

Information about financial assistance

**ÖSTRA
GOINGE**



What is financial assistance?

Financial assistance is a form of temporary assistance. Our municipality's Financial Assistance Unit (Sw. *enhet för ekonomiskt bistånd*), is able to provide financial assistance and guidance until you can support yourself.

Persons who live in our municipality on a more than temporary basis and are unable to support themselves in some other manner are entitled to receive financial assistance from the municipality, provided that these persons contribute to their support to the best of their ability. As a rule, no financial assistance is paid to students or to business owners. Financial assistance is subject to a means test. All other sources of support must be used before a person will be entitled to financial assistance.

Requirements for those applying for financial assistance:

- Submit those documents that are requested.
- Apply for other possible sources of income and remuneration.
- Comply with up-to-date planning formulated with a view to helping you become self-supporting.

Up-to-date planning

- Work out a plan with the Employment Service (Sw. *Arbetsförmedlingen*) and apply for work.
- Work out a plan with the healthcare system, and obtain a medical report that will serve as a basis for sick-listing.
- Treatment and individual efforts should go through the municipality.

Remember that if you have children above the age of one year, you must arrange childcare in order to have an up-to-date plan.

How do you apply for financial assistance?

The Financial Assistance Unit is open on monday-thursday from 8:00 to 16:30 and friday 8:00-15:00.

You can **contact the Financial Assistance Unit** by telephone at 044-775 60 00. During your call, you'll be given some brief information, as well as answers to any question you have about financial assistance. The caseworker will ask you some questions about your employment situation and finances, and that of your family, as well as the reason why you are applying for financial assistance. An initial determination regarding your right to financial assistance can be made during this telephone call.

Information regarding financial assistance, an application form and a checklist, as well as an appointment slip for you to visit us, will be sent to your home. It is important that you submit all the documentation that is requested in the application, at the time you come here for your appointment.

Once you have submitted all the documents, an **investigation** regarding your right to financial assistance will be commenced. When the investigation has been completed, a **decision** will be sent to you by mail.

How financial assistance is calculated

Financial assistance = national norms + approved expenditures – your income.

- The National Norms (see the website of the National Board of Health and Welfare) include expenditures for food, clothing and shoes, recreational activities, hygiene and joint household expenses. (consumable products, telephone and newspaper).
- Approved expenditures: Necessary expenditures, such as rent, electricity, home insurance, medicine and healthcare. Not all of these expenditures will be approved and some, such as housing costs for young people below the age of 25 years, may also require a lengthy investigation.
- Personal income and/or assets, such as wages, child allowance benefit, housing subsidy and deposits to an account. If you own a house, car or securities, for example, you are required to first sell these assets in order to support yourself.

NATIONAL NORMS FOR 2024 per month

Personal expenses

	Below 1 year old	1-2 Years old	3 years old	4-6 years old	7-10 years old	11-14 years old	15-18 years old	19-20 years old	Living alone	Cohabiting
Food – all meals	1575	1735	1740	1970	2180	2575	2905	2935	2580	4360
Clothing and shoes	310	420	450	480	550	620	730	730	550	1100
Recreation and play	40	130	160	250	700	720	770	780	410	810
Hygiene	640	580	195	165	175	240	300	300	260	580
Children's and adolescent's insurance	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75		
Total	2640	2940	2620	2940	3680	4230	4780	4820	3800	6850

Joint expenses

	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person	6 person	7 person
Consumables, newspaper, telephone, television	1230	1360	1720	1950	2240	2540	27300

In order to calculate the joint cost for households consisting of more than seven persons, we add SEK 190 for each additional member of the household.

Budgeting and Debt Counselling

If you are having financial problems our Budgeting and Debt Counselling Service can offer you financial advice, free of charge. Our budget and debt counsellors are subject to a duty of confidentiality, and no records are kept.

Our counsellors can help you with the following:

- Reviewing your individual financial situation.
- Preparing a budget for your household.
- Providing advice about your debts.
- Prioritizing your expenditures.
- Evaluating your ability to pay.
- Preparing and assisting you in completing an application for debt clearance (debt reorganization).

You are welcome to call them and schedule a time for your appointment. They can also provide some counselling on the phone. Budget and Debt Counselling in Hässleholm 0451-26 87 14 or 0451-26 88 84.

If you need financial assistance for more than one month, you can obtain the required forms at Customer Service (*kundtjänst*) in the municipal offices or on the website of the Östra Göinge Municipality.

When you apply for financial assistance, your caseworker will request that you return for a follow-up appointment.

Helpful information

If you want to appeal a decision, write to the Municipal Executive Board. Your letter must identify the decision you wish to appeal and indicate the date of the decision. Also explain how you would like to change the decision.

The Municipal Executive Board must receive your appeal within three weeks from the date on which you received the decision.

The Municipal Executive Board will then forward your appeal to the Administrative Court for adjudication, unless the Municipal Executive Board decides to change the decision in the manner you have requested.

Even if your application is denied, you may apply again for the following month.

The municipality may demand that you repay financial assistance in certain cases. This can happen, for example, when another government agency retroactively pays compensation, which affects your entitlement to financial assistance, or when assistance has improperly been paid due to incorrect information furnished by you.

You are required to certify in your application that the information you furnish is correct. Always inform your caseworker if you are unsure as to how to fill out the application, or if your situation has changed since you submitted the application. If you submit false or incomplete information, you may be liable to return the money, or can even be indicted for fraud.

Everyone who works at the Financial Assistance Unit is subject to a **duty of confidentiality** and may not reveal anything about you without your consent.

The laws that govern municipal matters relating to financial assistance include the Social Services Act, the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act, and the Administrative Procedure Act.

You may obtain additional information about financial assistance on the website of the National Board of Health and Welfare, the Östra Göinge municipal website, or by contacting your caseworker.

You can contact your casework by telephone or e-mail.

Space for your own notes

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How does the municipality process your personal data

The Financial Assistance Unit processes your personal data in order to conduct its operations, which provide you with support and assistance. We process your information and protect your personal integrity as provided in the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For additional information, follow the link below:

<https://www.ostragoinge.se/behandling-av-personuppgifter/>

If you have additional questions, feel free to call our municipal customer service unit.

044-775 60 00.

 Municipality of Östra Göinge

www.ostragoinge.se | 044-775 60 00