

Handout for initial orientation

Financial support



The state capital Magdeburg supports refugees with residence permit or deportation ban with financial aid to support their livelihood. Depending on the official status the range of support can vary and has to be applied for at different institutions.

Refugees without residence permit or persons with temporary suspension of deportations status can receive support from the city's department for social security and housing. Based on the asylum seekers' benefits act ('Asylbewerberleistungsgesetzes') support for means of subsistence and medical treatment is provided. Accommodation is provided either in a flat rented by the city's administration or in an accommodation shared with other asylum seekers depending on the status of the person.

Refugees with residence permit receive support by the Jobcenter. There the application for welfare benefits ('Arbeitslosengeld 2'/'Hartz 4') can be filed. However the first application for Arbeitslosengeld 2 has to be done in the city's department for social security and housing ('Sozial- und Wohnungsamt') in the migration division ('Abteilung Zuwanderung'). Appointments can be booked online. Currently the benefit for single persons and single parents is 409 Euro. Additionally benefits are given for each child, according to their age. The Jobcenter will also cover the costs for a flat with appropriate size and rent.

There is no claim for Arbeitslosengeld 2 for citizens of the European Union who come to Germany. Only after five years of residence an application for welfare benefits is possible. If an EU citizen loses their job for which they came to Germany welfare benefits can be given under certain circumstances. EU citizen who have worked in Germany for at least one year and have paid into unemployment insurance have a claim to unemployment benefits ('Arbeitslosengeld 1') which is administrated by the employment agency ('Agentur für Arbeit').

For EU citizens moving to Germany without employment position only emergency benefits for four weeks can be provided. Additionally a loan for a return trip to their country of origin can be granted.

Department of Social Affairs Magdeburg (Sozialamt Magdeburg) | Immigration Division (Abteilung Zuwanderung) | Georg-Kaiser-Straße 3 | 39116 Magdeburg | opening hours: Monday 9am-12pm, Tuesday 9am-12pm and 2-5.30pm, closed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-12pm

Jobcenter Magdeburg | Otto-von-Guericke -Straße 12 | 39104 Magdeburg | opening hours: Monday and Tuesday 8am-3.30pm, closed on Wednesday, Thursday 8am-5.30pm, Friday 8am-1pm

Employment Agency (Agentur für Arbeit) | Hohepfortestraße 37 | 39104 Magdeburg | opening hours: Monday 8am-1pm, Tuesday 8am-4pm, Wednesday 8am-1pm, Thursday 8am-6pm, Friday 8am-1pm

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