

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

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

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. Bürgergeld, Grundsicherung, Hilfe zum Lebensunterhalt), you cannot normally claim Wohngeld.

What changed when the Wohngeld-Plus-Gesetz (Housing Benefit Plus Act) came into force in January 2023?

- The amount of the Wohngeld allowance has substantially increased.
- The income eligibility caps have been raised, which means many more households are entitled to Wohngeld for the first time.
- A new lump sum to help with heating costs has also been introduced.

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/mortgage is

How can I find out if I am 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.



Can I apply for Wohngeld online?

Yes! Use our online form: You can apply for Wohngeld quickly and easily on the Hamburg Service site. Just use the link at www.hamburg.de/wohngeld or scan the QR code:

Applying online allows staff at the housing benefit office to process your application more quickly, as your data will be directly uploaded to their system.



Alternatively, at www.hamburg.de/wohngeld you will find the application form in PDF format and a checklist of documents you will need to provide to verify your details. Paper forms can be collected from your local housing benefit office (Wohngeldstelle) or Hamburg's central housing benefit office (Zentrale Wohngeldstelle Hamburg).

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?

Online applications are automatically sent to the relevant office. Completed **PDF applications** for Wohngeld should be sent to the **Zentrale Wohngeldstelle Hamburg**, either by email: wohngeld@soziales.hamburg.de or by post: Zentrale Wohngeldstelle Hamburg, Billstraße 80, 20539 Hamburg. If you started claiming Wohngeld in 2022 (or earlier), please continue to apply for renewals via your local housing benefit office.

How can I get help if I have any questions?

Please call our Wohngeld hotline: **040 42828 6000**