



Dortmund Hardship Fund 2023

The Dortmund Hardship Fund 2023, funded by the NRW Strengthening Pact “Gemeinsam gegen Armut” (Together against Poverty), serves to alleviate existential hardship situations caused by increased energy prices and general living costs. It offers unbureaucratic help to private households with few internal resources in Dortmund that are insufficiently protected from inflation and its consequences by the social security systems.

What does the fund help with?

Support may be offered specifically for subsequent claims from **annual household energy settlements**. Annual household electricity bills due in 2023 may be considered in applications filed in 2023. Annual bills with claims amounting to less than 50 euros can usually be settled from internal funds and are, therefore, not eligible for consideration. Annual bills for heating costs are considered in the calculation of needs in accordance with the Books II or XII of the Social Code (*Sozialgesetzbuch*); in this case, applicants may turn to the Job Centre or Social Welfare Office. There is no need for the fund to intervene in this case.

A payment from the fund may also be considered if the current crisis situation makes it impossible to raise the funds for replacing **necessary household appliances** (e.g., washing machine, stove). Support for other urgently required purchases or existential emergencies for which no other assistance is available (e.g., for a necessary pair of glasses) can also be granted. The counselling centres will make their decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Who is eligible for support?

One of the following requirements must be met:

- Recipient of benefits in accordance with Books II or XII of the Social Code or under the Asylum Seekers’ Benefits Act (*Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz*), subject to exclusion of recipients of basic benefits in accordance with § 3, for whom household electricity and household equipment needs will be covered in a support payment by the benefit

provider) or of housing benefits, benefits in accordance with the Federal Training Assistance Act (*Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz*), vocational training allowance, child supplement.

Alternatively:

- Household income not exceeding the following thresholds:

One-person household	1,300 euros net per month
Two-person household	2,000 euros net per month
Three-person household	2,600 euros net per month
Four-person household	3,200 euros net per month
For each additional person:	plus 500 euros

The disposable assets per household member must not exceed 1,000 euros.

When and where can an application for support be filed?

Applications for support from the fund can be filed between now and the end of the year with the following social counselling centres:

Counselling centre	Address	Office hours for fund applications
Sozialberatung der Diakonie	Arndtstr. 16 D-44135 Dortmund	By appointment +49 152 34635652 sozialberatung@diakoniedortmund.de
Soziale Fachberatung im Bernhard-März-Haus	Osterlandwehr 12-14 D-44145 Dortmund	Wednesdays, 9-11 am 72601400 bmh@caritas-dortmund.de
Beratungsstelle Arbeit der Arbeiterwohlfahrt	Leopoldstr. 16-20 D-44147 Dortmund	By appointment 812124 beratung-arbeit@awo-dortmund.de
SkF Hörde Allgemeine Sozialberatung	Niederhofener Str. 52 D-44263 Dortmund	By appointment 42579960 anmeldung@skf-hoerde.de

Applications for support can be filed in person – if this is a problem, please schedule an appointment by phone to find an individual solution. Bring an identity document and proof of household income to the appointment. When applying for support for annual household electricity bills, bring along the billing documents of your energy supplier; the approved funds will be transferred to the respective utility company directly.