

Mennonite Central Committee Ontario

Financial Guidelines

Refugee Newcomers Earning Employment Income

Financial Support Guidelines for Newcomers earning income during Private Sponsorship

The priority for some newcomers in their first year is to learn English, as this is what will help them become self-reliant in the long run. However, a job that still allows for English study to continue can also provide a place for them to practice their English and be a positive way to develop skills that are critical for self-sufficiency.

**BVOR and JAS**: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) requires any income that is earned while receiving monthly income assistance from the government to be reported (months 2-7 for BVORs, months 1-24 for JAS). If income is earned that is 50% or higher then what the government provides, the government assistance will begin to be reduced on a dollar for dollar basis after that 50%. For example, if the monthly government assistance is $100, and the family earns $60, the government will reduce their support by $10 [$60.00 – ($100.00x50%) = $10]. This is explained in the meeting between the family, yourself, and the local Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) official. *Therefore, if someone in the family earns income during the months of government support, you likely do not have to worry about reducing the RRDA financial support, as the government is already doing so.*

**When there is no government support (Named and BVOR after month 7)**: MCC recognizes the rules and guidelines set out by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) (see above), and echoes them in our guidelines for how income affects support from the sponsor group. *When income is earned that is 50% or higher than what the sponsor group is providing, we advise groups to begin scaling back on financial support, on a discretionary basis.* We will not give strict advisement as to the amount that should be scaled back, as this will be decided by the sponsorship group, based on the family in question. If you have any concerns or questions about this, please, contact our Finance Team.