



Housing Benefit Plus

Less worry with housing costs.

What is housing benefit (Wohngeld)?

The burden of housing costs is high for many households on low incomes. This is where housing benefit can help: housing benefit is a state subsidy towards the housing costs for a rented flat or owner-occupied residential property.

It supports households on low incomes above the basic income support level and serves to provide adequate and family-friendly housing.

What is the Housing Benefit Plus (Wohngeld-Plus) reform?

On 1 January 2023, the Housing Benefit Plus (Wohngeld Plus) reform came into force. The number of households receiving housing benefit will triple. In addition, the amount of housing benefit for the previous recipients will double on average. What is new is that the housing benefit will now also provide relief for heating cost and alleviate the burdens of refurbishment that is necessary for climate protection.

What are the advantages of this reform?

- The average housing benefit will increase by 190 euros to a total of about 370 euros per month for the previous recipients.
- The flat rate for heating cost is introduced, staggered according to the number of persons.
- The climate component will mitigate the housing cost burden in energy-efficient flats

With Housing Benefit Plus (Wohngeld-Plus), the Federal Ministry of Housing, Urban Development and Building (BMWSB) has provided relief for many people on low incomes, so that they do not run into difficulties due to their housing costs. Many citizens can live with less housing worry as a result.

Am I entitled to housing benefit?

As a general rule, anyone on a low income should check their entitlement to housing benefit. This applies in particular to:

- pensioners receiving a low pension
- gainfully employed families – including single parents and couples – on low incomes and workers in the low-wage sector
- students, unless the entire household is entitled to BAföG (student grant), according to the applicable rules, as well as nursing home residents

Anyone who already receives other benefits in which the accommodation costs are taken into account cannot usually receive housing benefit (e.g. benefits pursuant to SGB II or SGB XII, basic benefits according to the Asylum Seekers Act or school pupil BAföG, BAföG or vocational training assistance).

Important: Children in housing benefit households are also entitled to benefits under the education and participation package.

Where can I check whether I am entitled to housing benefit?

You want to check whether you are entitled to housing benefit? The housing benefit calculator on the internet provides a simple first orientation.

www.bmwsb.bund.de/wohngeldrechner

Important: Your housing benefit entitlement may be calculated bindingly only by the relevant housing benefit authority.



You can also apply for **Housing Benefit Plus (Wohngeld-Plus)**. You are entitled!

How to apply for housing benefit?

As with all benefits from the state, an application for housing benefit must be submitted to the relevant local authority. This is the housing benefit authority of your municipal, city or district administration. Many federal states offer the application online on their websites. Search at <https://verwaltung.bund.de/> for “housing benefit” (Wohngeld).

There, you will find an overview as well as the relevant authority in the respective federal state.

Households that already collect housing benefit will receive the increased Housing Benefit Plus automatically without a separate application. In these cases, a renewed application is only required after the end of the current allowance period.

What documents do I need?

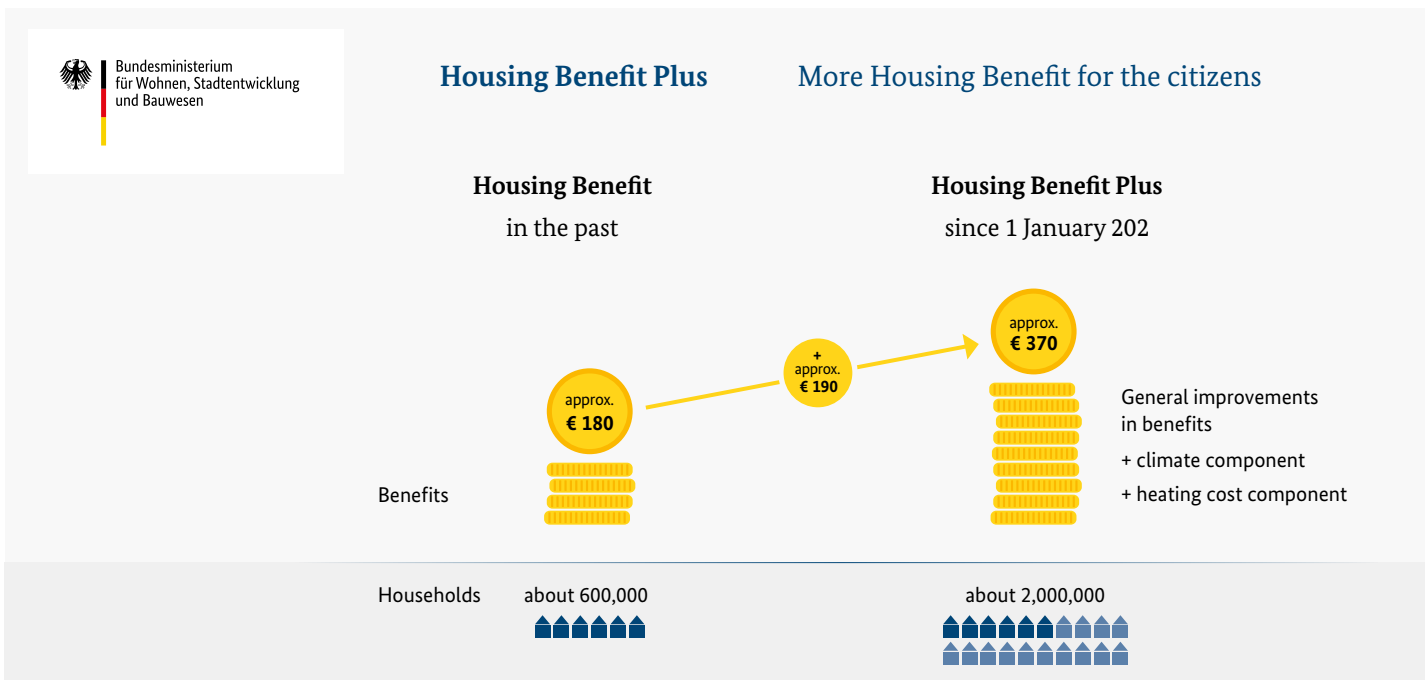
In order to apply for housing benefit you need a:

- housing benefit application
- documentation of your housing costs
- documentation of your income (eg payslip, pension statement)

Depending on the respective circumstances of your life, there might be additional documentation to furnish.

Where and how else can I get advice?

Information on Housing Benefit Plus (Wohngeld-Plus) is available on the Internet at: bmwsb.bund.de/wohngeld-plus. In addition, many social associations and municipalities have set up counselling services and offer information.



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