

**DEPARTEMENT
GESUNDHEIT UND SOZIALES**
Kantonaler Sozialdienst

13 September 2021

INFORMATION LEAFLET

Application for back payment of social welfare benefits at asylum shelters

Background

Until 30 September 2020, recognised and provisionally admitted refugees as well as holders of a permit B (hardship case) living at cantonal asylum shelters were paid social welfare benefits according to the asylum benefit rates. However, refugees with B and F permits and holders of a permit B (hardship case) are entitled to social welfare benefits according to the SKOS (Swiss Conference of Welfare Organisations) guidelines, i.e. the regular social benefit rates. The Department of Health and Social Affairs of the Canton of Aargau has therefore decided to change this practice.

Since 1 October 2020, refugees with B and F permits as well as holders of a permit B (hardship case) who still live in asylum shelters have been paid social benefits according to the SKOS guidelines. These social welfare contributions are higher than the asylum benefit rates. All persons concerned may submit an application for a back payment of social welfare benefits for the period 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2020 to the Cantonal Social Service. Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The Cantonal Social Service decides whether the applicant's request for a retroactive payment of social welfare benefits is justified.

This leaflet contains important information for refugees (with permits B and F) as well as holders of a permit B (hardship case) who wish to apply for a back payment.

Important information

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| How can I submit an application? | Complete the form " <i>Gesuch um Nachzahlung von Sozialhilfe in Asylunterkünften</i> ". If you stayed at an asylum shelter between the dates of 1 October 2015 and 30 September 2020 and received support from the Cantonal Social Service, please send your completed form to the Cantonal Social Service (contact details are specified in the form). If you stayed at an asylum shelter run by the municipality, submit your application to the municipality. |
| Who can submit an application? | You can submit an application if you meet all three of the following conditions at the same time : <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. You are a recognised refugee (permit B) or a provisionally admitted refugee (permit F) or hold a permit B (hardship case).2. You stayed at an asylum shelter between 1 October 2015 and 30 September 2020.3. You received your asylum decision or your permit B (hardship case) during this period. |

| | |
|--|--|
| How much money will I receive? | This will be calculated on a case-by-case basis. The back payment amounts to the difference between the regular social welfare benefits and the asylum benefits. If you have any outstanding bills payable to the Social Services (for instance rent or health insurance premiums), such outstanding amounts may be offset against the back payment. |
| Is my family entitled to a back payment? | You may submit an application together with your spouse or registered partner on behalf yourselves and your minor children if you were already staying at the asylum shelter as a family. The application must be signed by both partners. Adolescents who are now of age must submit their own application. This also applies if they were still minors during their stay at the asylum shelter. |
| Until which date can I submit my application? Which conditions apply? | The limitation period is 5 years and all claims expire on 1 October 2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you submit your application before 31 March 2022 (date of application): All days spent in asylum shelters between 1 October 2015 and 30 September 2020 are taken into account. • If you submit your application after 31 March 2022 (date of application): Only days spent in asylum shelters dating back less than 5 years from the date of this application will be taken into account. |
| Will I have to pay the money back? | That depends on your financial situation. In principle, the back payment is part of your social welfare benefits and is therefore repayable. |
| Do I have to report how much money I get? | Yes, if you still receive social welfare benefits, you must notify the social service at your municipality. |
| Will the back payment increase my social welfare debt? | Any back payment of social welfare benefits will increase your social welfare debt. |
| Contact details Where can I ask for further information? | If you have any questions regarding this information leaflet or the application, please contact: Kontaktstelle Asyl- und Flüchtlingswesen Rohrerstrasse 7 5000 Aarau Tel.: 062 835 20 20 fluechtlingswesen@ag.ch |