

Social assistance and family benefits

I Rules on social assistance and family benefits for foreigners.

Foreigners entitled to **social assistance benefits** are those who have their place of residence and reside in the territory of the Republic of Poland on the basis of a permit for:

- permanent residence,
- residence of a long-term EU resident
- temporary residence granted in connection with reuniting families with foreigners having refugee status or subsidiary protection

and on the basis of the refugee status or subsidiary protection obtained in Poland.

Subsidiary protection is a form of residence permit granted to foreigners who have not been granted refugee status and, in the case of return to their country, would be exposed to a serious threat to life or health resulting from widespread use of violence against civilians in a situation of an internal or international armed conflict. Subsidiary protection is granted by the Head of the Office for Foreigners in Warsaw.

Foreigners are entitled to family benefits. These benefits are guaranteed by the Polish State.

The following types of family benefits are offered:

- periodic benefits, permanent benefits,
- family allowance,
- supplements to family allowance,
- care benefits,
- one-time allowance for the birth of a child,
- parental benefit.

For more information, visit

<https://poradnikpracownika.pl/-swiadczenia-rodzinne-przysluguja-cudzoziemcom>.

The right to family benefits is regulated by European Union regulations and domestic acts in Poland, which are the provisions of the Coordination of Social Security Systems. The Coordination of Social Security Systems protects people working abroad from losing social security protection (Ministry of Family and Social Policy www.gov.pl).

The right to family benefits is granted to foreigners who reside on the territory of Poland on the basis of a permit for:

- permanent stay,
 - residence of a long-term EU resident
 - temporary residence for the purposes of highly qualified employment
 - a residence permit for a long-term EU resident granted by another EU Member State
- or
- have the refugee status or subsidiary protection, if they reside with their family members on the territory of Poland,
 - have a residence card with the comment "access to the labour market", excluding third-country nationals who have been granted a permit to work in the territory of a Member State for a period

not exceeding 6 months, third-country nationals admitted for the purpose of study or seasonal work, and third-country nationals who have the right to work on the basis of a visa.

II Rules for the granting of cash social assistance benefits including for foreigners.

Minimum income criterion

The right to cash benefits from social assistance is granted to:

- a person running a household alone, whose income does not exceed the amount of PLN 776 net (as of 1 January 2022)
- a person in a family whose income per person does not exceed PLN 660 net (as of 1 January 2022)
- a family whose income does not exceed the sum of the income criterion amounts per person in the family.

Types and amounts of cash social assistance benefits (source: www.gov.pl)

A permanent benefit, is granted to:

- a person of full age who is a single farmer, incapable of working due to age or totally incapable of working, if his/her income is lower than the income criterion of a single farmer,
- an adult remaining in a family, incapable of working due to age or totally incapable of working, if their income, as well as the income per person in the family, is lower than the income criterion per person in the family.

The amount of the permanent benefit depends on the individual decision of the social worker. It is assumed that the amount of the benefit to be realised in 2022 may not be lower than PLN 30 and not **higher than PLN 719** - in the amount corresponding to the difference between the income criterion and the person's income.

A periodic benefit is granted in particular due to a long-term illness, disability, unemployment, possibility to maintain or acquire entitlements to benefits from other social security systems:

- a person running a household alone, whose income is lower than the income criterion for a person running a household alone,
- a family whose income is lower than the family income criterion.

The amount of periodic benefit may not be lower than 50% of the difference between:

- **income criterion for a person running a household alone and the income of such a person;**
- **income criterion for a family and the income of such family.**

The amount of periodic benefit may not be lower than PLN 20 per month.

Purpose-specific allowance, is granted to meet indispensable needs, to cover the cost of purchasing food, medicines, treatment, heating, clothing, necessary household items, minor repairs and renovations in the flat and funeral costs.

Aid for self-sufficiency and continuation of education, intended for maintenance and covering expenses related to living, for food, clothing, footwear, personal hygiene items, housing fees and learning the Polish language for foreigners who obtained in Poland the refugee status, subsidiary protection or a temporary residence permit granted in connection with reunification with a refugee family (applies to persons who submitted an application to a starost via the District Family Assistance Centre within 60 days from the date of obtaining in Poland a refugee status, subsidiary protection or a temporary residence permit granted in connection with reunification with a refugee family).

The remuneration is paid to the guardian for the care granted by the court.

Family benefits - Criteria for granting them

Family allowance and supplements. Family allowance is intended to partially cover the child's living expenses.

The amount of family allowance is per month (www.gov.pl):

- **PLN 95** per child up to the age of 5,
- **PLN 124** per child over 5 until the age of 18,
- **PLN 135** per child over 18 to 24 years of age.

The income criterion is **PLN 674** or **PLN 764** - if a child has a disability certificate or a moderate or severe disability certificate.

An application for family benefits may be filed at a social assistance centre with jurisdiction over the place of residence or through the Polish Post Office, on-line via the Emp@tia Information and Service Portal website <https://empatia.mpips.gov.pl/> or through the e-Puap Electronic Platform of Public Administration Services.

One-off payment for the birth of a child, so called Becikowe - **PLN 1,000** per child, Becikowe is granted if a woman remained under medical care not later than from the 10th week of pregnancy until delivery. The benefit may be paid to the child's mother or father or to the child's legal guardian or actual guardian, if the family income per person exceeds the amount of PLN 1,922 net.

Attendance allowance - nursing allowance - amounts to **PLN 215.84** per month (for a disabled child of a person over 16 with a significant degree of disability, a person with a moderate degree of disability over 16, if the disability arose at the age of 21; a person who is over 75). **Nursing allowance** is granted - due to resignation from employment or other gainful employment in order to take care of a person with a certificate of significant disability or a certificate of disability including indications; the need for permanent or long-term care or assistance of another person in connection with significantly limited possibility of independent existence and the need for permanent co-participation of the child's guardian in the child's everyday life in the process of treatment, rehabilitation and education, amounts from 01.01.2022. - **PLN 2119** per month,

Special care allowance - is entitled to PLN 620 per month,

Parental benefit - amounts to PLN 1,000 per month and does not depend on income criterion. It is directed to persons employed on a contract of mandate or contract for specific work if they take direct care of the child. These persons are not entitled to receive maternity allowance,

Rodzina 500 plus - aid for parents and guardians of children up to the **age of 18** for each child regardless of income in the amount of **PLN 500** per month. Applications for the 500+ upbringing declaration can only be submitted electronically, via the PUE ZUS platform, the Emp@tia portal (empatia.mpips.gov.pl) and electronic banking in one's bank. Payment of the granted benefit is made only in a non-cash form, to the bank account indicated in the application,

"Good Start" benefit 300+ - is granted once a year for children up to the age of 20 starting the school year. Disabled children studying at school will receive it until they are 24 years old. To receive support, you must apply in the same way as for the 500+ benefit. The Good Start benefit is not dependent on income,

Subsidy for a stay in a crèche - parents are entitled to a subsidy for a child attending a crèche, a children's club or under the care of a day carer and not using the family care capital (RKO). The amount of the subsidy may be up to **PLN 400** per month per child, but no more than the amount of the fee paid by the parent for the child's stay in the institution. The subsidy can be used for:

- the first or only child in the family, regardless of age, only if the child attends a crèche, a children's club or uses the care of a day-care provider.
- any child before the month of their 12th birthday and after the month of their 35th birthday, provided the child attends an institution for care.

Applications for the subsidy are submitted only electronically, via the PUE ZUS platform, the Emp@tia portal (emptatia.mpips.gov.pl/) or electronic banking at your bank.

Family Caring Capital (RKO) - is available for the second and subsequent child in a family from 12 to 35 months of age of the child. The total amount of Family Caring Capital is **£12,000 per child**. Irrespective of income, it is paid in the amount of **PLN 1,000 for 12 months or PLN 500 for 24 months**. Applications for the subsidy can only be submitted electronically, via the PUE ZUS platform, the Emp@tia portal and electronic banking at your bank.

Due to the ongoing armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine, Ukrainian citizens have the possibility to benefit from financial, social assistance and family benefits on the basis of the **Special Law of 12 March 2022 on assistance to Ukrainian citizens**.

Ukrainian citizens are also entitled to financial assistance in the form of:

- a one-time cash benefit in the amount of PLN 300 per person, which can be used to cover necessary and current expenses for food, clothing, footwear, personal hygiene products and housing fees. An application for the aforementioned benefit should be

submitted in writing to the municipal social assistance centre located in the place of residence of the Ukrainian citizen,

- access to free psychological assistance,
- obtain food aid through the Food Aid Operational Programme 2014-2020.