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Allowance for hospitality services

Allowance for providing private accommodation

Private hosts are entitled to a tax-free allowance for hospitality services (German: Gastfreundschaftspauschale) if they take in refugees registered in Dresden as guests and have fulfilled certain legal requirements. The allowance for hospitality services can be granted for the period beginning on February 24, 2022, at the earliest. There is a form on accommodation expenses that contains all relevant information so that these costs can be recognized as a social benefit.

Who is entitled to the allowance for hospitality services? How much is it?

Refugees (guests) can claim the hospitality allowance as accommodation and heating requirement if they receive social benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act (AsylbLG), Book Two of the German Social Code (SGB II), or Book Twelve of the German Social Code (SGB XII). The City of Dresden has determined a flat-rate allowance of EUR 5.00 per day and person (maximum EUR 150.00 per month and person) based on relevant guidelines for appropriate housing. The flat rate covers all housing costs, including running costs.

Who receives the allowance for hospitality services and how is it paid?

Refugees that are registered in Dresden and need accommodation are eligible for the allowance. However, the allowance for hospitality services will be transferred directly to the host's bank account. Permission for direct payment will be granted via the form on accommodation expenses provided by the City of Dresden. The allowance will not be transferred without the prior permission of the guest. It cannot be paid in cash.

Who is not entitled to the allowance for hospitality services?

If the guests are not or no longer in need of help, i.e. they are not entitled to social benefits according to AsylbLG, SGB II, or SGB XII, they are not entitled to a hospitality allowance.

Commercial landlords are not eligible either, because they provide accommodation for profit. They can, however, sign a lease agreement with the guests they have taken in. The Jobcenter or the Social Welfare Office will then determine whether rent and heating costs can be covered. Provided that the costs of renting and heating are reasonable within the meaning of AsylbLG, SGB II, or SGB XII, they will be covered.

Private hosts who are also in need of help and are applying for or already receive benefits under AsylbLG, SGB II, or SGB XII, are not eligible for the hospitality allowance either. It is recommended that hosts in need of help enter into a (sub)lease agreement with their guests. Thus, the Jobcenter or the Social Welfare Office can take over the actual costs of renting and heating—as is the case with commercial landlords—, provided that they are reasonable. Please visit www.dresden.de/unterkunft-heizung for more information on rent ceilings.

Form on accommodation expenses: where do I find it and who needs to complete it?

The form can be downloaded on www.dresden.de/gastfreundschaftspauschale. It is available in printed form at the Jobcenter and the Social Welfare Office.

The form must be filled out and signed both by the guest and their host because the data of both parties are required. The

form must be filled out completely and truthfully. Particular attention should be paid to the correct indication of when exactly the guests have moved in and out. Incorrect or missing information will lead to unnecessary queries and delays.

Which authority do I send the completed form to?

The form must be submitted to the authority providing basic security benefits to the guest(s). The contact details are indicated on the guest's social benefit notice. If the guest(s) receive "Hartz IV" (unemployment benefits II), the competent authority is the Dresden Jobcenter. If the guest(s) receive asylum seeker benefits, subsistence benefits, or basic subsistence income for the elderly or persons with reduced earning capacity, the Social Welfare Office is the competent authority.

Dresden Jobcenter

Postal address: Budapester Straße 30, 01069 Dresden

Email: Jobcenter-Dresden@jobcenter-ge.de

Dresden Social Welfare Office (Sozialamt)

Postal address: PO Box 12 00 20, 01001 Dresden

Email: sozialleistungen-asyl@dresden.de (for guests receiving benefits according to AsylbLG)

Email: sozialleistungen@dresden.de (for guests receiving benefits according to SGB XII)

How often do I need to submit the form to the competent authority and when will I receive the allowance?

The form must be submitted once to the competent authority (Social Welfare Office or Jobcenter). The authority recognizes the guest's need for help if they meet the requirements and will transfer the money to the host's bank account every month. The form must be submitted again if any changes may affect the guest's entitlement to the allowance. This applies in particular to the departure of a guest or several guests, as well as to the admission of more guests.

Who needs to inform the competent authority of the refugees' departures?

The duty to notify the authorities primarily applies to the guests that qualify for benefits. Since the hospitality allowance is transferred to the private host's bank account, they are also obliged to inform the competent authorities. Generally, all changes that may have an impact on whether the allowance is paid or not must be communicated; this applies in particular to the guests' departure. The name of the person moving out as well as the date of moving out must be accurately indicated and confirmed on the form.

Do I have to pay back excess amounts received after the departure of a guest?

Yes. The period for which the allowance for hospitality services is granted depends on the move-in and move-out day of the guest. If a guest moves out before the last day of the month and the allowance has already been paid for a full month, the Jobcenter or the Social Welfare Office will reclaim the excess amounts received from the host.

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Division for Labor, Social, Health, and Housing Affairs
Phone +49 3 51 4 88 28 01
Email geschaeftsbereich-soziales@dresden.de

PO Box 12 00 20
01001 Dresden
www.dresden.de
facebook.com/stadt.dresden

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