

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Material Reception Conditions

Material Reception Conditions shall be granted by the Social Welfare Services on the basis of the Refugee Laws, as amended and/or replaced.

Material Reception Conditions shall include:

- 1) A financial allowance for basic needs (food, clothing and footwear).
- 2) A financial allowance for electricity, water and minor personal expenses. The financial allowance amount for minor personal expenses shall be determined according to the applicant's place of residence.
- 3) A rent allowance payable to the landlord.
- 4) Advance payment of rent

The amount of the Material Reception Conditions is determined based on a Council of Ministers decision relating to the coverage of the Material Reception Conditions of Applicants for International Protection. The amounts are determined based on the number of family members; they are the maximum amounts granted and under no circumstances can they be exceeded.

Number of family members	Food, clothing and footwear	Electricity, water and minor expenses when a rental contract is presented	Electricity, water and minor expenses when a rental contract IS NOT presented
1	€186	€75	€28
2	€279	€100	€37
3	€372	€140	€52
4	€465	€170	€63
5 and over	€558	€200	€74

Number of family members	Rent allowance				
	Nicosia	Limassol	Famagusta	Larnaca	Paphos
1	€100	€100	€100	€100	€100
2	€200	€218	€146	€174	€146
3 to 4	€290	€317	€211	€252	€211
5 and over	€364	€397	€265	€315	€265

2. Beneficiaries of Material Reception Conditions

Beneficiaries are **applicants for International Protection, for whom the coverage of the Material Reception Conditions cannot be met at the Reception and/or Accommodation Centres**, they reside in areas controlled by

the Republic of Cyprus and both the applicants and their family members meet the following requirements:

- No member of the applicant's family must work;
- In the event that the applicant or any family member is employed, the family may continue to receive the allowance provided that the monthly income is less than the total allowance amount that the family is entitled to based on the above tables.
- By decree of the Minister for Labour and Social Insurance dated 04/10/2021, the right of access to the labour market is granted to Applicants for International Protection **one (1) month** after the submission of the application for international protection. When the applicant is granted the right to work, **they must:**
 - (a) register as unemployed in the Public Employment Service Registry;
 - (b) accept work in specifically defined areas, based on the Decree of the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance;
 - (c) participate in vocational training and/or training courses, if invited to do so, and learn Greek;
 - (d) accept personalised approach services by specialised employment consultants of the Public Employment Service;
 - (e) accept meetings and visits to their house for an on-the-spot data evaluation by competent social service officials relating to the planning of actions for their professional, guidance counselling, and psychosocial support and their social rehabilitation.

An applicant for international protection who is disabled or incapable of work or is over 63 years of age is not required to register with the Public Employment Service.

3. Family members

Family member means any of the following members of the applicant's family unit located in the areas controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus in relation to the application.

For the purposes of examining an application for Material Reception Conditions, the status of applicant for international protection shall also be held by the applicant's family members residing with them, irrespective of whether they are included in the applicant's application for international protection or have submitted an application for international protection on their own:

- a) the applicant's spouse or partner, with whom the applicant lives and shares a dwelling for residential purposes;

b) the minor and unmarried children of either the applicant or the applicant and his spouse, or the partner referred to in paragraph (a).

I. An unmarried child who is still at school.

II. An unmarried child who has reached the age of 18 and is seeking employment, even if they have applied for international protection.

III. An unmarried child between 18 and 23 years of age, if they receive regular education.

4. Material Reception Conditions are granted according to the following conditions:

1. Applications from the parties concerned shall be submitted to the FIRST RECEPTION CENTRE, POURNARA and to the regional welfare offices (responsible for the affairs of international protection applicants) using the special application form of the Social Welfare Services, which must be duly completed and signed by the applicant and accompanied by all the necessary information and certificates, which the director considers necessary for the examination of the application.
2. If applications are not duly completed with the personal details of the applicant and their family members or the documents certifying the identity of the applicant and their family are not attached, they shall not be accepted.
3. Applications without a residential address or with a residential address of offices of Non-Governmental Organisations, or a residential address in an establishment which has been declared unfit, on the basis of a decree or official written notification by a competent authority, shall not be accepted.
4. Applications from applicants residing in Reception and Accommodation Centres for International Protection Applicants shall not be accepted.
5. Applications from applicants for whom the “Limnes” accommodation centre was designated as a place of residence shall not be accepted.
6. Material Reception Conditions are granted by the Director of the Social Welfare Services (including their authorised representative).
7. The financial allowance for the coverage of basic needs (food, clothing and footwear) and the financial allowance for the coverage of electricity, water and minor personal expenses is provided by cheque and/or transfer to the international protection applicants’ bank accounts.
8. The amount of the financial allowance for the coverage of minor personal expenses varies according to the applicant’s place of residence.

9. The financial allowance for the coverage of the rent allowance and rent advance payment is provided by cheque and/or remittance to the landlord's bank account.
10. The rent payment shall enter into effect from the signing of the lease agreement, which will fall on or after the application approval date. Any other claims and requirements by the landlord (e.g. coverage of water and electricity bills, common-use charges, any damage incurred by the tenants) concern the tenant of the premises and not the Social Welfare Services.
11. The rent amounts indicated in the above table, depending on the family composition, are the maximum amounts granted. Where a lower amount is agreed, this lower amount will be paid to the landlord.
12. In the event of cohabitation, the total rent amount to be paid to the landlord shall not exceed the rent allowance corresponding to the number of persons living together according to the above table.
13. If applicants (adults) reside in the same dwelling, the total rent amount paid to the landlord shall not exceed the rent allowance corresponding to the number of persons living together according to the above table. Under no circumstances may the total rent allowance exceed the rent of the dwelling. In particular, a maximum of two adults will be accommodated in a 1-bedroom dwelling, four adults at most in a 2-bedroom dwelling and six adults at most in a 3-bedroom dwelling.
14. The Social Welfare Services reserve the right to request additional certificates or other information and to obtain information and data from other services/departments in relation to the applicants/assisted persons and their dependants, which relate to the application.
15. In the event that the applicant and/or another family member claims that they are unable to work due to health problems, the Special Assessment Committee may be appointed by the competent authority to assess the ability to work.
16. The Director of Social Welfare Services (including their authorised representative) carries out checks and visits at the place of residence of the applicant/assisted person whenever this is deemed appropriate to confirm the content of the application and the right to continued assistance.
17. Any person receiving Material Reception Conditions is obligated to immediately inform the Social Welfare Services of any change that may affect the payment, continuation, reduction or termination of the allowance.
18. Any beneficiary who makes a false statement or representation or conceals any material information aimed at receiving or continuing to

receive Material Reception Conditions is obligated to refund the amount they received from the Social Welfare Services and may be prosecuted.

19. The allowance that will be granted to beneficiaries will apply from the application submission date, provided that the provisions of the legislation are met.

5. Termination of Material Reception Conditions

A person ceases to be a Material Reception Conditions allowance beneficiary if they do not meet the following conditions:

- When the Asylum Service grants the international protection beneficiary status (political refugee status and complementary protection status).
- When the applicant status ceases to exist. In particular, the applicant status applies up to the date on which the decision by the head of the Asylum Service becomes enforceable and **is communicated to the applicant** and the deadline for lodging an appeal against the decision taken by the head of the Asylum Service has lapsed. The applicant status shall continue to apply when submitting an appeal to the Administrative Court of International Protection against the decision taken by the head of the Asylum Service and until the issuance of the final decision of the Administrative Court. For a negative decision under the normal procedure and granting of complementary protection status, **an appeal must be submitted within 30 days**. For a negative decision under the fast-track procedure, manifestly unfounded applications, withdrawals and other categories that are listed in Article 12A of the Law, **an appeal must be submitted within 15 days**.
- When leaving the areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus for any period.
- When placed in detention. Provided that where the detained person is a family member, the provision of the family's Material Reception Conditions will continue without taking into account the proportion of the detained person.
- When they refuse a visit by the director of Social Welfare Services (including an authorised representative) to their residence or refuse to provide information on any matter that will affect any decision taken during their assessment or reassessment for coverage of the Material Reception Conditions.
- When they conceal financial resources and have therefore unduly benefited from Material Reception Conditions.
- When on two occasions they refuse an offer of employment in permitted sectors and periods for reasons which are not considered objectively acceptable/justified. If they or another family member who is able to work refuses, they will be removed from the Public Employment Service registry and will therefore lose any allowance they are entitled to by virtue of that status.
- The right to submit a new application, after the applicant is considered to be voluntarily unemployed, shall be granted after 4 months.

- When the applicant is employed, in the case of a family, the labour income should be less than the total amount of the allowance which the family is entitled to, based on the specified amounts of the Material Reception Conditions. If not, the Material Reception Conditions shall be terminated.

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