

Applying for Social and Family Benefits in Bulgaria



If you have refugee or humanitarian status or temporary protection in Bulgaria, you are entitled to apply for social and family benefits. These are provided by the state when you are unable, for reasons beyond your control, to meet your basic living needs.

1. CHECK IF YOU MEET THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS



There are different types of benefits you can apply for in Bulgaria: benefits for people with low income, for heating, for families with children, for mothers and pregnant women, for people with disabilities and others. In order to be approved, you must meet certain requirements according to the assistance for which you are applying: maximum income/assets, age, medical condition, whether you are working or not, whether you have a family and children, whether they go to school, etc. You can read the requirements via the **"Assistance"** menu on the Social Assistance Agency website (www.asp.government.bg).

2. RESEARCH IN ADVANCE WHAT DOCUMENTS YOU NEED



The different types of benefits require different types of documents. Those can be: documents proving income/assets, medical documents, certificate from school/kindergarten, etc. Obtain these documents **before you apply**.

3. FILE THE APPLICATION AND THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS



All applications for social and family benefits and the necessary documents are lodged at the Social Assistance Directorate (SAD) according to your **current address**. Bring with you your Bulgarian identity documents or temporary protection card.

4. VERIFICATION OF THE SUBMITTED APPLICATION BY SAD



After applying, SAD will verify if you are eligible for benefits. The **verification** may include: a home visit to the home address you have provided, documentation review, collection of information, etc.

5. DECISION



You should receive **the decision in writing with the reasoning provided** within one month after submission, stating whether you are approved or refused benefits.

IF YOU ARE APPROVED



Depending on the benefits for which you applied, those may be given to you either as money or as goods (in-kind). You may receive the financial assistance:

- at a **"Bulgarian Post" branch** depending on the address you provided
- via **bank transfer** to your Bulgarian personal bank account

IF YOU ARE NOT APPROVED



You have the right to appeal the refusal **within 14 days**. As soon as possible, seek the help of a lawyer to prepare the appeal and pursue the case. You can also do this via the **Request assistance** form of the Foundation for Access to Rights - FAR (www.refugeelight.bg/bg/request-assistance). Seek legal assistance also when the staff at the counter refuse to accept your application.

LEARN MORE ABOUT:

ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



FAMILY ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN



SOCIAL ASSISTANCE



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



Фондация за гостъп до права
Foundation for Access to Rights



www.refugeelight.bg