

For circumstances of need, people are secured by three systems, i.e. by social insurance, state social support and social assistance. Through the state social support the state contributes mainly to families with dependent children who are faced with a recognized social situation that the family is unable to cope with via its own efforts and means. The system applies the solidarity principle between high-income families and low-income families, as well as between childless families and those with children.

The system of the state social support was established in 1995 and is regulated by Act No 117/1995 Coll. on State Social Support, as amended. The state social support is a noncontributory system financed from the state budget. The system is applied in cases, where family's own financial means are deemed insufficient to maintain a basic standard of living. State social support benefits are currently the main form of financial support for families with children in various difficult social situations. The system is based on income testing, there is no means test.

A person is entitled to receive benefits if he or she and other people living in a common household have permanent residency in the Czech Republic.

Applications for the state social support, which must be filled out forms prescribed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, are processed by labour offices. The basis of the calculation of benefit amount and for the determination of income limits for persons and their families is the category of the minimum subsistence level. The minimum subsistence level is defined by Act No 110/2006 Coll. on the Minimum Subsistence Level and Living Wage.

The present system of the state social support consists of the following benefits: child allowance, social allowance, housing allowance, parental allowance, foster care allowances and grants, birth grant and funeral grant. Child allowance, social allowance and housing allowance are income tested.

The child allowance is a basic long-term recurrent benefit awarded to families with children. It is an income-tested benefit, income from the period of the previous calendar year is taken into account. The child allowance constitutes the entitlement of a child. The benefit is paid at three rates depending on child's age.

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The social allowance is a recurrent, income – tested benefit. The objective of the allowance is to assist families with low incomes to cover the costs of their children's needs.

The housing allowance is a recurrent, income-tested benefit designed to assist low-income families and individuals to cover expenditure connected with housing. The allowance does not cover the whole housing costs, it only makes a contribution to the coverage of housing costs.

The parental allowance is a recurrent, non-income-tested benefit designed to assist a parent who personally cares for a small child. The parental allowance is granted if the parent personally provides full-time proper care for the youngest child in the family for the whole calendar month. If the child suffers from a long-term handicap, the allowance is extended up to the age of seven.

The foster care allowances and grants include four benefits: the foster child allowance, the foster parent allowance, the fostering grant and motor vehicle grant. The foster care benefits contribute towards the necessities associated with the care of a child whose parents cannot or will not take care of her or him and who is in the foster care. The foster child allowance is a recurrent, non-income-tested benefit. It is claimed by a child in the foster care. The benefit is paid up to 18 years of age, or up to maximum age of 26 if the child does not earn and lives in a common household with the ex-foster parents. The foster parent allowance is a recurrent, non-income-tested benefit. The foster parent allowance is a kind of social appreciation of a person who takes care of someone else's child as a foster parent. A fostering grant is a one-off, non-income-tested benefit. The purpose of the grant is to contribute towards the purchase of equipment necessary for a child who joins a foster family. A motor vehicle grant is a one-off, income-tested benefit. The grant is awarded to a foster parent who takes care of at least four children and the vehicle is not used for gainful activity by the foster parent.

A birth grant is a one-off, non-income-tested benefit provided to a woman to cover the expenses connected with the birth of a child. The child's father can have an entitlement too.

A funeral grant is a one-off, non-income-benefit. It is claimed by the person who arranges the funeral of a teenager or teenager's parent.