particular sexual orientation

A person in need of protection is a person in Canada who can't return to their home country safely. This is because, if they return, they may face

- danger of torture
- risk to their life
- risk of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment

For more information on eligibility:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/claim-protection-inside-canada/eligibility.html>

For more details: http://bcrefugeehub.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/BC-Refugee-Hub-FAQ_Jan2019.pdf,

<http://bcrefugeehub.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Refugee-Claim-Process.pdf>

www.myrefugeeclaim.ca

The Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET)

In response to the crisis in Ukraine, the Canadian government took the unprecedented step of opening a temporary resident visa category to create the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET). CUAET allows Ukrainians and their family members to enter Canada, offering free, extended temporary status and allowing them to work, study and live in Canada for up to 3 years. All applications must be submitted online and there is no application fee. Applicants can apply either outside or within Canada. To be eligible for CUAET, an individual must be a Ukrainian national or a family member of a Ukrainian national.

For more details: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2022/03/canada-ukraine-authorization-for-emergency-travel.html>

Supports Available in Canada

Depending on the legal category of the arriving newcomer, they may be eligible for income supports during their first year in Canada. Additionally, these newcomers may be eligible for settlement supports funded from federal and/or provincial governments, depending on program eligibility criteria.

Category	Income Support Eligibility (single adult)	Settlement Services and Other Supports Available
Government Assisted Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1,010 monthly (first 12 months) provided by the Federal Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eligible for federally funded settlement and employment programs/services under Permanent Resident status• Eligible for Provincial Medical Services Plan• For a complete list of programs and services, and search tool: https://ircc.canada.ca/english/newcomers/services/index.asp
Privately Sponsored Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1,100 monthly (first 12 months) provided by the sponsorship group• Plus one-time payment of \$3,300 for start-up costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eligible for federally funded settlement and employment programs/services under Permanent Resident status• Eligible for Provincial Medical Services Plan• For a complete list of programs and services, and search tool: https://ircc.canada.ca/english/newcomers/services/index.asp
Refugee Claimants / Asylum Seeker	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None• Limited income assistance and disability assistance available with an Acknowledgement of Claim letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eligible for limited provincially funded settlement and employment programs/services• Not eligible for federally funded settlement programs such as Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)• English language classes• Eligible for limited, temporary health care benefits through the Interim Federal Health Program• For more information, visit the Province of BC website and BC Refugee Hub's BCSIS Toolkit
Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One-time payment from the Federal government of \$3,000.• Up to \$935 monthly (single adult, for up to 12 months) is provided by the Provincial government for hardship assistance, based on need and eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eligible for federally funded settlement and employment programs/services• Eligible for Provincial Medical Services Plan• For more information, visit AMSSA's Ukrainian Migration Resources webpage

Pathway to Permanent Residency

A Permanent Resident (PR) is someone who has been granted permanent residency status in Canada, but who is not a citizen. Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) and Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs) have PR status upon arrival to Canada. Refugee Claimants / Asylum Seekers can apply for PR status in Canada if a positive decision is received on their refugee claim. Currently, there is not a specific pathway to permanent residency for those who have arrived to Canada under CUAET. Those wishing to immigrate to Canada permanently can apply for permanent residence under a variety of different [immigration programs and streams](#).

For more details: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/new-immigrants/pr-card/understand-pr-status.html>

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Pathways for Resettled Refugees, Refugee Claimants and Displaced Ukrainians

Resettled Refugees

Resettlement Eligibility

Convention refugee abroad:

- Are outside of home country, and
- Cannot return there due to a well-founded fear of persecution

Country of asylum:

- Are outside of home country or country where they normally live, and
- Have been seriously affected by civil war or armed conflict, or
- Have been denied basic human rights on an ongoing basis

Services Available

Government Assisted Refugees:

- 12-month income support (from IRCC)
- Settlement and employment programs/services for Permanent Residents

Privately Sponsored Refugees

- 12-month income support (from sponsorship group)
- One-time payment for start-up costs
- Settlement and employment programs/services for Permanent Residents

Pathway to Permanent Residency

Government Assisted Refugees and Privately Sponsored Refugees have PR status upon arrival to Canada.

Refugee Claimants

Resettlement Eligibility

- Must meet the criteria for a Convention refugee abroad or a person in need of protection

Services Available

- Limited income and disability assistance (with Acknowledgement of Claim letter)
- Limited settlement and employment programs/services (provincially-funded; not eligible for federally funded settlement programs)

Pathway to Permanent Residency

Eligible to submit PR application if their refugee claim is accepted.

Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel

Resettlement Eligibility

- Must be a Ukrainian national or a family member of a Ukrainian national

Services Available

- One-time payment from federal government
- Hardship assistance from provincial government, eligible for up to 12 months
- Settlement and employment programs/services

Pathway to Permanent Residency

No formal pathway: however, PR may be applied for under other immigration programs and streams