

Information about social assistance (valid from January 2024)

1. What is social assistance?

People in financial needs can be supported by social assistance.

Social assistance is meant to support people in financial needs.

- Social assistance is meant to support you with your living expenses and housing costs.
- Living expenses include expenses for food, clothing, personal care products and household items.
- Housing costs are made up of rental and operating costs, electricity and heating costs.
- Due to social assistance you as your family can be medical insured.

Under which conditions can social assistance be received?

Social assistance can only be received if the following conditions are fulfilled:

- you do not have enough money to cover your own and your family's living costs.
- your income needs to be less than the amounts listed in point 2.
- your main residence or your center of your life has to be in Styria.
- you have to have a permanent residence permit in Austria.
- you have been staying in Austria for at least the last 5 years (there are exceptions: for example for Austrian citizens or persons entitled to asylum)
- you and your family actively need to look for work.

For further information contact the responsible authority (= District Commission named Bezirkshauptmannschaft/ Magistrat Graz)

To get social assistance, you must first use own income and assets. Income is understood to be all income that you have, for example:

In order to get social assistance, at first you need to use your own income and wealth.

Your **income** includes: work payment, unemployment benefit, unemployment assistance, childcare allowance or pension income.

Your **wealth** includes everything you own. However, certain parts of your wealth are excluded from the process of calculating the individual amount of social assistance:

- A house or a condominium you are living in.
- A car that is required for work or you need for disability reasons.
- Savings up to a maximum of € 6.935,04 per Person.

Your financial situation will be reviewed by the authority (= Bezirkshauptmannschaft/ Magistrat Graz).

Beware:

- In case you are benefitting from social assistance longer than 3 years, the authority can enter in relevant land or property register if owning a house or an apartment.
- In case you are caring for relatives or looking after children under 3 years old without availability of a childcare facility (for example: day nursery or a day-care mother), you do not have to be at the disposal of the Austrian Public Employment Service (AMS).

For further information contact the responsible authority.

2. How much can the social assistance be?

The amount of social assistance will be individually calculated for you (and your family). In 2024 the maximum amounts you can get are:

| | |
|--|------------|
| For single persons and single parents | € 1.155,84 |
| For persons of full legal age who share the same household with other persons of full legal age (for example: spouse, partner) | € 809,09 |

| | |
|---|----------|
| For further adults in the same household | € 520,13 |
| For the 1st to the 3rd child. | € 242,73 |
| From the 4 th child | € 202,27 |
| People with a disability pass additionally get | € 208,05 |
| Single parents with children in the same household additionally get | |
| with 1 child (+ 12 %) | € 138,70 |
| with 2 children (+ 21 %) | € 242,73 |
| with 3 children (+ 27 %) | € 312,08 |
| for every additional child + 3 % | |

The approved amounts of money are divided equally. Social assistance can be received 12 times a year by adults and minors.

3. Where to submit the application?

You can apply for social assistance:

- at your **local authority** (at the municipal office)
- at the **responsible authority** (Bezirkshauptmannschaft/ Magistrat Graz) or
- at the social service center of the bureau of the styrian government (= Sozialservicenter des **Amtes der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung**, Abteilung 11 Soziales, Arbeit und Integration, Burggasse 7-9, 8010 Graz)

4. Who can submit an application?

- If you are older than 18 years the application can be submitted by yourself.
- However, applications can also be submitted by someone else, for example a **legal representative** or a **family member** of the same household.

6. Are there any deadlines?

The application for social assistance can be submitted at any time. If all conditions are met, social assistance can be received from the day of application.

7. What documents do you need for the application?

- Photo ID
- Birth certificate
- Proof of citizenship
- Proof of legal residence (residence permit, permanent residence permit,)
- Marriage certificate / partnership certificate
- Divorce decree / settlement copy / proof of the dissolution of a registered partnership
- Proof of representation
- Proof of income for all family members
- Proof of assets (in case you have any)
- Evidence of claims against third parties
- Proof of being registered for job searching (AMS-notification as unemployed,...)
- Certificate about the inability to work
- Proof of the prevention of use of the workforce
- Proof of other public subsidies (for example: aids, social services, ...)
- Disability pass
- Rental agreement with current rental and operating cost
- Proof of electricity and heating costs
- Extracts from the land register of all properties / real estate
- In case of owning a house or a condominium: proof of operating costs.
- Proof of housing subsidies
- Other housing-related costs (for example: household insurance, ...)

If you are older than 15 years and a person entitled to asylum or a third-country national, if available:

- Signed Integration Agreement
- Completion of a Values and Orientation Course
- Completion of a B1- Integration Examination from the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF)

8. What are the costs for social assistance?

The application is for free.

9. Important Information:

If you are receiving social assistance and something changes concerning:

- your income,
- your wealth,
- your family
- your housing conditions

you must immediately report this to the authority.

You must also immediately report, if you are in hospital longer than 2 weeks or leaving Styria for longer than 2 weeks.

In case you do not report this, you need to repay the social assistance. This shall also apply if you intentionally made wrong declaration or did not mention relevant information.

Even years later the authority can reclaim all benefits that were unduly paid.

In case you come into a fortune (for example: lottery win or inheritance) while receiving social assistance or within 3 years after having received social assistance, you must repay all benefits that were paid.

In case a person that is receiving social assistance dies, the heirs only need to repay the benefits that were paid, if there actually is an inheritance.

In case you regularly receive money from someone, this amount can be deducted from your social assistance payment.

In case you gave away money within the last 5 years, the money can be reclaimed from those having received it. This shall also apply while receiving social assistance.