

Alberta Advantage Immigration Program

Rural Renewal Stream Fact Sheet

What is the Alberta Advantage Immigration program?

The Alberta Advantage Immigration Program is an economic immigration program that nominates individuals for permanent residence in Alberta. The Alberta Advantage Immigration Program has different streams for both foreign nationals who are living and working in Alberta as well as entrepreneurs wanting to establish or purchase a business in Alberta. Alberta Advantage Immigration Program nominees must have the skills and abilities to fill labour shortages or contribute to the economy through the ownership and operation of an Alberta business.

Both the Government of Alberta and the federal government administer the program. If an individual is nominated through the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program, they may apply for permanent residence status together with their spouse or common-law partner and dependent children. Program nominees must also meet medical, criminal and security federal checks to be eligible for permanent residency.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) makes the final decisions on all permanent residence applications.

What makes the Rural Renewal Stream unique is that it is “community driven”. To ensure success in your community, economic development groups, employers and community organizations will work together to achieve community designation to meet the labour force and economic needs of the community.

How the Rural Renewal Stream Works

Rural Alberta communities express interest in the Rural Renewal Stream (communities within an economic region can partner to apply).



Communities that meet the mandatory criteria submit their application for community designation.



The community partnership works to attract and recruit foreign nationals.



Employer provides a job offer to the successful foreign national and the community partnership ensures the candidate meets the streams criteria. An endorsement letter is provided to the foreign national.



Endorsed foreign national submits application to the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program.



The Alberta Advantage Immigration Program issues nomination for Permanent Residency



Foreign national applies to Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada for Permanent Residency.



Designated Community supports newcomers to settle permanently and be successful in the community

Mandatory Requirements for Community Designation

- Rural communities with a population less than 100,000.
 - Rural communities in the same economic region may form a partnership to submit an application.
 - Census 2016 figure will be the reference year for the population count.
 - Communities must fall outside of the Calgary and Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area.
- Community has an organization/entity whose primary function is economic development for the community that will serve as the community designation lead and coordinator for the Rural Renewal Stream.
- Community has an Economic Development Plan.
- Community has support letters from town/municipality council(s).
- Community has support letter from a settlement providing organization (does not need to be local) that will be collaborating with the community to identify and plan for settlement needs for successful integration into the community.

Next Steps

For more information on the Rural Renewal Stream and Community Designation, please connect with your regional Workforce Consultant, visit [Opportunity Alberta](#), or email the Rural Renewal Stream mailbox at aaipoffice@gov.ab.ca

If your Community is not quite ready for Community Designation, please connect with your regional Workforce Consultant for information on additional programs and services, [grants to build community capacity for newcomer integration](#), and [Workforce Partnerships](#).