



**One-off energy  
assistance payment  
for households in  
the Drechtsteden  
region**

**How it  
works.**



**Sociale Dienst  
Drechtsteden**

**Working together  
to promote  
independence.**

From 19 April 2022, the inhabitants of the Drechtsteden region can apply for a one-off energy assistance payment. You can apply for this up to and including **31 October 2022**.

## **For whom?**

The one-off energy assistance payment is paid to inhabitants of the Drechtsteden region, whose income is less than 130% of the legal minimum subsistence level (Wettelijk sociaal minimum, WSM).

## **Automatic payment**

Some inhabitants of the Drechtsteden region automatically receive/have automatically received this one-off energy assistance payment (official benefit). These inhabitants have received/receive general assistance or income support relating to this in the period from 1 July 2021 until 1 April 2022. See the frequently asked questions for more information. Did you receive this benefit? In that case you cannot apply for the one-off energy assistance payment.

## **Problems with automatic payment to inhabitants who are exempt from paying municipal taxes.**

We indicated in previous communications which inhabitants in the Drechtsteden region will automatically receive this energy assistance payment. Due to circumstances we have not (yet) been able to pay the energy assistance payment to inhabitants who are exempt from paying municipal taxes.

1. **Exemption from municipal taxes.** Unfortunately, we realised that automatic payment cannot be made to this group. Were you exempt from municipal taxes in 2022 but has the one-off energy assistance payment not been paid into your account yet? Please submit a digital application in that case.

## **Submitting your application**

To receive the one-off energy assistance payment, you can fill out and send a digital application form on our website. You can find this form with the other digital forms. You can also submit a paper application. Contact the Sociale Dienst Drechtsteden, your municipality, or the district team near you. Please note. Inhabitants of the Drechtsteden region who are entitled to the automatic payment (official benefit) cannot submit an application. Does this apply to you? You will be notified of this when you fill out your application and you will be unable to fill out the form in that case.

## **Questions and answers**

Do you have questions about the one-off energy assistance payment? You can find a list of frequently asked questions and answers elsewhere in this brochure. Is your question not listed? Contact our customer service at 078 - 770 89 10 or send an e-mail to: [energietoeslag@drechtsteden.nl](mailto:energietoeslag@drechtsteden.nl).

## **1. What is the energy allowance/energy assistance payment?**

Energy prices are rising. The Dutch government has therefore set aside money to cushion the impact of energy prices. On top of this, households with an income that is equal to or just below the legal minimum subsistence level will receive a one-off energy allowance in 2022. This is designed to help them pay their energy bills. This is a one-off energy assistance payment. Sociale Dienst Drechtsteden is responsible for this scheme in the Drechtsteden region (Alblasserdam, Dordrecht, Hardinxveld-Giessendam, Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, Papendrecht, Sliedrecht and Zwijndrecht).

## **2. Who will be paid this one-off energy assistance payment?**

The one-off energy assistance payment is paid to inhabitants of the Drechtsteden region whose income is less than 130% of the legal minimum subsistence level (Wettelijk sociaal minimum, WSM). The energy assistance payment is not paid to businesses.

## **3. How much is the energy assistance payment?**

The energy assistance payment is determined based on your income. For an income up to 120% of the legal minimum subsistence level, the energy assistance payment is €800. For an income in the range of 120% to 130% of the legal minimum subsistence level, the energy assistance payment is €600. Do you want to know what the legal minimum subsistence level is? Check the last page of this brochure for more information. A higher legal minimum subsistence level applies to inhabitants who have reached retirement age.

## **4. When can I submit an application?**

You can submit an application for the one-off energy assistance payment from **Tuesday 19 April 2022**. People who have automatically received the one-off energy assistance payment do not have to submit an application.

## **5. Which supporting documents must I add to my application?**

If you do not receive welfare benefit, you must provide (copies of) the following:

1. Copy of the ID of the applicant and partner, if applicable.
2. Copy of your bank card (to verify your bank account number).
3. Specification of your most recent income (pay slip or other) of the applicant and partner, if applicable.

## **6. Will the one-off energy assistance payment be paid automatically?**

A large number of inhabitants of the Drechtsteden region have automatically received this one-off energy assistance payment (official benefit). This group does not need to submit an application for this. This will be paid in April 2022.

## **7. What does 'official' benefit mean?**

An official benefit is an automatic payment. A large number of inhabitants of the Drechtsteden region have automatically received this one-off energy assistance payment.

## **Overview automatic payment (official benefit)**

Inhabitants who have received the one-off energy assistance payment are people\* who:

- have received IOAW or IOAZ benefit since 1 July 2021 and before 1 April 2022.
- have received special assistance since 1 July 2021 and before 1 April 2022.
- have received a personal minimum budget (PMB) since 1 July 2021 and before 1 April 2022.

In April, the one-off energy assistance payment will also be automatically paid to inhabitants of the Drechtsteden region who have received/will receive assistance to the self-employed (Bbz uitkering) or an AIO supplement on top of their basic state pension.

\*In previous communications, we also indicated that inhabitants of the Drechtsteden region who were exempt from municipal taxes in 2022 would automatically receive this one-off energy assistance payment. Unfortunately this is impossible. We ask these inhabitants to submit an application themselves.

## **8. I am entitled to welfare benefit from 5 April 2022. Do I automatically receive the one-off energy assistance payment (official benefit)?**

No. The reference date for the automatic (official) payment of the one-off energy assistance payment is 1 April 2022. If you are entitled to welfare benefit after this date, we ask you to submit a digital/paper application.

## **9. Is there a limit to the number of people who can apply?**

No, there is no limit.

## **10. Is this a gift?**

Yes, it is a gift.

## **11. Do you take into account home equity (meaning assets) for the payment of this one-off energy assistance payment?**

No, we do not take assets into account. There is no means test.

## **12. I receive AOW (basic state pension). Will I receive the one-off energy assistance payment?**

Yes. If your income is lower than 130% of the legal minimum subsistence level, you receive the one-off energy assistance payment. If you receive an AIO supplement on 1 April 2022 along with your basic state pension (AOW), you will automatically receive the one-off energy assistance payment. You do not need to submit an application. Check the information under point '7. What does 'official' benefit mean?

## **13. I am on welfare and receive a gift to pay for my high energy bills. Will my welfare payments be reduced as a result?**

In principle, donations and allowances, to cover your general living expenses, are deducted

from your welfare benefit. In view of the recent exceptional increases in energy prices and the problems that this may cause for some households, Sociale Dienst Drechtsteden can decide to make an exception when you receive a gift to cover your high energy bills. If you receive a donation from a person, you must notify Sociale Dienst Drechtsteden of this. Sociale Dienst Drechtsteden will then assess your situation and assess whether the donation is exempt. Donations from official charities are always fully exempt. You do not need to notify Sociale Dienst Drechtsteden if you receive such a donation.

**Contact Sociale Dienst Drechtsteden in case of doubt.**

#### **14. Is alimony/child maintenance considered income when applying for the one-off energy assistance payment?**

Yes, alimony/child maintenance is considered income. The following are considered income:

- Income from or relating to labour (wages, benefits).
- AOW (basic state pension).
- Pension built up through the employer and benefits from an annuity product. The applicant may deduct € 21.50 (for singles) or €43 (for households) per month in 2022.
- Income from a personal budget insofar as this is used to compare the care provided by the applicant himself.
- Income from (sub)letting or landlordship.
- Alimony and/or child maintenance.
- Periodic donations, unless exempt.
- Income from capital, such as interest or dividend.
- Benefit for surviving relatives under the General Surviving Relatives Act (Anw).
- Tide-over allowance under the General Pensions Act for political office holders (Appa).

#### **15. I am a zzp'er/self-employed. Will I receive the one-off energy assistance payment?**

Yes. You may apply for the one-off energy assistance payment if your income is lower than 130% of the legal minimum subsistence level. If you receive benefit under the Bbz 2004 on 1 April 2022, you will automatically receive the one-off energy assistance payment. Check the information under point '7'. What does 'official' benefit mean?

#### **16. I struggle to pay my bills because of the rising energy prices. What else can I do?**

Check [www.socialedienstrechtsteden.nl/energiekosten](http://www.socialedienstrechtsteden.nl/energiekosten) and/or contact Sociale Dienst Drechtsteden.

#### **17. How does applying for the energy assistance payment work in combination with a means test, annual figures and the like?**

1. For self-employed entrepreneurs who receive a living allowance under the Bbz 2004, the

definitive (annual) income can only be determined after the financial year has ended. It is therefore only possible to determine whether the entrepreneur has an income below the income limit that is applied for the energy assistance payment after the end of the year.

2. Entrepreneurs who receive a living allowance under the Bbz 2004 can receive the energy assistance payment as an official benefit. Social services assesses after the end of the financial year whether they were actually entitled to receive it.

### **18. Energy-saving tips from the Regional Energy Desk**

The website of the Regional Energy Desk lists several general energy-saving tips. You can also find an e-book with 50 energy-saving tips on this website. A separate webpage has been set up for inhabitants of the Drechtsteden region who live in rented housing with information about energy-efficient rentals.

### **19. Paying back your one-time energy assistance payment?**

Do you want to pay back the amount that you have received, for whatever reason? You can. Use the account number of the social service from which the amount was paid to you. State your customer number with your repayment. You can also state your name and date of birth if you do not have your customer number.

### **20. Some households will receive the one-off energy assistance payment two or three times. Isn't this unfair? How come?**

The energy assistance payment has been designated as categorical assistance by the legislator. This means that anyone below the income limit will be paid this energy assistance payment and that no individual assessment is made about whether costs are incurred and/or whether these are necessary. In fact: the recipient does not need to actually incur the costs for this energy assistance payment. A categorical scheme was the only way in which municipalities could financially compensate a very large group of residents for soaring energy prices in a short period of time. The legislator's choice for a categorical scheme therefore means that some residents with a low income, whose energy costs have not increased, receive this energy assistance payment nonetheless.

The local governments of the Drechtsteden region have made specific choices in terms of income limits and the amounts to be paid. The decision has also been made to exclude a number of groups of inhabitants from the energy assistance payment, because they don't have energy bills to pay, such as people in detention or in an institution, the homeless and young people who fall under the maintenance obligation of their parents. Inhabitants to whom the cost-sharing standard applies are not excluded from the energy assistance payment, because many of them have very high energy bills that they cannot afford. This means that in some cases several energy assistance payments will be paid to one and the same household, if several cost sharers who receive benefits live at the same address. An individual assessment of each address to check who pays (high) energy bills or who does not is not possible under this scheme.

## When is my income less than 120% of the legal minimum subsistence level?



<b>Civil status</b>	<b>maximum monthly income, including holiday allowance</b>
• You are single, between the age of 21 and retirement age	€ 1,310.05
• You are a single parent, between the age of 21 and retirement age	€ 1,310.05
• You are married or cohabiting, between the age of 21 and retirement age	€ 1,871.50
• You are single and retired	€ 1,455.67
• You are married or cohabiting and retired	€ 1,971.05

## When is my income lower than 130% of the legal minimum subsistence level?



<b>Civil status</b>	<b>maximum monthly income, including holiday allowance</b>
• You are single, between the age of 21 and retirement age	€ 1,419.22
• You are a single parent, between the age of 21 and retirement age	€ 1,419.22
• You are married or cohabiting, between the age of 21 and retirement age	€ 2,027.45
• You are single and retired	€ 1,576.98
• You are married or cohabiting and retired	€ 2,135.30

**Sociale Dienst Drechtsteden**

Spuiboulevard 298  
3311 GR Dordrecht

Postbus 619  
3300 AP Dordrecht

078 770 8910  
[www.socialedienstdrechtsteden.nl](http://www.socialedienstdrechtsteden.nl)



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