What is Wohngeld (housing allowance) and how/where can I apply?

Wohngeld (housing allowance) is a government benefit for people/families on low incomes. It is available both to rental tenants and people living in their own property to help them cover their housing costs. You can find more information online at www.hamburg.de/wohngeld

What will change in January 2023 when the Wohngeld-Plus-Gesetz (Housing Benefit Plus Act) comes into force?

In January 2023
- The amount of the Wohngeld allowance is being substantially increased
- The income eligibility caps are being raised, which means many more households will be entitled to Wohngeld for the first time
- A new lump sum to help with heating costs is being introduced

Who is eligible for Wohngeld?

To be eligible for Wohngeld, you must be covering the rest of your living costs and part of your rent/mortgage from your own income. If you are in receipt of other benefits that already cover your housing costs (e.g. SGB II or basic income/Grundsicherung benefits), you cannot normally claim Wohngeld.

How high is the Wohngeld allowance?

The exact amount varies from case to case, depending on the following factors:
- Number of people in the household
- Total monthly household income
- How high your rent is

How can I find out if I am likely to be eligible?

Before applying, you can use our non-binding Wohngeld calculator (go to www.hamburg.de/wohngeld or scan the QR code) to find out if you are likely to be eligible.

Where can I find the application form? What else do I need?

If you go to www.hamburg.de/wohngeld or scan the QR code, you will find the application form and a checklist of documents you will need to provide to verify your details. You can also collect an application form from your local housing benefit office (Wohngeldstelle) or Hamburg’s central housing benefit office.

Please note: Wohngeld can only be paid from the month you make the application, not for periods prior to that point in time. However, if it takes longer for your application to be processed, you will still receive payments retrospectively for the period you applied for.

Where should I send my application?

From January 2023, please send new applications for Wohngeld to Zentrale Wohngeldstelle Hamburg. The address will be published in December. If you are already receiving Wohngeld, please apply for renewals via your local housing benefit office as usual.

How can I get help if I have any questions?

Please call our Wohngeld hotline: 040 42828 6000

I’m already receiving Wohngeld. What will change for me in January 2023?

You don’t need to do anything. In particular, you don’t need to make a fresh application for the new heating cost payment or for the revised Wohngeld amount being introduced in January 2023. Your entitlement will be automatically reviewed and if applicable the amount you receive will be recalculated. If that happens, you’ll automatically be sent an updated notice (Wohngeldbescheid). Exception: if the period you’ve already been approved for ends in December 2022, you will still need to apply as usual for an extension (Weiterbewilligungsantrag).

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