

### **Housing Benefit Reform 2023**

The housing benefit reform will come into force at the 1st of January 2023. Owing to this reform the number of people entitled to housing benefit will increase considerably. You can estimate how much housing benefit you will receive by filling out a housing benefit calculator ([www.wohngeldrechner.nrw.de](http://www.wohngeldrechner.nrw.de)), then you can submit your application. Unfortunately housing benefit recipients will have to wait for their claims to be processed due to an expected rush of applications, because local authorities will have to manage this large number with the existing staff. Citizens will not lose their claim, because housing benefit is calculated retrospectively from receipt of the application.

### **Second Heating Cost Subsidy**

Housing benefit recipients get a further heating allowance in response to rapidly rising energy prices.

The requirement for heating cost subsidy recipients is that they received housing benefit for at least one month between September and December 2022. The heating cost subsidy is graded according to the size of the household:

- for one person 415 euros
- for two people 540 euros
- for each additional person 100 euros.

In North Rhine Westphalia the lump sum is expected to be paid out at the end of January. All those entitled will receive the heating cost subsidy automatically, **so a separate application will not be necessary.**