

## I receive housing benefits and my utility and heating bill has increased. What can I do?

Additional utility costs are not taken into account in the housing benefit, as one-off accommodation costs are not included in the Housing Allowance Act (Wohngeldgesetz). For the payment of additional utility costs, an application can be made under SGB II (Jobcenter) or SGBXII (Social Welfare Office) for the payment of one-off charges. The payment of these **one-off charges** does **not** mean suspension of the housing benefit payments.

The increased cost of heating and energy is taken into account in the regular housing benefit payment via a flat-rate heating allowance when calculating the amount of the housing benefit. The flat rate is based on the size of the household.

## What can I do about rising electricity prices and the resulting additional charges?

The cost of electricity is included in the standard benefit and must be paid by the recipient of social benefits. Employed persons must cover the electricity payments with their income. In the event of outstanding payments, instalment payments can be agreed upon with the electricity provider.

If this is not possible, all citizens can apply for a loan for energy debts with the Social Welfare Office (social housing assistance department, section housing emergency assistance). The loan is interest-free and can be repaid in instalments.

## Where can I get advice about energy costs / energy price increases?

### Energy advice

Verbraucherzentrale Sachsen e.V.  
Katharinenstraße 17  
04109 Leipzig

### Energy-saving check

Caritasverband Leipzig e. V.  
Beratungszentrum  
Ruth-Pfau-Straße 2  
04107 Leipzig

### More information is available from the Leipzig Job Centre

[Utility costs - Leipzig Job Centre \(jobcenter-leipzig.de\)](https://jobcenter-leipzig.de)

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**Stadt Leipzig**  
Referat für Migration und Integration

## Rising energy costs Support and social assistance



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Department for Migration and Integration  
(Referat für Migration und Integration)

## I have received a large bill as a (one-time) additional payment for my utility and heating costs. What can I do?

You can present your utility bill to your social benefits agency (Job Centre or Social Welfare Office) and apply for the bill to be covered in accordance with SGB II or SGB XII.

Persons fit for employment:

### Leipzig Job Centre

Email:  
[Jobcenter-leipzig@jobcenter-ge.de](mailto:Jobcenter-leipzig@jobcenter-ge.de)

Website:  
[www.jobcenter-leipzig.de](http://www.jobcenter-leipzig.de)

Old-age pensioners and persons with a permanent disability:

### Social Welfare Office

Email:  
[WiSo@leipzig.de](mailto:WiSo@leipzig.de)

Website:  
[www.leipzig.de/sozialamt](http://www.leipzig.de/sozialamt)

## How do I apply to have future higher charges covered?

You can apply for benefits to cover the new advance utility payments at the Job Centre (people fit for work) or at the Social Welfare Office (old-age pensioners and people with a permanent disability). A letter from the landlord showing higher advance utility payments in the future must be enclosed as proof.

## Am I entitled to have increased utility and heating costs covered if I am:

- a salaried employee or self-employed-  
an old age pensioner

- a recipient of ALG I (unemployment benefit) or sickness benefit

- a pupil receiving a BAföG grant, trainee, or student

## and do not receive any social benefits?

You might be.

To be entitled to this, your needs must have increased in the month in which the utility bill is due.

An application for cost coverage must be submitted to the relevant social benefits agency..

Self-employed persons and those fit for work, recipients of ALG I (unemployment benefit) and sickness benefit, students receiving the BaföG grant, trainees, students living in their parents' home, and special hardship cases

Old-age pensioners and persons with a permanent disability

### Leipzig Job Centre

Email:  
[Jobcenter-leipzig@jobcenter-ge.de](mailto:Jobcenter-leipzig@jobcenter-ge.de)  
Website:  
[www.jobcenter-leipzig.de](http://www.jobcenter-leipzig.de)

### Social Welfare Office

Email:  
[WiSo@leipzig.de](mailto:WiSo@leipzig.de)  
Website:  
[www.leipzig.de/sozialamt](http://www.leipzig.de/sozialamt)

## How much time do I have to apply for payment of outstanding utility and heating cost debt?

The application must be submitted no later than in the month in which the utility and heating cost payments are due.

For the year 2023, the following exemption applies for cost coverage by the Job Centre:

If an application for subsistence benefits is made for a single month in which expenses for heating resulting from annual bills for heating costs or from the reasonable stockpiling of heating materials are due, this application, if submitted by the end of the third month after the due month, has retroactive effect to the first day of the due month.

## What do I have to submit and prove?

All income and assets must be verified. You can find more details here:  
[Social assistance from the city of Leipzig during the energy crisis - city of Leipzig](#)