

Refugee Family Support Category (RFSC) Tier Two Sponsor Registration

– November 2017 Opening

Factsheet – English

When is the 2017 opening for tier two registrations?

The opening for tier two sponsor registrations will begin on **Tuesday, 28 November 2017** and end on **Thursday, 30 November 2017**.

How can I register?

You can register your interest to sponsor family under tier two of the RFSC by submitting the Refugee Family Support Category Tier Two Sponsor Registration Form (INZ 1192) between **28 November 2017** and **30 November 2017**, along with:

- › evidence of your immigration status (e.g. a certified copy of your NZ passport, resident visa or permanent resident visa) and
- › a \$90 fee payment (bank cheque/draft or credit card).

Registrations must be sent to:

Immigration New Zealand
PO Box 276118, Manukau City, Auckland, 2241

Download the application form from the INZ website (www.immigration.govt.nz).

Important notes:

- › Any tier two registrations received before 28 November 2017 or after 30 November 2017 will not be accepted and will be returned.
- › Any tier two registrations received on the incorrect form will not be accepted and will be returned.
- › Registration forms must be sent to the correct address (New Zealand Post or CourierPost can deliver).
- › The registration form must be completed in full – the full name and date of birth for all nominees must be provided, even if the date of birth is approximate. Please state if the date of birth is approximate.
- › Sponsors must take care when nominating relatives for consideration under the RFSC as the nominees cannot be changed once the registration has been submitted and accepted.

Who can be a tier two sponsor?

If you are ineligible to be a sponsor under tier one because you have immediate family in New Zealand, you may be eligible under tier two of the RFSC if you:

- › are in New Zealand,
- › are aged 18 years or over,
- › were granted a residence class visa in New Zealand on the basis of their status as a refugee or protected person or through being or accompanying an Afghan interpreter,
- › are a New Zealand citizen or hold a residence class visa, which has been held for at least three years,¹
- › have spent a total of 184 days or more in New Zealand in each of the three years before they send in their registration,
- › have not successfully sponsored any other person for residence under the RFSC or the Refugee Family Quota, and
- › have no other family member(s) eligible for New Zealand residence under any other category.

A sponsor can only have one registration lodged under the RFSC at a time. A sponsor who has a registration currently lodged under tier one may not lodge a registration under tier two. See our website if you are unsure about your eligibility as a tier one sponsor (www.immigration.govt.nz/rfsc).

Who can be sponsored for residence under the RFSC tier two?

Provided the sponsorship requirements are met, any one of the following relatives can be sponsored for residence, along with that person's partner and/or dependent children:

- › A parent
- › An adult sibling
- › An adult child
- › A grandparent (if the grandparent is the sponsor's legal guardian).

Any partner and/or dependent children must be declared in the registration in order to be included in a future residence application.

¹ The residence class visa must not be subject to conditions under section 49(1) of the Immigration Act 2009.

Sponsorship obligations

All sponsors under the RFSC must ensure that adequate accommodation will be available for their relatives on arrival to New Zealand and continue to be available for their first 24 months.

Sponsors with Housing New Zealand tenancies

If you intend to have your relatives stay with you in your Housing New Zealand property, either on a temporary or permanent basis, you need to speak to Housing New Zealand before agreeing to your obligations. If having extra people in your home means that the home will become overcrowded, permission will not be given and you will need to make alternative arrangements. Please contact your tenancy manager to discuss this.

If your relatives cannot be accommodated in your current Housing New Zealand property, there is also no guarantee that your relatives will be eligible for support from Housing New Zealand in a separate property. As such, you will need to look into alternative options for accommodating your relatives outside of Housing New Zealand support. This information will be required by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) to assess your relatives' application for residence.

Failure to meet this sponsorship obligation may result in an application being declined or a sponsored person being deported from New Zealand.

Selection of tier two registrations

Tier two sponsor registrations are managed by a queue system. There is a quota of 300 residence places available under the RFSC every year. These places can be filled with people nominated by both tier one and tier two sponsors. Tier one registrations have priority and are selected to fill places in the quota before tier two registrations. This means the number of registrations that can be selected from the tier two queue will vary each year depending on the number of tier one registrations received.

When there are insufficient tier one registrations to fill the annual RFSC quota, registrations will be drawn from the tier two queue to fill the remaining places. INZ is likely to receive many more tier two registrations than places available. This means tier two registrations may remain in the queue for several years before being selected.

Tier two registrations received by INZ will undergo an initial assessment and, if they appear to meet the requirements, they will be entered into a queue in order of the date received. Once the registration is selected from the queue, it will be assessed in more detail and the sponsored person will either be invited to apply for residence or will have their registration declined.

There is no change to processes for RFSC tier one registrations.

Communication with tier two sponsors

Due to the expected popularity of tier two, it may take up to four weeks for INZ to send the sponsor a letter confirming whether their registration has been entered into the RFSC tier two queue.

Disclaimer

The information in this factsheet is not exhaustive. The immigration instructions used to decide RFSC registrations and applications are set out at S4.10 of Immigration New Zealand's Operational Manual. The Manual can be accessed from our website (www.immigration.govt.nz/opsmanual).