

Do you receive benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (AsylbLG)?

Then you can apply for extra money for certain costs.

Why?

The money you receive each month is very tight. For some costs it includes nothing at all, or only very little. On 15 April 2026 the Federal Constitutional Court decided: the authority can pay such costs in addition. The rule for this is in Section 6 (1) sentence 1 AsylbLG.

You can apply for the following:

- **Obtaining a passport:** all costs directly connected with obtaining the passport.
- **Passport photos:** if you need photos for the social welfare office or the immigration office.
- **Interpreting:** for example at the doctor's or at your lawyer's, if there is no free language mediation.
- **Travel costs:** to the doctor, an authority, a counselling centre or a lawyer, if your money is not enough for tickets.
- **Mobile phone and internet:** contract, repair or a new phone, if your costs are higher than the amount included in the standard rate.
- **Sport, camping, recreation, musical instruments:** purchase or rental, if there is nothing free of charge.

How to do it:

1. Submit the application in writing or by e-mail.
2. Write what you need the money for and how much it costs. Attach evidence (for example a cost estimate, a price quote, an invoice).
3. Make sure you have proof that you submitted the application.
4. If the office refuses: you can file an objection (Widerspruch) within one month. Do not wait – get help.

There are ready-made model applications.

There are model applications for all the points above:

<https://ra-gerloff.de/newsletter/newsletter-4-2026/>

You only have to fill in your own details. An application gives you the chance that the costs will be covered – there is of course no guarantee. Get help if there are problems.

Do you need help?

Contact your nearest counselling centre.