

Housing Benefit and Housing Entitlement Certificate (WBS)

What is housing benefit?

With housing benefit, the state supports low-income citizens who do not receive social benefits with their housing costs. The housing allowance is a financial subsidy.

People with low incomes can apply for housing benefit. If you receive money from the job centre (Bürgergeld), basic security benefits or asylum seeker benefits and the costs for accommodation are already included, you are usually not entitled to housing benefit.

Entitlement to housing benefit and the amount depends on three factors:

- The number of household members,
- from the amount of the total income,
- the amount of the rent or the monthly charges.

You can use the [online housing benefit calculator](#) to check for yourself whether you are entitled to housing benefit.

How can I apply for housing benefit?

You can obtain the application forms for housing benefit from the [town hall of](#) your municipality of residence.

You can also obtain further information and online applications [here](#)

What is a Wohnberechtigungs-Schein (WBS)?

People with low incomes can obtain a housing entitlement certificate (Wohnberechtigungs-Schein, WBS for short). This allows you to rent a social housing flat. Rents are lower in social housing. The Wohnberechtigungs-Schein is valid for one year and must be renewed thereafter.

Attention: As a rule, people who have a permit or toleration cannot obtain a housing entitlement certificate.

Where can I submit an application?

The application can be made at the [town hall](#) in the town or municipality where you live or want to live in the future.

Here you can find more information about the housing entitlement certificate [.](#)