

Application for Transitional Housing for Syrian Refugee Resettlement (THSRR)

Background

Halton Multicultural Council is dedicated to enabling every individual regardless of race or ethnic origin to participate as full and active members of the community. We provide settlement services to newcomers and refugees in Halton including language, employment supports, counselling, community connections and transitional housing.

The Transitional Housing for Syrian Refugee Resettlement (THSRR) program will support refugees resettled in Canada as a result of the current Syrian crisis. Participants will be eligible for a monthly housing subsidy of up to \$800 per month and be required to commit to an intensive settlement plan that will help them integrate quickly into their community.

To qualify, participants in the program must count towards the target of 25,000 that has been established by the Government of Canada in 2015 and have arrived in Canada between November 4, 2015 and February 29, 2016.

Program Objectives

Provide housing subsidy and case management supports for 15 refugee families and assist them to integrate successfully into Halton as independent, productive and engaged citizens of our community.

Eligibility Criteria

- A refugee who arrived in Canada between November 4, 2015 and February 29, 2016 and are part of the federal government's 25,000 target (Syrian or Iraqi);
- Living in the Region of Halton;
- May be under a formal sponsorship agreement to apply but will not be eligible to enter the program until that sponsorship agreement has lapsed;
- May be a family or a single person;
- Not currently able to support themselves in market rent; and

- May be on social assistance or employed earning less than Housing Income Limits (HILs) at the time of start in the program.

Program Requirements

By applying to this program potential participants must agree to the following requirements:

- They have an intent to stay in Halton Region for the length of the program (to March 31, 2018);
- Demonstrated commitment to attaining proficiency in English; and
- Willingness to commit to a settlement work plan and to work with the Transitional Housing Consultant. This will include no less than weekly contact with the Consultant and in home visits every 2 – 3 weeks, required courses in financial literacy, orientation to Ontario, and other settlement related workshops.

All family members over 4 years old must attend the equivalent of full time school, employment or English classes. The family will have to commit to a written settlement work plan of expected progress over the length of their time in the program. Failure to comply may result in discharge from the program.

Subsidy

The first year the rent subsidy will be up to \$800 per month. This amount will be assessed according to the scoring criteria and the current housing situation of the family.

Throughout their time in THSRR, families will be encouraged to become independent. Every 3 months the family will be required to submit full income statements, proof of employment/ school registration, etc.... regardless of income the rent subsidy will be available for the first 12 months if they comply with the requirements of the program.

After the first 6 months in the program each family will be assessed according to their progress and will be assigned to a stream. These two streams will determine their eligibility for subsidy in the second year. The streams are the:

- **Regular Applicant (Stream A)** – applicants who have a relatively good command of English, good employment potential, have established a support network and show signs of living independently within the timeline of the program; and,
- **Harder to House Applicant (Stream B)** – applicants who face more severe impediments to successful tenancies and financial self-sufficiency such as single parent families with multiple children, illiteracy, life skills coaching requirements, complex mental health issues, etc.

Most families will be designated Stream A with Stream B used only for families with exceptional circumstances.

All families will be eligible for subsidy in the second year. Families in Stream A will have the subsidy decreased monthly by \$50 per month starting in the 13th month to March 2018. Families in Stream B who have complied with all of the program requirements but may be experiencing significant issues may qualify for the full calculated subsidy extended until March 2018.

Scoring of Applications

Initial applications for this program will be received between April 1 and April 30, 2016. Applications must be sent to hr@hmconnections.com with the subject line "Housing". Future applications may be accepted depending on volume and program capacity.

Applications will be ranked according to a scoring criteria that assesses level of need and applicants will be chosen on a highest score basis. If there is a tie for the final few subsidies the application date will be used to prioritize the applicants with the earliest applications being considered first.

While an application may be accepted the entry into the program may be delayed if the family is sponsored. The sponsorship agreement must be completed before a family can enter the program.

If a family leaves the program, we will contact the next ranked family and give them the option of participating as long as they meet all of the program criteria.

Appendix A

Housing Income Limits 2016

	Annual household income limit Bachelor unit	Annual household income limit 1-bedroom unit	Annual household income limit 2-bedroom unit	Annual household income limit 3-bedroom unit	Annual household income limit 4-bedroom unit or larger
Regional Municipality of Halton	\$35,500	\$41,000	\$48,000	\$58,000	\$70,000



Application for Transitional Housing Supports

(Send completed form to hr@hmconnections.com with subject line Housing)

Family name (last name) _____

First names of people in the family and relation (mother/father/aunt/child):	Ages
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
<p>Current living situation</p> <p>Address: _____ _____</p> <p>Number of bedrooms _____</p> <p>Monthly rent _____</p> <p>Utilities included? Yes or No</p>	<p>Date of arrival in Canada: _____</p> <p>Country of Origin (citizenship) _____</p> <p>Status (GAR, BVOR, Sponsored) _____</p>
<p>Currently attending English classes:</p> <p>YES _____ Highest English level of adults _____</p> <p>NO _____ (estimate if not sure – i.e. none, very little, working knowledge, fluent)</p>	
<p>Sources of Income (all family income must be included)</p> <p>Employed – estimated annual income _____</p> <p>Receiving federal subsidy? (circle one) YES NO</p>	

The family applying for this grant must agree that they:

- Have an intent to stay in Halton Region for the length of the program (to March 31, 2018);
- Will demonstrate their commitment to attaining proficiency in English; and
- Will commit to a settlement work plan and to work with the Transitional Housing Consultant to achieve the goals. This will include no less than weekly contact with the Consultant and in home visits every 2 – 3 weeks, required courses in financial literacy, orientation to Ontario, and other settlement related workshops.
- All family members over 4 years old must attend the equivalent of full time school, employment or English classes (no less than 24 hours per week and 95% attendance).

Prepared by (Print): _____

Relation to family (i.e. sponsor, settlement worker) _____

The family is fully aware of the requirements of this grant and have agreed to apply under these conditions. This application has been explained in their preferred language. (Circle one) YES NO

CONSENT TO SHARE INFORMATION

I, _____, hereby give my consent to HMC Connections to:
(head/decision maker of family)

- ✓ Collect/obtain information from the following program/agency/organization, and/or
- ✓ Disclose/release information to the following program/agency/organization:

To the **Halton Region Social and Community Services Department**

I understand that this consent remains valid for as long as I am client of HMC Connections, unless I choose to withdraw consent. I also understand that consent does not need to be signed if I do not wish to do so, although I acknowledge that not providing consent may affect the provision of services.

Signature of individual named above

Date