

Dortmund Housing Benefit Office

Contact Details:

Stadt Dortmund Amt für Wohnen Wohngeldstelle 64/3
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Telephone hotline for general questions about housing benefit and requesting application documents:
Tel.: +49 (0)231 50-1 32 76

Note Regarding Education and Participation Benefits

The education and participation package provides support to low-income families. Benefits can be claimed for school, nursery, cultural activities, sport and leisure. Children from households that receive housing benefit are eligible to apply for these benefits. Contact: Stadt Dortmund, Sozialamt – Bildung und Teilhabe

Examples of Eligibility for Housing Benefit (as of 2023)

In the following, you will find non-binding examples that you can use to check whether you are eligible for housing benefit:

EXAMPLE 1 SINGLE PENSIONER

Pension before tax	per month EUR 1,100.00
(INCLUDING HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE)	
Rent	EUR 500.00
Housing benefit entitlement	per month: EUR 236.00

EXAMPLE 2 SINGLE UNEMPLOYED PERSON

Unemployment benefit	per month EUR 900.00
Rent	EUR 450.00
Housing benefit entitlement	per month: EUR 271.00

EXAMPLE 3 FAMILY OF FOUR, INCLUDING TWO CHILDREN, ONE PERSON IN EMPLOYMENT

Wages before tax	per month EUR 3,000.00
Rent	EUR 800.00
Housing benefit entitlement	per month: EUR 487.00

EXAMPLE 4 SINGLE MOTHER/FATHER WITH TWO CHILDREN UNDER 18 AND VOLUNTARY HEALTH INSURANCE

Maintenance for mother	EUR 900.00
Maintenance for child 1	EUR 400.00
Maintenance for child 2	EUR 300.00
Rent	EUR 700.00
Housing benefit entitlement	per month: EUR 455.00



WHAT IS Housing Benefit?

Legal notice

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Stadt Dortmund
Amt für Wohnen



What is Housing Benefit?

Housing benefit supports low-income households with their housing costs in order to ensure that housing remains affordable.

Who is Eligible for Housing Benefit?

Housing benefit is paid as a rental grant for tenants and residents of homes, or as an encumbrance grant for owners of owner-occupied housing.

Many Dortmund residents are entitled to housing benefit since the housing benefit amendment that came into force on 01/01/2023. In addition to benefit improvements, a permanent component relating to heating costs and the environment has been introduced. Many citizens will benefit from this increase in housing benefit. Maybe you will, too!

How Much is the Housing Benefit?

THE AMOUNT OF HOUSING BENEFIT YOU RECEIVE DEPENDS ON:

- The number of household members taken into account
- The amount of household income deducted
- The amount of rent or encumbrance (with home ownership) eligible for the grant

How is Income Calculated?

Income before tax forms the basis of the calculation. The income to be expected for the next 12 months at the time of your application is taken into account. Exemptions may be deducted from this income (e.g. contributions to health and long-term care insurance or a severe disability diagnosis). Income includes all taxable revenue as well as large areas of tax-exempt revenue.

THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF INCOME ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT:

Income from work

- Salaries, wages, Christmas and holiday bonuses, etc.
- Tax-free supplements for working on Sundays, public holidays or at night
- Wages taxed at a flat rate or exempt from tax

Payments substituting wages

- Arbeitslosengeld [Unemployment benefit] I, pay for reduced working hours, bad weather pay
- Bridging allowance, temporary allowance, sick pay, maternity pay, parental allowance

Other types of revenue

- Statutory pensions, company and workers' pensions, retirement pensions and related benefits
- Maintenance payments
- Income from capital assets (e.g. interest from savings, dividends, etc.)

How High Can My Income Be?

Income before tax forms the principle basis for the calculation of housing benefit. The following income thresholds have been in place since 2023. You will generally be entitled to housing benefit up to this amount:

Single pensioner Pension before tax	EUR 1,590
Single employee Earnings before tax	EUR 2,135
Pensioner household comprising two people Pension before tax	EUR 2,140
Household comprising two people in employment Earnings before tax	EUR 2,844
Single parent household, employed, with one child Earnings before tax	EUR 3,001
Household comprising four people (two people in employment, two children) Earnings before tax	EUR 4,739

The above thresholds are only a reference point. You should apply for housing benefit even if your household income is slightly above this threshold, as it is possible that individual deductions may be recognised (e.g. diagnosis of a severe disability, maintenance payments, increased income-related expenses, etc.).

Am I Entitled to Housing Benefit?

You can calculate your entitlement to housing benefit with no obligation using the North Rhine-Westphalia housing benefit calculator at www.wohngeldrechner.nrw.de. Following the calculation, you can apply directly online.

Who is Entitled to Housing Benefit?

If your income does not meet the requirements, you will not be entitled to housing benefit. People receiving "Bürgergeld" unemployment benefit from the Jobcenter and those receiving basic old-age provision payments under Sozialgesetzbuch [German Social Code] XII are not eligible for housing benefit. Households only containing people entitled to BAföG [education assistance] benefits or vocational training assistance under the Sozialgesetzbuch III are not entitled to apply.

The Application Procedure:

In order to apply for housing benefit, you will have to make a formal application to the housing benefit office. This can be done online or in paper format. Please submit the completed application to the housing benefit office (Wohngeldstelle). Enclose proof of the entire household's income and information about your place of residence with your application so that it can be processed quickly. There are templates that you can use for this purpose.

You can download application forms from the city administration's form section at dortmund.de. Forms can also be requested by phone via the city hotline (Tel.: +49 (0)231 50-1 32 76).

Application forms are on display in the reception areas of public buildings and at the major Dortmund housing companies.

So as not to miss any deadlines, you will still be able to submit your application if you do not have all of the application documentation ready. Any missing documents will be requested in writing at a later date. Please refrain from making enquiries until then.

From What Date is the Housing Benefit Paid Out?

Housing benefit is paid out from the month in which the application is made (e.g. application on 25 March, housing benefit granted from 1 March).

