

PH 3.2 KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSING ALLOWANCES

Definitions and methodology

This indicator presents information from the OECD Questionnaire on Social and Affordable Housing on the characteristics of housing allowances in OECD, key partner and EU countries, and provides details on the rules defining recipients' eligibility, as well as the types and amounts of costs covered. For the purpose of this indicator, housing allowances are considered to be means- and/or income-tested income transfers to households directed at supporting households in meeting their housing costs (Kemp, 2007; OECD, 2016; and Stephens et al, 2010).

Further information on housing allowances is provided under indicators PH 3.1 and PH 3.3.

Key findings

Most countries provide means-tested housing allowances to assist low-income households with their rent and other housing costs

Altogether, 43 countries report having at least one type of housing allowance in place. Countries report a total of 84 measures, reflecting that many provide more than one type of housing allowance. Typically, countries may have a general housing allowance system, complemented by specific supplements for housing costs within other types of benefits (notably social assistance or minimum income schemes), or benefits that target specific groups (such as pensioners, youth/students, or those experiencing or at risk of homelessness). Brazil, Colombia and South Africa did not report housing allowances in the 2023 OECD QuASH.

Eligibility for housing allowances in most countries is based on the household's income, size and composition, as well as the amount paid on housing costs. Indeed, there is a reported income threshold for 72 of the 84 reported measures. This information is then also used to determine the amount of the benefit (Salvi del Pero et al, 2016). Table PH 3.2.1 in Annex I provides details on the criteria determining eligibility for housing allowances.

In most countries, housing allowances are designed as entitlement programmes, meaning that all applicants who meet the eligibility criteria receive the benefit. However, in 13 countries the allocation of at least some housing allowances is contingent upon availability of funding. In this case, different criteria are used to prioritise among eligible households (Salvi del Pero et al, 2016).

Housing allowances may be restricted to one or more tenure types. Most commonly, housing allowances are available to tenants in the private rental market: this is the case for 69 of the 84 reported measures in the OECD QuASH. A little over half of reported housing allowances (47) are available to tenants in social rental housing; however, in other countries, social housing tenants are eligible for such benefits since social rents are determined based on household income. Slightly less than half (39) of reported housing allowance measures are available to homeowners.

This document, as well as any data and any map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

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The amount of housing allowances is usually determined based on the household income and size and the level of housing costs

Costs that are taken into consideration and rules determining the amount of housing allowances are detailed under Table PH 3.2.2 in Annex I. The benefit amount is often capped to account for income levels, prevailing housing price levels and/or dwelling size, to ensure that the subsidy does not facilitate overconsumption.

The amount of support provided to tenants usually takes into account both rental costs as well as other housing costs (including, for instance, the cost of utilities, insurance and service costs) in countries where allowances are open to homeowners. The amount of support is only based on rental costs in countries where the housing allowances are restricted to tenants.

Among the 38 countries, almost half of them adapted or created new housing allowance schemes in response to the COVID pandemic.

Among the countries responding to the 2021 QuASH, 14 countries reported having adjusted a housing allowance scheme or creating a new one in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: Australia, Chile, Czechia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye and the United States (Table PH3.2.3 in the Annex). Six countries developed new support measures, and eleven adapted existing housing allowances. Australia, Chile and the United States reported multiple COVID-related housing allowance schemes.

Across the 14 countries that introduced changes to existing housing allowance schemes, or that introduced new support schemes, in response to COVID-19, a majority targeted tenants, rather than homeowners. In several state and territorial governments in Australia, as well as in Chile, France, Italy, Japan, Poland, Spain, Türkiye, the United States, temporary, emergency cash support was provided to cover a portion of rental costs. All of the housing allowances introduced or adapted in response to COVID-19 depend on income, rent costs and household composition. Ten schemes paid out financial support directly to households; three to landlords. Some countries targeted specific populations. For instance, Chile created the “Special overcrowding subsidies” in response to the risks associated with overcrowded housings during the pandemic. Apart from the provision of funding, Germany also simplified access to the housing allowance by eliminating the requirement to verify maximum rent or tenure (“Eased access to basic income support/social provision”). Türkiye extended the duration of the housing allowance, from 36 to 48 months.

Data and comparability issues

This indicator is based on answers to the 2023, 2021, 2019 and 2016 OECD Questionnaire on Social and Affordable Housing. Information collected through the questionnaire was complemented with Country Specific Information from the OECD Tax and Benefit database.

Sources and further reading

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Stephens, M., et al. (2010), *Study on Housing Exclusion: Welfare Policies*, Labour Market and Housing Provision. Brussels: European Commission.

ANNEX I

Table PH3.2.1: Characteristics of housing allowances: details on eligibility

HO= home owners; SR= tenants in social rental housing; PR= tenants in private rental housing; Other = residents in other types of tenures

Country	Measure Name	Available to:				Income threshold	Citizenship/ permanent residence	Resident of locality	Details on eligibility:			Other eligibility criteria
		HO	SR	PR	Other				Employed	Conditional on other benefits		
Australia (2)	Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes (community housing)	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	The tenant must be in receipt of an eligible social security payment and be paying more than a minimum level of rent called the 'rent threshold'	
Australia (2)	Bond Loans and Rental Grants	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Targeted to customers exiting care arrangements (foster care, etc.), medical facilities, crisis accommodation, etc. that have limited savings and need assistance to overcome the financial costs of commencing a private market tenancy.	
Australia (2)	Bond Assistance Loan Scheme	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes		
Australia (2)	Rent Choice Assistance (3year subsidies to help sustain a tenancy in the private rental market)	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No		
Australia (2)	Private Rental Assistance	..	..	Yes	..	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	..	Claimants are subject to an asset test.
Australia (2)	Safer Families Assistance	No	No	Yes	..	Yes	No	No	No	..	Safer Families Assistance is available to people who are seeking to establish or re-establish a home following the experience of domestic and family violence. Claimants are subject to an asset test.	
Austria	Needs-based minimum benefit (BMS)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	..	Yes	Recipients of needs-based minimum benefit scheme, willing to or looking for work. Available to Austrian citizens and persons with equal status.	
Austria	Housing allowance (Wohnbeihilfe)	No (only in some provinces)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	In some provinces a minimum net-income per month is required. Furthermore, not available to tenants with family relationships to lessors	
Austria	Rental benefit (Mietbeihilf)	..	Yes	Yes	..	Yes	..	Yes	No	Yes	Reserved for recipients of pension or minimum income scheme benefits, Mietbeihilfe is paid in addition to Wohnbeihilfe if the amount of the rent leads to a total income below a certain level	

Country	Measure Name	Available to:				Income threshold	Citizenship/ permanent residence	Resident of locality	Details on eligibility:			Other eligibility criteria
		HO	SR	PR	Other				Employed	Conditional on other benefits		
Austria	Different ad-hoc measures in response to pandemic and cost-of-living-crisis (unterschiedliche Ad-hoc Maßnahmen infolge Pandemie und Teuerungskrise)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	..	..	..	Yes	
Belgium	Flemish Rental Premium (<i>Vlamse huurpremie</i>)	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Low-income families waiting for a social rental dwelling for 4 years, can qualify for a monthly rent premium.	
Belgium	Flemish Rental Subsidy (<i>Vlaamse Huursubsidie</i>)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Low-income families moving from inadequate housing (homelessness included) to a decent house on the private rental market, or SRA-tenants, can qualify for this benefit. The benefit consists of 2 parts: a monthly rental subsidy and a one-time installation premium.	
Bulgaria (1)	Targeted assistance for rent of municipal housing	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	..	..	..	No	Tenants in municipal housing orphaned by age 25, graduated from the Social-Educational Centre; persons aged above 7.. living alone; single parents
Bulgaria (1)	Monthly allowance for social integration - rent for municipal housing	No	Yes	No	No	No	..	..	..	Yes	Supplement for tenants with disabilities in municipal housing
Bulgaria (1)	Targeted assistance for heating for individuals and families through the heating season	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	..	..	..	..	Additional conditions set by the Implementing Regulations of the Social Assistance Act
Canada	Canada Housing Benefit	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Recipients must be residents and must be spending more than 3..% of their income on shelter costs. For vulnerable homeowners, where rental options do not exist, household must be paying more than 5..% of their income on shelter costs.	
Chile (3)	<i>Rental subsidy D.S. No. 52 of 2..13 (Subsidio de Arriendo D.S. N° 52 de 2..13)</i>	No	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Applicants cannot own a dwelling. They must be aged over 18 at the time of application. They must have a minimum amount of savings in a dedicated savings account and earn a minimum household size-adjusted income. Priority is given to applicants in certain circumstances, including single parents and those with disabilities.	
Costa Rica	Cash transfer for rent (Transferencia monetaria para alquiler)	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No		

Country	Measure Name	Available to:				Income threshold	Citizenship/ permanent residence	Resident of locality	Details on eligibility:			Other eligibility criteria
		HO	SR	PR	Other				Employed	Conditional on other benefits		
Croatia (1)	Housing benefits	..	..	..	..	Yes	..	..	..	Yes	For recipients of guaranteed minimum social assistance benefit
Croatia (1)	Fuel allowance	..	..	..	..	Yes	..	..	..	Yes	..
Croatia (1)	Benefit for Energy Buyers at risk	..	..	..	..	Yes	..	..	..	Yes	..
Cyprus (4)	Rent allowance	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes		
Cyprus (4)	Housing Allowance under Guaranteed Minimum Income	Yes	Yes	..	..	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	For unemployed registered with Public Employment Services and willing to accept a job, and low paid employees. The applicant must have been legally residing in the controlled area of Cyprus continuously for at least five years. There are limits on assets, but home ownership is not taken into account in the means-testing when the dwelling is the main residence and does not exceed 3... square metres
Czechia	Housing allowance (<i>Príspevek na bydlení</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Property owners or tenants must be registered as resident in the dwelling for which the allowance is granted.	
Czechia	Housing supplement (<i>Doplatek na bydlení</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	For social assistance recipients (families and individuals in material need). Can be granted in addition to the <i>Príspevek na bydlení</i> for households who are still unable to cover their basic necessities.	
Denmark (5)	Housing benefit (<i>Boligstøtte</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Housing benefit is granted after an objective calculation based on the housing expenditure, the income of the household, the area of the dwelling and the composition of the household, including the presence of children (Consolidated Act No 48 of 16 January 2..19 on individual Housing Benefits).	
Denmark (5)	Special Housing Benefit (<i>Særlig støtte</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	No	No	Yes	No	..	The special housing benefit is for people who have experienced unexpected changes (i.e. sickness, unemployment, change in family circumstance) and who have such high housing costs and / or many children that, with their current income, they cannot be expected to pay all their housing costs themselves.	
Denmark (5)	Housing benefit - for pensioners (<i>Boligydelse</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	..	..	..	Yes	Only for recipients of old age pension and disability benefits according to pension rules implemented until January 2....3

Country	Measure Name	Available to:				Income threshold	Citizenship/ permanent residence	Resident of locality	Details on eligibility:			Other eligibility criteria
		HO	SR	PR	Other				Employed	Conditional on other benefits		
Estonia	Housing costs under Subsistence benefits (<i>Toimetulekutoetus</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (e.g. persons living in a dwelling rent-free but paying utilities)	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	The benefit is granted to persons legally registered as residents, if the income after payment of housing costs is below the subsistence level.	
Finland	General housing allowance (<i>Yleinen asumistuki</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (right-of-occupancy and partial-ownership)	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No additional requirements	
Finland	Housing allowance for pensioners (<i>Eläkkeensaajan asumistuki</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Low-income pensioners	
Finland	Temporary assistance with electricity costs (<i>Väliaikainen sähkötuki</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	The qualification criteria entail that a recipient's electricity bill must exceed €4.... per month.	
France	Personalised housing subsidy (<i>Aide personnalisée au logement, APL</i>)	Yes	Yes	..	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Available to tenants renting a new or existing home which is under a contract between the owner and the State as regards to the rent level, lease duration and maintenance conditions, and to owner-occupiers under a loan agreement with the State. Beneficiaries cannot benefit from AFL or ALS at the same time.	
France	Family housing subsidy (<i>Allocation de Logement Familiale, AFL</i>)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Available to any household who is not eligible for APL (for instance because the home he/she rents is not under a contract with the State), who has a "family responsibility" (e.g. dependent children or elderly people in their care). Cannot benefit from APL or ALS at the same time.	
France	Social housing subsidy (<i>Allocation de Logement Social ALS</i>)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Available to any household having to pay a rent or a mortgage and not eligible for APL or AFL. It is mainly aimed at supporting young people, students, couples without kids, elderly people and persons with disabilities	

Country	Measure Name	Available to:				Income threshold	Citizenship/ permanent residence	Resident of locality	Details on eligibility:			Other eligibility criteria
		HO	SR	PR	Other				Employed	Conditional on other benefits		
Germany	Housing allowance (<i>Wohngeld nach dem Wohngeldgesetz</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	In addition to income, wealth is also taken into consideration in assessing eligibility. It is possible that individuals in a household receive different forms of housing benefits, but only person can benefit from one form of housing benefit at a time.	
Germany	cost for housing and heating under Citizen's benefit II (<i>Bürgergeld (SGB II)</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Recipients of unemployment benefits. Benefits are only granted insofar as applicants are in need and they are not able to secure their livelihood from their own income or property. Must be working for at least three hours a day under regular working conditions. The benefit is also conditional on the size and cost of the accommodation.	
Germany	Housing and heating costs under social assistance (<i>Hilfe zum Lebensunterhalt / Grundsicherung im Alter und bei Erwerbsminderung</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (living in institutional care)	Yes	..	..	..	Yes	Recipients of social assistance (targeted at elderly persons and people with disabilities). Benefits are only granted insofar as persons in need are not able to secure their livelihood from their own income or property.
Germany	Cost for Housing and Heating under social assistance (<i>Sozialhilfe (Grundsicherung im Alter und bei Erwerbsminderung & Hilfe zum Lebensunterhalt)</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	If the person in need lives in a (reasonable) house of their own or condominium, housing costs include the liabilities involved (such as adequate mortgage interest, real property tax and other public charges, residential building insurance, ground rent, incidentals as in the case of rented flats, refuse collection fee, chimney sweep fee, street cleaning). The principal component of mortgage payments is instead not covered.	
Germany	Asylum seeker benefits act (<i>Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz</i>)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Income and assets at the disposal of the persons entitled to benefits must be used up by them and their family members living in the same household before benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act are granted.	
Greece	Housing allowance (<i>Epidoma stegasis</i>)	No	No	Yes	Yes (households receiving other benefits)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Available to households receiving other types of benefits (e.g. disability and family benefits, Social Solidarity Income (Minimum Guaranteed Income)).	

Country	Measure Name	Available to:				Income threshold	Citizenship/ permanent residence	Resident of locality	Details on eligibility:			Other eligibility criteria
		HO	SR	PR	Other				Employed	Conditional on other benefits		
Hungary (1)	Home maintenance aid	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	Yes	..	..	..	No	Family or individual who lives in a home not exceeding specified size limits, and whose property (real estate excluding the dwelling where the claimant lives, and vehicles) has a value below a given maximum ceiling
Hungary (1)	Housing allowance (<i>Lakhatási támogatás</i>)	No	Yes	Yes	..	No	..	..	..	No	The benefit is available from local employment services to those who find a job (for a minimum period of 6 months and at least for 2.. hours/week) after a period of unemployment. The housing allowance is granted if the workplace is further than 6.. km from the applicant's residence. The applicant must have been registered as job-seeker for at least 1 month. The benefit is on a temporary basis, up to 12 months.
Hungary (1)	Local benefit (<i>Települési Támogatás</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	Yes		
Iceland	Housing benefit (<i>Húsnæðisbætur</i>)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	..	Yes	No	Yes	In addition to income test, there is also a net wealth test. The rental property must meet minimum quality requirements. A household is not eligible for housing benefits if it is renting housing that is registered for commercial use. Applicants must live in and have a legal domicile in the residential building.	
Ireland	Housing Assistance Payment	No	No	Yes	..	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	..	Any household assessed as eligible for social housing is immediately eligible for housing support through the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme. Once a household has been deemed eligible for social housing support, it is a matter for the local authority to examine the suite of social housing supports available, including the HAP scheme, to determine the most appropriate form of social housing support for that household in the administrative area of that local authority.	

Country	Measure Name	Available to:				Income threshold	Citizenship/ permanent residence	Resident of locality	Details on eligibility:			Other eligibility criteria
		HO	SR	PR	Other				Employed	Conditional on other benefits		
Ireland	Rent Supplement	No	No	Yes	Yes (accommodation for homeless)	Yes	Yes (habitually resident)	..	No	..	[NB: This benefit has in most cases been replaced by the Housing Assistance Payment, but is still available in a few cases.] To qualify, a person must be in receipt of Social Welfare or Health Service Executive payment and satisfy the general conditions of entitlement to SWA. Claimants must have been assessed as in "housing need" or have been residing in private rented accommodation that became unaffordable, or in accommodation for homeless or institution for 183 days in the 12 months before the claim.	
Israel (6)	Rent Assistance	No	Yes	Yes	..	Yes	No	No	Yes	..	Must meet threshold criteria on sources of income and family size. The benefit is subject to a "credit system" which ranks eligibility for housing benefit (credit points of entitlement). Claimant must not presently own or have owned in the past an apartment (or any portion thereof), must be a full-time employee or working 165 hours/month.	
Italy	National Support Fund For Access To Rental Houses (Fondo Nazionale Di Sostegno Per L'Accesso Alle Abitazioni In Locazione)	No	No	yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	..
Italy	Fund For Tenants With Arrears (Fondo Inquilini Morosi Incolpevoli)	No	..	Yes	..	Yes	Yes	No	No	..		
Japan	Housing security benefit (Jutaku-Kakuho-Kyufukin)	No	Yes	Yes	..	Yes	..	..	..	No	Three conditions must be met to receive the benefit, relating to i) income, ii) property (there is a limit on the amount of applicant's savings, which varies according to the household size), and iii) employment status (claimant must be seeking a job). Claimants must have left their job within 2 years, or who have not yet lost their job but are at risk of losing their residence. Claimants must also be aged under 65.

Country	Measure Name	Available to:				Income threshold	Citizenship/ permanent residence	Resident of locality	Details on eligibility:			Other eligibility criteria
		HO	SR	PR	Other				Employed	Conditional on other benefits		
Japan	Public assistance (housing assistance)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	..	..	..	No	Public assistance shall be provided based on a requirement that a person who is living in poverty shall utilise his/her assets, abilities and every other thing available to him/her for maintaining a minimum standard of living.
Korea (1)	Housing benefit for rented accommodation	..	..	Yes	..	Yes	..	..	..	No	Households whose recognised income level is less than 43% of median income
Latvia	Housing benefit (<i>Dzīvokļa pabalsts</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Housing costs and rules defining whether a family or a person is eligible to receive the benefit vary by municipality.	
Lithuania	Compensations for heating of a dwelling, hot and drinking water costs (<i>Būsto šildymo išlaidų, geriamojo vandens išlaidų ir karšto vandens išlaidų kompensacijos</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Claimants must meet the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Cash Social Assistance for Poor Residents, relating to the value of assets and any debts accrued for heating or water have concluded in a repayment agreement with the provider(s). The benefit is granted if: i) the costs of heating is more than 2..% of the difference between the beneficiary's income and the State Support Income (EUR 1..2) provided to a household or person living alone; ii) the costs of drinking water is more than 2% of the beneficiary's income; iii) the costs of hot water is more than 5% of the beneficiary's income.	
Lithuania (1)	Compensation for part of lease payment (<i>Būsto nuomos mokesčio dalies kompensacija</i>)	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Depending on the municipalities: persons and families who lost their homes because of <i>force majeure</i> , large families, and disabled people.	
Luxembourg	Rental subsidy (<i>Subvention de loyer</i>)	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Only for tenants in the private rental market. The rent must exceed more than 25% of the income and the applicant must not be owner of a dwelling in Luxembourg or abroad.	
Luxembourg	Accommodation allowance (<i>Accueil g�erontologique</i>)	..	..	..	Care centres for the elderly or people with disabilities	Yes	..	..	..	..	Allowance for low-income people living in long-term care.
Malta	Housing benefit	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	..	..	..	No	Income and asset limits.

Country	Measure Name	Available to:				Income threshold	Citizenship/ permanent residence	Resident of locality	Details on eligibility:			Other eligibility criteria
		HO	SR	PR	Other				Employed	Conditional on other benefits		
Mexico	Cofinancing Scheme for personnel of the Armed Forces (<i>Esquema Cofinanciamiento</i>)	Yes	No	No	No	..	..	..	..	No	
Netherlands	Housing benefit (<i>Huurtoeslag</i>)	No	Yes (if the rent is below max rent level)	Yes (if the rent is below max rent level)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Maximum rent levels apply (see PH3.2.2), based on household size/composition and age.	
New Zealand	Accommodation Supplement	Yes	No	Yes	Yes (boarding houses, non-tenant flatmates)	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Assets below certain limits (varying according to the household composition)	
New Zealand	Accommodation Benefit for Students	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Only for students eligible for Student Allowance. Student with an earning partner or spouse are not eligible for Student Allowance and therefore not eligible for Accommodation Benefit for Students.	
New Zealand	Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant	No	No	No	Have emergency housing need	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	For clients to receive this benefit, they must have an immediate emergency housing need (i.e. have no access to other accommodation that is adequate for their needs in the short-term), and meet the following criteria: i) not receiving the benefit would worsen the client's position or increase or create any risk to the life or welfare of the client or the client's immediate family or cause serious hardship to the client, the client's partner or dependent children; ii) meet an income and cash asset test (unless exceptional circumstances apply); iii) meet residency and ordinarily resident requirements; and iv) not have received a Special Needs Grant for emergency housing within 52 weeks (unless there are exceptional circumstances).	
New Zealand	Housing Support Products (HSPs)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Eligibility for HSPs include residency requirements, income limits, cash asset limits and other factors, such as tenancy requirements.	

Country	Measure Name	Available to:				Income threshold	Citizenship/ permanent residence	Resident of locality	Details on eligibility:			Other eligibility criteria
		HO	SR	PR	Other				Employed	Conditional on other benefits		
Norway	State housing allowance (<i>Bostøtte</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	There is a minimum housing expense per year to be eligible for the state housing allowance. Students (unless they have children living with them) and people serving the military are not eligible. Household must meet minimum quality standards. Assets are also taken into account to determine eligibility.	
Peru	Programa Techo Propio	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Housing allowance targeting low-income families to support the construction, improvement or expansion of their homes. The following eligibility requirements apply: having family income that does not exceed certain established limits, not having your own home or having previously been a beneficiary of housing programs, among others.	
Poland	Housing allowance (<i>Dodatek mieszkaniowy</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Applicants must meet income threshold (below 175% of the minimum retirement pension for a single person, and below 125% of the minimum retirement pension per capita for a family), and dwelling must conform to space limits adjusted for household size/composition.	
Poland	Flat for start (<i>Mieszkanie na start</i>)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	..	Yes	The claimant must not have a legal title to another dwelling, the dwelling must be used to satisfy own housing needs, and the dwelling must be located in a municipality where an agreement was reached with the Ministry responsible for housing on the implementation of the programme.	
Portugal	<i>Porta 65 - Jovem</i>	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Available to young households aged between 18 and 35 years old. The rent level and size of dwelling must meet certain requirements.	
Portugal	Subsidy NRAU Law nº6/2...6 (Novo Regime Arrendamento Urbano)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	..	No	Must be over 65 years old or with a disability. Available only to contracts dating from before 199., and is reserved for renters who experienced an extraordinary increase in rent levels following Law 6/2...6, as long as the household income and rents respect the limits set in an annually published table.

Country	Measure Name	Available to:				Income threshold	Citizenship/ permanent residence	Resident of locality	Details on eligibility:			Other eligibility criteria
		HO	SR	PR	Other				Employed	Conditional on other benefits		
Romania	Social protection measures for vulnerable energy consumer (Măsuri de protecție socială pentru consumatorul vulnerabil)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	The persons/families who own at least one of the assets provided in the List of goods leading to the exclusion of social aid are not entitled to these measures.	
Romania	Relocation bonus (Primă de relocare)	..	..	..	..	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	The bonus is intended to cover housing expenses when relocating to a new domicile or residence. The bonus is not granted for people who have already received a bonus through the unemployment insurance system in the preceding 36 months. The full list of eligibility requirements are provided in Law no. 76/2...2.
Slovak Republic	Housing allowance (<i>Príspevok na bývanie</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	No	..	..
Slovenia	Housing benefit (<i>Subvencija najemnine</i>)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes (janitorial dwellings, living quarters)	Yes	Yes	..	No	..	Housing benefit can be claimed by households who are renting and whose income is under certain threshold.	
Spain	Housing rental assistance program	No	No	Yes	..	Yes	No	Yes	No	..	The Housing Rental Program is approved, and offers a specific program to help young people to face the emancipation and formation of new homes and access a rental housing. The beneficiaries must have their usual and permanent address in the rented home, whether or not they are registered as holders of the lease.	
Sweden	Housing allowance (<i>Bostadsbidrag</i>)	Yes	not applicable	Yes	Yes (municipal rental housing)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Housing allowance targeting families with children and young people 18 - 28 years without children. There is no income threshold, but the allowance may be reduced to nil if the income is too high.	
Sweden	Housing supplement for pensioners (<i>Bostadstillägg för pensionärer</i>)	Yes	not applicable	Yes	Yes (municipal rental housing)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Housing supplement is a tax-free benefit that you can receive for your housing if you are over 65 and take out your entire old age pension. If you are married, cohabiting or a registered partner, it is the joint income and assets that count.	
Switzerland	Housing subsidy (<i>Zusatzverbilligung ZV</i>)	Yes	Yes	..	No	Yes	..	..	..	No	Eligibility varies across cantons. The scheme will be phased out (2..31).

Country	Measure Name	Available to:				Income threshold	Citizenship/ permanent residence	Resident of locality	Details on eligibility:			Other eligibility criteria
		HO	SR	PR	Other				Employed	Conditional on other benefits		
Türkiye	Rent Allowance (<i>Kira Yardimi</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	..	..	..	..	No	
United Kingdom (7)	Housing Benefit	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	..	..	..	No	<i>[NB: The housing benefit will be replaced by Universal Credit.]</i> Besides income limits, beneficiaries cannot have savings over a certain level. Only one person per household can claim housing benefit.
United Kingdom (1, 7)	Discretionary housing payment	No	Yes	Yes	..	Yes	..	..	..	Yes	Discretionary Housing Payments can be paid to those in receipt of Housing Benefit (or those in receipt of the housing support element of Universal Credit) who are in need of further financial assistance with their housing costs. These payments are entirely at the discretion of a local authority who will decide what should be paid in any particular case and the duration of the award.
United States	Housing Choice Vouchers	Yes	No	Yes	Yes (mobile homes but uncommon)	Yes	Yes	..	No	Yes	Housing Choice Voucher funding is limited relative to need as measured by the income qualification standard, so only about 25% of eligible households are served. Rents must be at or below a payment standard determined by administering state or local agencies relative to local market rents as estimated by the Federal government.	
United States	Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Programme	Yes	..	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Income-eligibility at (1) no more than the greater of 15..% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) or 6..% of the State Median Income; and (2) no less than 11..% of FPG. Higher benefits are granted to households with the greatest home energy need in relation to household income and number of household members; benefits must also be targeted to households with members who are elderly, disabled, and/or a young child.	

HO= homeowners; SR= tenants in social rental housing; PR= tenants in private rental housing; Other = residents in other types of tenures

Notes: 1) Information for Bulgaria (except for cash transfer for rental costs from 2021 QuASH), Croatia refer to 2016 OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH). Information for Korea (Housing benefit for rented accommodation), and the United Kingdom (Discretionary Housing Payment) refer to 2019 OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH). Information for Hungary refer to 2021 OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH). Information for all other countries refer to 2023 OECD QuASH. Supplemental information was also taken from the country policy descriptions in the OECD Tax-Benefit Database (www.oecd.org/social/benefits-and-wages/).

- 2) Australia: Some states/territories provide additional housing allowances. For instance, the Bond Loans and Rental Grants initiative is funded solely by the Queensland Government through the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy. New South Wales also provides "Rent Choice", a time-limited cash transfer, paid directly to the landlord, to help disadvantaged individuals sustain a tenancy in the private rental market.
- 3) Chile: Housing allowance is contingent to the availability of funding. In Chile, allocation is defined based on a point system prioritising: households with children and/or persons with disabilities; persons who have done military service; victims of political persecution; individual/households who have repeatedly applied for support.
- 4) Denmark: Homeowners can only receive housing benefit as a repayable loan. People living in institutional dwellings cannot receive Boligydelse.
- 5) United Kingdom: Information on housing benefits presented in this indicator covers the entire United Kingdom, with the exception of Northern Ireland.
- Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH 2023, 2021, 2019 and 2016); country policy descriptions in the OECD Tax-Benefit Database (www.oecd.org/social/benefits-and-wages).

Table PH3.2.2: Characteristics of housing allowances: covered costs and amount of benefits

Country	Measure name	Administration level	Type of costs covered	Payment issued	Recipient	Entitlement	Priority allocation	Amount depends on:
Australia (2)	Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA)	National/Federal	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Households	Yes	No priority allocation	CRA covers 75% of rent paid above the specified minimum rent threshold, up to a maximum rate. Maximum rates and minimum rent thresholds vary according to household's size/composition
Australia (2)	Bond Loans and Rental Grants	Regional/State	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Landlord	No	Low-income	The amount depends on income and rent costs
Australia (2)	Bond Assistance Loan Scheme	Regional/State	for other housing costs	Other (loan)	Landlord	No	No priority allocation	The amount depends on household composition/size, rent cost and disability status. Higher assistance is also available in Northwest and Remote Western Australia
Australia (2)	Rent Choice Assistance (3 year subsidies to help sustain a tenancy in the private rental market)	Regional/State	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Landlord	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount depends on income, rent cost and the size/condition of the dwelling
Australia (2)	Safe Families Assistance	Regional/state	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	Fixed \$2000 worth of assistance to people seeking to escape family violence
Australia (2)	Private Rental Assistance	Regional/state	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	..	Yes	..	
Austria	Needs-based minimum benefit (BMS)	Regional/State	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Households	No	No priority allocation	The flat rate minimum benefit includes a share of 25% for accommodation costs. If actual housing costs are lower, the share may be reduced. Some provinces pay higher amounts for higher housing costs. The benefit depends on income, households composition and size, rent cost and the size of the dwelling.
Austria	Housing allowance (<i>Wohnbeihilfe</i>)	Regional/State	for rental costs (in most provinces)	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	The allowance covers the difference between countable housing expenditure (the legally permitted rent laid down in the lease contract) and what are considered to be reasonable housing expenditure. The amount depends on the rent, the household income and composition/size, the size of the dwelling and whether the dwelling has been built/renovated with public subsidies or not.

Country	Measure name	Administration level	Type of costs covered	Payment issued	Recipient	Entitlement	Priority allocation	Amount depends on:
Austria	Rental benefit (<i>Mietbeihilfe</i>)	Regional/State	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount depends on monthly rent, household's income and size, size of the dwelling and disability status. It is paid as an addition to <i>Wohnbeihilfe</i> .
Austria	different ad-hoc measures in response to pandemic and cost-of-living-crises (<i>unterschiedliche Ad-hoc Maßnahmen infolge Pandemie und Teuerungskrise</i>)	..	for rental and housing costs	..	..	Yes	..	
Belgium	Flemish Rental Premium (<i>Vlaamse huurpremie</i>)	Regional/State	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Household	No	No priority allocation	The amount depends on income, and household composition/size, rent cost, size of dwellings. The rental premium is the result of a reference rental price minus a personal contribution from the household. The reference rental price equals 75% of the maximum rental price the household must meet in order to qualify for the rental subsidy. The personal contribution is based on the household's most recently known yearly taxable income and is 1/55th of this total income.
Belgium	Flemish Rental Subsidy (<i>Vlaamse Huursubsidie</i>)	Regional/State	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Household	No	No priority allocation	The amount depends on income, household composition/size, rent cost, size of the dwelling
Bulgaria (1)	Targeted assistance for rent of municipal housing	National/Federal	for rental costs	..	..	..	..	The amount depends on the rent in the specific home allocated
Bulgaria (1)	Monthly allowance for social integration - rent for municipal housing	National/Federal	for rental costs	..	..	..	..	The amount depends on the individual needs according to the degree of reduced capacity
Bulgaria (1)	Targeted assistance for heating for individuals and families through the heating season	National/Federal	for other housing costs	..	..	..	..	The monthly amount is the same for all eligible persons: it is based on the equivalent of a set amount of electricity, according to average retail price of electricity for household consumers to October 31 of the current calendar year. The benefit is only granted between 1 November and 31 March.
Canada	Canada Housing Benefit	Joint (shared across levels of	for rental and housing costs (rent,	A cash benefit	Household	No	Low-income, disability status,	The amount depends on the income, household composition/size, and rent costs

Country	Measure name	Administration level	Type of costs covered	Payment issued	Recipient	Entitlement	Priority allocation	Amount depends on:
		government)	utilities and maintenance costs)				household size/composition. Provinces and territories may include other vulnerable groups	
Chile (3)	Rental subsidy D.S. No. 52 of 2013 (<i>Subsidio de Arriendo D.S. N° 52 de 2013</i>)	Regional/State (with funding from national level)	for rental costs	A housing voucher	Landlord	No	Housing condition, disability status and household composition/size	<p>Earmarked voucher paid directly to the landlord. The amount varies depending on the location and is paid monthly. The total amount paid cannot exceed a total of CLP 4 700 000.</p> <p>The subsidy consists of a single and total amount of up to 170 UF, the monthly amount to be paid, will be discounted according to the scale that for these purposes will be established by resolution of the Minister of Housing and Urban Development, depending on the geographical location of the commune of the leased house. The elements to determine the monthly amount of the subsidy will be the following: a) Catastrophe or another similar condition that has affected the commune or region, decreasing supply and / or increasing demand. b) Location in extreme areas of the country or a region. c) Market studies of supply and demand that allow the definition of areas of greater or lesser value, made by the MINVU</p>
Costa Rica	Cash transfer for rent (<i>Transferencia monetaria para alquiler</i>)	National/Federal	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Both household and landlord	Yes	Low-income, disability status, household composition/size	The subsidy is granted temporarily according to the needs of the household, based on a professional assessment with a case worker. The amount of the subsidy depends on income, household composition/size and disability status.
Croatia (1)	Housing benefits	Municipal	for rental and housing costs	..	..	..	..	Amount depends on income and household composition/size
Croatia (1)	Fuel allowance	Regional/State	for other housing costs	..	..	..	..	..

Country	Measure name	Administration level	Type of costs covered	Payment issued	Recipient	Entitlement	Priority allocation	Amount depends on:
Croatia (1)	Benefit for Energy Buyers at risk	National/Federal	for other housing costs	..	..	..	..	..
Cyprus	Rent allowance	National/Federal	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount of the benefit depends on income and the household composition/size.
Cyprus	Housing Allowance under Guaranteed Minimum Income	National/Federal	For rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	Support is available under the Guaranteed Minimum Income scheme to help with rent and mortgage payments. The amount varies according to location and household size/composition (additional amount for each person with disability and each additional child in the household)
Czechia	Housing allowance (<i>Príspevek na bydlení</i>)	National/Federal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount of monthly benefit is calculated as 30% (35% in Prague) of the difference between the maximum reference housing costs and the household's reference income. Actual individual housing cost are used for the calculation of housing allowance, provided that actual individual housing costs are lower than prescriptive housing costs (stipulated by law for each year according to actual development of prices). The amount of benefit depends also on size of municipality and type of housing (privat, rental).
Czechia	Housing supplement (<i>Doplátek na bydlení</i>)	National/Federal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount of benefit depends on income, household composition, rental costs, the size/condition of the dwelling, and the type of housing.
Denmark	Housing benefit (<i>Boligstøtte</i>)	Municipal	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	Calculated based on normalised rent, household size, dwelling size, disability status and level of household income and assets.
Denmark	Housing benefit - for pensioners (<i>Boligydelse</i>)	Municipal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	Calculated based on rental costs, household size and composition, dwelling size, level of household income and assets.
Denmark	Special Housing Benefit (<i>Særlig støtte</i>)	Local/Municipal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	Amount depends on income, household composition and rent costs

Country	Measure name	Administration level	Type of costs covered	Payment issued	Recipient	Entitlement	Priority allocation	Amount depends on:
Estonia	Housing costs under Subsistence benefits (<i>Toimetulekutoetus</i>)	Municipal (with funding from national level)	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	Housing-related expenses taken into account to calculate the subsistence benefit include: rent, administration and repairs costs of the apartment building, repayment of loan taken for renovation of the apartment building, service costs, cost of utilities, land tax, building insurance, municipal waste fee. Costs are only covered within the limits established by the municipality and the national socially justified standard for dwelling, and vary according to household's size/composition
Finland	General housing allowance (<i>Yleinen asumistuki</i>)	National/Federal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	Low-income	General housing allowance is paid for acceptable housing costs up to a statutory maximum limit. It covers 80% of the difference between the acceptable housing costs and the basic deductible. The basic deductible is determined on the basis of household income and household composition.
Finland	Housing allowance for pensioners (<i>Eläkkeensaajan asumistuki</i>)	National/Federal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	Low-income	Housing allowance for pensioners covers 85% of the difference between the acceptable housing costs and the basic deductible (a standard amount beneficiary is supposed to pay out of his/her own pocket), plus an additional deductible linked to income. Acceptable housing costs may not exceed maximum limits set each year by government, which vary according to the municipality in which the home is located. The basic deductible is a standard amount for all.
Finland	Temporary assistance with electricity costs (<i>Väliaikainen sähkötuki</i>)	National/federal	for other housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	No	No priority allocation	The amount depends on income
France	Personalised housing subsidy (<i>Aide personnalisée au logement, APL</i>)	National/Federal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Landlord	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount is calculated based on the rent and location of the dwelling, the household's income and size/composition. The benefit increases as a) household income

Country	Measure name	Administration level	Type of costs covered	Payment issued	Recipient	Entitlement	Priority allocation	Amount depends on:
								decreases; b) the number of children increases; c) housing expenses increase (with a rent ceiling determined by the State).
France	Family housing subsidy (<i>Allocation de Logement Familiale, AFL</i>)	National/Federal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Both household and landlord	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount is calculated based on the rent and location of the dwelling, the household's income and size/composition. The benefit increases as a) household income decreases; b) the number of children increases; c) housing expenses increase (with a rent ceiling determined by the State).
France	Social housing subsidy (<i>Allocation de Logement Social ALS</i>)	National/Federal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Both household and landlord	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount is calculated based on the rent and location of the dwelling, the household's income and size/composition. The benefit increases as a) household income decreases; b) the number of children increases; c) housing expenses increase (with a rent ceiling determined by the State).
Germany	Housing allowance (<i>Wohngeld nach dem Wohngeldgesetz</i>)	Joint (shared across levels of government)	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	Low-income	The amount of the allowance is calculated based on eligible housing costs (rent level or financial obligations for homeowners), household's income and size, and disability status; there are also regional factors taken into account.
Germany	cost for housing and heating under Citizen's benefit II (<i>Bürgergeld (SGB II)</i>)	Municipal (with funding from the federal level)	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	Low-income	Amounts vary by municipality and depend on the household income, size and composition, disability status, size/condition of the dwelling and on housing costs: the latter include reasonable rent (determined locally) and in case of home owners mortgage interest payment, real property tax and other public charges, residential building insurance, ground rent, incidentals as in the case of rented flats, refuse collection fee, chimney sweep fee, street cleaning. Regular expenses for heating are also covered.
Germany (4)	Housing and heating costs under social assistance (<i>Hilfe zum Lebensunterhalt / Grundsicherung im Alter und bei</i>	Municipal (see note)	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	..	Amount depends on income, household composition/size and housing costs.

Country	Measure name	Administratio n level	Type of costs covered	Payment issued	Recipient	Entitlement	Priority allocation	Amount depends on:
	<i>Erwerbsminderung</i>)							
Germany	Cost for Housing and Heating under social assistance (<i>Sozialhilfe (Grundsicherung im Alter und bei Erwerbsminderung & Hilfe zum Lebensunterhalt)</i>)	Joint (shared across levels of government)	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	Amount depends on income, household composition/size, size/condition of dwelling, disability status and rent costs.
Germany	Asylum seeker benefits act (<i>Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz</i>)	Regional/state	for rental and housing costs (accommodation, heating, home maintenance cost)	Other (benefits in kind)	..	Yes	No priority allocation	Benefit depends on income, household composition/size, rent cost and disability status
Greece	Housing allowance (<i>Epidoma stegasis</i>)	National and municipal	for rental costs only	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount varies according to household size/composition.
Hungary (1)	Home maintenance aid	Local government (but regulated at national level)	for other housing costs	..	..	Yes	..	The amount of the home maintenance aid depends on the dwelling size as well as the household's income and size/composition. The measure was repealed in March 2015, and only provides benefits to those who submitted claims through 28 February 2015; after this date, the benefit is only provided in the form of debt management service.
Hungary (1)	Housing allowance (<i>Lakhatási támogatás</i>)	Local government (but regulated at national level)	for rental and housing costs	..	..	Yes	..	Employment departments of local level government offices provide the support. The support is provided according to the rules of Gov. Decree 39/1998. (III. 4.) and a national methodological guideline of Ministry of National Economy, with the amount depending on household size/composition.
Hungary (1)	Local benefit (<i>Települési Támogatás</i>)	Local government (but regulated at national level)	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	No	No priority allocation	Employment departments of local level government offices provide the support. The support is provided according to the rules of Gov. Decree 39/1998. (III. 4.) and a national methodological guideline of Ministry of National Economy, with the amount depending on income, household size/composition, rent cost, size/condition of dwelling and disability status.
Ireland	Housing Assistance Payment	Joint	for rental costs	..	Landlord	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount depends on household income and size/composition, rental costs and

Country	Measure name	Administration level	Type of costs covered	Payment issued	Recipient	Entitlement	Priority allocation	Amount depends on:
Ireland (1)	Rent Supplement	National/Federal	for rental costs	A cash benefit (tax exemption for landlords)	Household (and some landlords)	..	No priority allocation	dwelling characteristics, including location. [NB: This benefit has in most cases been replaced by the Housing Assistance Payment, but is still available in a few cases.] The amount of Rent Supplement ensures that income, after paying rent, does not fall below a minimum level, corresponding to the basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance rate for a persons circumstances minus EUR 30 (or at least EUR 35 for a couple). A person must always pay at least EUR 30 towards rent. However, some may pay more depending on means.
Iceland	Housing Benefits (<i>Húsnæðisbætur</i>)	National/Federal	For rental costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount depends on income, household size/composition, rent costs, size and conditions of dwelling
Israel	Rent Assistance	National/Federal	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	Low-income, disability status and household composition/size	The amount depends on the following parameters: i) area of residence; ii) family size and composition; iii) age; iv) income test; and v) eligibility to certain benefits. Single parents, People with disabilities, immigrants, and applicants on the waiting list for public housing can receive enhanced assistance.
Italy	National Support Fund for Access to Rental Houses	Regional/state (regulated at national level)	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	Low-income	The amount depends on income
Italy	Fund For Tenants With Arrears (<i>Fondo Inquilini Morosi Incolpevoli</i>)	National/federal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	Low-income	The amount depends on income
Japan	Housing security benefit (<i>Jutaku-Kakuho-Kyufukin</i>)	National/Federal	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Landlord	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount depends on income, on household's size/composition and on rental costs. The maximum benefit amount is the actual rent paid for accommodation, up to a maximum benefit amount set regionally.
Japan	Public assistance (housing assistance)	Local/municipal	for rental and other housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount covers actual expenses, below a prescribed upper limit set for each local government by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. The amount depends on rent

Country	Measure name	Administration level	Type of costs covered	Payment issued	Recipient	Entitlement	Priority allocation	Amount depends on:
								cost.
Korea (1)	Housing benefit for rented accommodation	National and municipal	for rental costs	..	..	..	..	Implemented as part of the Housing Benefit Act in 2015, which aims to relieve the rent burden and to ensure the minimum housing standard for vulnerable households. The monthly cash subsidy is based on household income, rent level, family size and location.
Latvia	Housing benefit (<i>Dzīvokļa pabalsts</i>)	Municipal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	Housing benefit can be calculated based on the housing cost allocation and expenses defined by municipality, or using a fixed amount of benefit for person or household.
Lithuania	Compensations for heating of a dwelling, hot and drinking water costs (<i>Būsto šildymo išlaidų, geriamojo vandens išlaidų ir karšto vandens išlaidų kompensacijos</i>)	Municipal	for other housing costs	A cash benefit	Other (service providers)	No	No priority allocation	The amount of compensations depend on heating of the dwelling, hot and drinking water expenses. The benefit covers exceeding costs (over 20% of the difference between income and State Support Income for heating, over 2% of income for drinking water, over 5% of income for hot water)
Lithuania	Compensation for part of lease payment (<i>Būsto nuomos mokesčio dalies kompensacija</i>)	Municipal	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Household	No	No priority allocation	The amount depends on household composition/size, rent cost and size/condition of the dwelling.
Luxembourg	Rental subsidy (<i>Subvention de loyer</i>)	National/Federal	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount is calculated on the basis of household income, household composition and a reference rent that varies according to the household's composition and income, up to a maximum monthly benefit of EUR 300.
Luxembourg	Accommodation allowance (<i>Accueil g�rontologique</i>)	National/Federal	for housing and other costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	..	The amount depends on the level of services as well as the personal resources of the beneficiary.
Malta	Housing benefit	National/Federal	for rental costs	..	Household	Yes	..	The amount of benefit depends on the household's income and size.
Mexico	Cofinancing Scheme for personnel of the Armed Forces (<i>Esquema Cofinanciamiento</i>)	National/federal	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Other (Members of the armed forces of Mexico)	No	Low-income, housing conditions, disability status	The amount depends on income, and size of dwellings
Netherlands	Housing benefit (<i>Huurtoeslag</i>)	National/Federal	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority	Housing benefit is based on current rent

Country	Measure name	Administration level	Type of costs covered	Payment issued	Recipient	Entitlement	Priority allocation	Amount depends on:
		al					allocation	levels and taxable income. The underlying principle is that every household always pays part of the rent itself. This is referred to as the "standard rent" (basishuur), whose amount varies depending on the income and composition of household and age of its members. There is a higher standard rent for people with a higher income.
New Zealand	Accommodation Supplement	National/Federal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount of AS a recipient receives is based on their actual accommodation costs. The AS is calculated at 70 percent of a recipient's accommodation costs above an entry threshold (25-30 percent of the applicable benefit which recipients must pay to qualify) up to a maximum amount (the maxima). The maximum amount of assistance a recipient can receive depends on family size and region. The maxima are capped at the 40th percentile of regional rents (broadly equivalent to 90 percent of median regional rents).
New Zealand	Accommodation Benefit for Students	National/Federal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	Rates vary by geographic area, and are not determined on an individual's rent costs. However, geographical payments are determined by the cost of an average room, which is derived from rent information.
New Zealand	Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant	National/Federal	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Landlord (accommodation provider)	Yes	No priority allocation	The benefit covers the actual and reasonable costs of emergency accommodation.
New Zealand	Housing Support Products (HSP)	National/federal	For other housing costs	A cash benefit	Landlord	No	No priority allocation	The amount depends on the rent cost.
Norway	State housing allowance (<i>Bostøtte</i>)	National/Federal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	..	For private housing, the housing allowance is calculated as 73.7% (in 2024) of the difference between maximum accepted housing expenses and a share of "own expense". The own expense is calculated on the basis of taxed income and assets. The maximum housing expenses accepted for

Country	Measure name	Administration level	Type of costs covered	Payment issued	Recipient	Entitlement	Priority allocation	Amount depends on:
								the purpose of calculating the housing allowance are defined based on disability status, household size and location (increased allowance for high-cost areas).
Peru	<i>Programa Techo Propio</i>	National/federal	For other housing costs	A housing voucher	Landlord	Yes	Low-income	The amount depends on household income
Poland	Housing allowance (<i>Dodatek mieszkaniowy</i>)	Municipal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	The housing allowance covers the difference between what is considered a reasonable payment for a family and actual housing costs. Housing costs cannot exceed a maximum amount, calculated based on the size of the family and the size of the dwelling. Rental cost, maintenance costs, as well as charges for heating, water, and collection of liquid waste are all taken into consideration. Decision on whether applicants are eligible to receive the benefit are made by the head of municipality (mayor).
Poland	Flat for start (<i>Mieszkanie na start</i>)	..	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	Monthly amount of benefit is equal to 1/12 product of the average replacement value of 1 m ² of usable area of residential buildings (that corresponds to average cost of housing construction in a given area), the normative area of a flat and the subsidy ratio of 1.8%. Normative area depends on number of persons in a household.
Portugal	Door 65 - Young (<i>Porta 65 - Jovem</i>)	National/Federal	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	Low-income, housing conditions, disability status, household composition/size	The amount of benefit depends on income, household composition, rent cost, size/condition of dwelling and disability status. It is only possible to benefit from Porta 65 Jovem for 5 years.
Portugal	NRAU Subsidy, Law n. 6/2006 (<i>Novo Regime Arrendamento Urbano</i>)	National/Federal	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Household	No	..	The amount depends on rent costs, the household's income and size.
Romania	Social protection measures for vulnerable energy consumer (<i>Masuri de protectie sociala</i>)	National/Federal	for other housing costs	Other (A cash benefit and an allotment of	Other (deducted from	Yes	Low-income, housing conditions,	The amount depends on income, household composition/size, size/condition of dwellings

Country	Measure name	Administration level	Type of costs covered	Payment issued	Recipient	Entitlement	Priority allocation	Amount depends on:
	<i>pentru consumatorul vulnerabil)</i>			energy)	invoice)		household composition/size, and beneficiaries of social aid/family support allowance	
Romania	Relocation bonus (<i>Prima de relocare</i>)	Local/municipal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	..	The relocation bonus is granted to persons whose net monthly income, in the situation where they are single persons or accompanied by family members, does not exceed the amount of 5,000 RON/month. Single persons and families are defined in the sense of art. 2 of Law no. 416/2001 on the guaranteed minimum income, with subsequent amendments and additions. The housing expenses refer to the expenses necessary for the payment of rent and utilities at the new domicile or residence. The relocation bonus amount is granted monthly, for a period of no more than 36 months.
Slovak Republic	Housing allowance (<i>Príspevok na bývanie</i>)	National/Federal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	Low-income	The amount depends on income and household size/composition.
Slovenia	Housing benefit (<i>Subvencija najemnine</i>)	National/Federal	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Landlord	Yes	Low-income, housing condition, disability status, household composition/size	The amount is based on the actual rent paid by a household up to a maximum, which varies by income, rent cost, size/condition of dwelling and disability status household size. The claimant must pay 20% of the rent. If the claimant's ability to pay is less than 20% of the rent, they are entitled to rent subsidy of 80% of the rent.
Spain	Housing rental assistance programme	Joint (shared across levels of government)	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Household	No	Low-income	The amount depends on income, household composition/size, rent cost, disability status.
Sweden	Housing allowance (<i>Bostadsbidrag</i>)	National/Federal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	Housing allowance targets families with children and young adults (18-28 years old). Housing allowance is means tested. The amount of the allowance depend on the income, disability status the housing costs and the composition of the household (e.g. the number of children). The allowance

Country	Measure name	Administration level	Type of costs covered	Payment issued	Recipient	Entitlement	Priority allocation	Amount depends on:
								decreases when the annual income exceeds a certain limit. The income limit varies between families and young adults and also between single and cohabiting households. Housing allowance is paid for a part of the housing costs between a lower and upper limit. For families the upper limit varies with the number of children in the household.
Sweden	Housing supplement for pensioners (<i>Bostadstillägg för pensionärer</i>)	National/Federal	for rental and housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount is calculated based on income level, household composition/size, rent cost and size/condition of dwellings.
Switzerland	Housing subsidy (<i>Zusatzverbilligung ZV</i>)	Joint (cantons verify eligibility; federal disburses payment)	for rental and housing costs	Rent reduction	Landlord	Yes	No priority allocation	The amount depends on income level, household size/composition, and size/conditions of dwelling.
Türkiye	Rent Allowance (<i>Kira Yardımı</i>)	National/federal	for rental costs	A cash benefit	Household	Yes	No priority allocation	
United Kingdom (5)	Housing Benefit	National is responsible for scheme and funding; local for day-to-day administration	for rental costs	..	Household (occasionally can be sent directly to landlord)	Yes	..	[NB: The housing benefit will be replaced by Universal Credit.] Amount depends on tenure, as well as rent costs and dwelling size, household age, income and size/composition.
United Kingdom (1, 5)	Discretionary housing payment	Local government	for rental and housing costs	..	..	..	..	The amount is at the discretion of the local authority; it depends in part on the size, characteristics and occupancy of the dwelling.
United States	Housing Choice Vouchers	Joint	for rental and housing costs	A housing voucher	Landlord	No	Low-income	Dwelling must pass health and safety inspection to be eligible for subsidy. Amount depends on household income and size/composition, disability status, as well as rent costs and size/conditions of the dwelling.
United States	Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Programme	Joint	for other housing costs	A cash benefit	Household	No	No priority allocation	The amount depends on location, income, household size/composition and energy costs.

Note: 1) Information for Bulgaria (except for cash transfer for rental costs from 2021 QuASH) and Croatia refer to 2016 OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH). Information for Korea (Housing benefit for rented accommodation), and the United Kingdom (Discretionary Housing Payment) refer to 2019 OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH). Information for Hungary refer to 2021 OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH). Information for all other countries refer to 2023 OECD QuASH. Supplemental information was also taken from the country policy descriptions in the OECD Tax-Benefit Database (www.oecd.org/social/benefits-and-wages/).

2) Australia: Some states/territories provide additional housing allowances. For instance, the Bond Loans and Rental Grants initiative is funded solely by the Queensland Government through the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy. New South Wales also provides "Rent Choice", a time-limited cash transfer, paid directly to the landlord, to help disadvantaged individuals sustain a tenancy in the private rental market.

3) Chile: Housing allowance is contingent to the availability of funding. In Chile, allocation is defined based on a point system prioritising: households with children and/or persons with disabilities; persons who have done military service; victims of political persecution; individual/households who have repeatedly applied for support.

4) Germany: The municipal level is responsible for the administration of the benefits. The supervision for Hilfe zum Lebensunterhalt on the state level and Grundsicherung im Alter und bei Erwerbsminderung on the federal level.

5) United Kingdom: Information on housing benefits presented in this indicator covers the entire United Kingdom, with the exception of Northern Ireland.

Source: OECD Questionnaire on Affordable and Social Housing (QuASH 2023, 2021, 2019 and 2016); Country policy descriptions in the OECD Tax-Benefit Database (www.oecd.org/social/benefits-and-wages/).

Table PH3.2.3 Characteristics of housing allowances introduced and/or modified in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Country	Name of measure	Level of government	New or adapted?	Type of costs covered	Who receives?	Details
Australia	COVID-19 Rent Relief	Regional/State	New	for rental costs	Household	The Rent Relief depends on the level of financial hardship households are facing; current rent must be more than 30% of household income, with savings less than AUD 5,000.
Australia	Residential Rent Relief Grant	Regional/State	New	for rental costs	Landlord	Renters who have been stood down from their jobs or had their hours reduced, are self-employed, sole traders, casual workers or contractors could apply for grants equivalent to four weeks' rent to a maximum of AUD 2,000, paid directly to landlords who then reduce tenants' rent by the same amount. Running from 1 May 2020 to 28 March 2021.
Chile	Emergency Rental Subsidy (<i>Subsidio de Arriendo de Emergencia</i>)	National/federal	Adapted	for rental costs	Landlord	Families who rent a home, who prove the loss of employment or drop of more than 30% in the income amounts and who meet the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 18 years old at the time of applying. - Applicant or any member of the declared household is not the owner or assignee of a dwelling, sanitary infrastructure or a site. - In the case of an older adult applicant and/or with proof of disability, it will not be a requirement to have a family unit. - Present a lease contract for a maximum amount of CLP 600,000 per month
Chile	Special overcrowding subsidies (<i>Subsidio especial de hacinamiento</i>)	National/federal	Adapted			Cash benefit provided to people living in 28 densely populated districts of Greater Santiago Metropolitan Region with a high incidence of COVID-19 infections.
Czechia	Extraordinary immediate assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (<i>Mimorádná okamžitá pomoc MOP COVID-19</i>)		Adapted	for rental and housing costs	Household	COVID-related non-contributory benefit MOP COVID-19 helps households who find themselves in an unfavorable financial situation due to a pandemic to meet basic living needs and to pay housing costs (rent, energy, services, mortgage). The existing one-off benefit from the social assistance system for people in material need for extraordinary immediate assistance was simplified and expanded in response to the pandemic.
France	Exceptional solidarity subsidy for most vulnerable households (<i>aide exceptionnelle de solidarité liée à l'urgence sanitaire aux ménages les plus précaires</i>)	National/Federal	New	for rental and housing costs	Household	The amount depends on composition of household: 100 EUR per child in each household and 200 EUR and then 150 EUR for young people under 25, paid twice (June and November 2020).
Germany	Eased access to basic income support/social provision (<i>Vereinfachter zur Grundsicherung</i>)		Adapted		Household	Access to the 'basic income support for jobseekers' (another basic support benefit) and therefore included housing benefits has been simplified. Benefits can be obtained without prior verification of maximum rent or tenure (regional limits).
Italy	National Support Fund for Access to Rental Houses (<i>fondo nazionale di sostegno per l'accesso alle abitazioni in locazione</i>)	Regional/state	Adapted	for rental costs		A total of EUR 200 million was disseminated to regions. The first allocation (EUR 60 million) was carried out by ministerial decree 06.06.2020 (Official Gazette 30.05.2020, n.138).
Japan	Housing Security Benefit	National/Federal	Adapted	for rental costs	Landlord	Support is extended to cover rent costs for a certain period for those who are concerned about losing their homes because of a reduction in income, unemployment or business shut-down.

Norway	State housing allowance (<i>Bostøtte</i>)	National/Federal	Adapted	for rental and housing costs	Household	<p>The housing costs / income thresholds were increased from April to October 2020 in response to COVID-19.</p> <p>The result was an increased number of recipients, and an increased amount of support for the recipients.</p>
Poland	Rent Subsidy (<i>dopłaty do czynszu</i>)	Joint (shared across levels of government) National: financing Municipal: evaluation of applications for measure	New	for rental and housing costs	Household	Tenants, whose income has been reduced by at least 25% as a result of the epidemic, can get a rent subsidy. A rent subsidy may be granted to a tenant who meets the requirements for housing allowance. The rent subsidy amount is maximum PLN 1500, but not more than 75% of the monthly rent. It is paid monthly for a period of 6 months, together with housing allowance.
Portugal	COVID Support (<i>Apoio Covid</i>)	National/Federal	New	for rental costs	Household	In order to help families whose income decreased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Portugal created a no-interest loan to cover rent costs. In cases of families with very low incomes, the loan may become a non-refundable contribution.
Spain	Automatic rental aid renewal	Joint (shared across levels of government)	Adapted	for rental costs	Household	Rental support and rent contracts have been automatically renewed. This measure was first extended until September 2020, then to 31 January 2021, and again to 9 May 2021. The Executive extends until May 2021 the deadline to request interest-free microcredits, backed by the State, for rental payments, and also regulates the verification procedure of these ICO loans for monthly rental payments of up to EUR 900, to be repaid in six years, and extendable to another four. They are aimed at tenants who have been unemployed, have been included in an ERTE or have seen their income reduced.
Sweden	Housing allowance for families with children (<i>Tillfälligt tilläggsbidrag till bostadsbidrag för barnhushåll</i>)	National/federal	Adapted	for rental and housing costs	Household	From July through December 2020, all households with children had their monthly allowance multiplied by 1.25. There was no application and the extra amount is not subject to repayment.
Türkiye	Rent Allowance (<i>Kira Yardimi</i>)	National/Federal	Adapted	for rental costs	Household	Temporary housing or workplace allocation or rental assistance can be made to the owners, tenants and owners of limited real rights, provided that they reside in the building.
United States	Community Development Block Grant	Joint (shared across levels of government)	Adapted	for housing costs	Household (administered via local authorities)	Provides grants to localities for housing support and public improvements. The grantees can use funds for a range of purposes, but cash transfers to renter households is one such purpose.
United States	Emergency Rental Assistance Program	Joint (shared across levels of government)	New	for rental costs	Household (administered via local authorities)	Federal government provides funding to localities who administer the programme and distribute assistance to households.

Source: Country responses to the 2021 OECD QuASH.