

## How can I apply for housing benefit?

Just like any other kind of state benefit, you have to apply for housing benefit with the relevant local authority. The relevant authority here is the housing benefit office of your municipal, city or district administration. Most housing benefit authorities already offer the application online on their websites.

For households that are already receiving housing benefits, a decision about an increase will be automatically made after the dynamic adjustment and without an application. In these cases, an application is only required again after the current approval period has ended.

## What documents do I need?

In order to apply for housing benefit, you will need the following documents:

- housing benefit application,
- proof of living expenses (e.g. tenancy agreement),
- proof of income (e.g. payslip, pension notice).

Depending on your personal circumstances, further evidence may be required.

## Where and how can I get advisory services?



You can find information about Wohngeld-Plus (Housing benefit plus) on the internet at:  
[bmwsb.bund.de/wohngeld-plus](https://www.bmwsb.bund.de/wohngeld-plus)

and also by telephone at: **030 20179050**

Many local authorities and social welfare organisations can also provide further information on housing benefit and have set up their own advisory services.

# Wohngeld-Plus (Housing benefit plus)

Stress-free living

## Legal disclosure

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Federal Ministry  
for Housing, Urban Development  
and Building

# Housing benefit plus

## What does the term housing benefit mean?

People with lower incomes often spend a large proportion of their income on housing costs.

Housing benefit comes into play as explained below:

**Housing benefit is a state subsidy for the living expenses of rented accommodation or owner-occupied residential property.**

Housing benefit supports low-income households whose income is above the level of basic security. It helps to ensure that families can live in decent and appropriate accommodation.



With the introduction of Wohngeld-Plus (Housing benefit plus) in 2023, the Federal Ministry of Housing, Urban Development and Construction has provided relief for many people on low incomes so that their living expenses do not cause them difficulties. This allows many citizens to live a more stress-free life.



You too can apply for **Wohngeld** (Housing benefit).  
It is your right!

## What has changed as of 1 January 2025?

Housing benefit was indexed on 1 January 2025, i.e. it was updated to reflect the rent and price trends. The increase prescribed by the Housing Benefit Act is important to ensure that the relief provided by the 2023 Wohngeld-Plus (Housing benefit plus) reform is also maintained in future.

The aim of indexation is to provide such relief to working people and pensioners receiving housing benefit that they do not have to apply for a citizen's income or basic income support because of higher rents or rising costs for the owners.

## What are the benefits of the indexation of housing benefit?

- As of 1 January 2025, the housing benefit plus has been adapted to reflect the rent and price trends.
- For households receiving the housing benefit, the housing benefit entitlement increases by around 15 percent on an average.
- The update ensures that the number of recipient households remains steady.

## Am I entitled to housing benefit?

The basic principle is: If you have a low income, you should check whether you are eligible for housing benefit. This applies in particular to:

- pensioners with a low pension,
- families – including single parents and couples – with a low income,
- students, provided that the entire household is not entitled to BAföG (Federal law on individual funding of education),
- nursing home residents.

**Home owners can also receive housing benefit**, because housing benefit is also provided as a **load subsidy** for owner-occupied housing. Both the debt service (interest and repayment) and the operating costs are taken into account.

## Where can I check whether I am eligible for housing benefit?

The BMWSB's (Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building) **housing benefit calculator** provides an initial overview. You can easily check online whether you are eligible.

[bmwsb.bund.de/wohngeldrechner](https://bmwsb.bund.de/wohngeldrechner)



**Important:** Only the housing benefit authority in charge of you can make a binding calculation of your housing benefit claim.

