

Apply for basic income support in old age and in the event of a permanent reduction in earning capacity

You may be entitled to basic benefits in old age and in the event of reduced earning capacity if one of the following conditions is met:

- You have reached retirement age (retirement age between 65 and 67, depending on your year of birth), or
- if there is an unlimited full reduction in earning capacity, which has been determined by the pension provider, and you are of age (18 years old) and your income and assets are not sufficient to secure your livelihood.

Competent Department

- [Amt für Soziale Dienste Sozialzentrum 1 - Nord - Bereich Soziales](#)
- [Amt für Soziale Dienste Sozialzentrum 2 - Gröpelingen / Walle - Bereich Soziales](#)
- [Amt für Soziale Dienste Sozialzentrum 4 - Süd - Bereich Soziales](#)
- [Amt für Soziale Dienste Sozialzentrum 5 - Vahr/ Schwachhausen/ Horn-Lehe - Bereich Soziales](#)

Basic information

Basic income support in old age and in the event of permanent reduction in earning capacity is granted to ensure the necessary subsistence if the person's own income and assets or those of the spouse or partner are insufficient. Since January 1, 2005, basic benefits have been a type of social assistance (assistance for subsistence).

In contrast to other social assistance benefits, no maintenance is required from dependent children or parents if the annual income per dependent person is less than 100,000 euros. The benefits are essentially the same as subsistence assistance.

The basic income support comprises

- The applicable standard rate of social assistance
- The appropriate actual costs for housing and heating
- If necessary, additional requirements, for example, for:
 1. severe disability with feature G and aG in the severely disabled person's identity card
 2. costly nutrition
 3. expectant mothers after the 12th week of pregnancy
 4. single parenthood

- 5. a decentralized hot water supply
- 6. contributions for health and nursing care insurance and for preventive care
- One-time requirements for:
 - 1. initial equipment for the apartment including household appliances
 - 2. initial equipment for clothing
 - 3. Initial equipment for pregnancy and birth
 - 4. Purchase and repairs of orthopedic shoes
 - 5. Repairs of therapeutic devices and equipment, as well as the rent of therapeutic devices

Basic benefits are also granted in the case of inpatient accommodation, for example in a care facility.

Requirements

- when you reach retirement age (retirement age between 65 and 67 years, depending on the year of birth), or
- if there is an unlimited full reduction in earning capacity, which has been determined by the pension provider, and you are of age (18 years of age) and your income and assets are not sufficient to secure your livelihood.

What documents do I need?

- Proof of permanent incapacity to work

e.g. determination of the pension insurance institution, employment in a workshop for disabled people

- Identity card
- proof of income and assets of the applicant

All proof of income and assets, e.g. pension statements, alimony, other social benefits, savings books, life insurance, car

- proof of income and assets of the spouse or partner

These are e.g. employment income, unemployment benefit, other social benefits, savings books, life insurance, car

- Supporting titles

If available: Maintenance certificate, court order - judgment or proof of service of the maintenance claim.

- Divorce decree or judgment

If you are divorced.

- Rental agreement and service charge statements

Rental agreement or existing rental agreement changes, current service charge statements such as house costs

Procedure

The application can be made in writing, by telephone or in person without observing any form. The required application documents must then be submitted in full and in a timely manner.

The social centers of the Office of Social Services provide an application form for applying for benefits under Social Code XII. It is available at the social centers and is usually filled out by the case worker together with the applicant.

Legal bases

- [§§ 41 bis 46 Sozialgesetzbuch Zwölftes Buch \(SGB XII\)](#)

What deadlines must be paid attention to?

Benefits are granted from the 1st of the month in which the application is submitted.

How long does it take to process

The processing time depends on the completeness of the application documents

What are the costs?

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