

ALSO

Arbeitslosenselbsthilfe Oldenburg e.V.

Counseling in the districts of Vechta and Oldenburg

Vechta: 015783420682

Oldenburg: 017643 30 2127

www.also-beratung.de

lk-beratung@also-zentrum.de

Topic: Benefits for basic furnishing

Do you have to get into debt to live in a furnished apartment? No, because the Jobcenter and the Social Security Office are required to provide benefits for basic furnishing, including household (for example kitchen) appliances.

People renting a apartment often lack furniture items and the money to buy them. This can happen to people in many different circumstances, for instance:

- Young people renting a apartment for the first time.
- People who used to live in furnished apartments
- People who recently separated from their partner
- Refugees; for instance when moving out of the reception center into their own apartment
- People who used to be homeless

Here we have listed some frequent situations where people are entitled to benefits for basic furnishing. *But there are undoubtedly many other situations where this might apply – ask us if you're unsure whether this applies to you or not.*

In all of these situations you're entitled to complete or partial furnishing of your apartment. You're entitled to **partial** furnishing if, for instance, you already have your own bed, or some other pieces of furniture, but you are missing other basic items.

Basic furnishing consists of: a kitchen including pots, household appliances, cutlery, a living room, a bedroom, a bathroom, furniture for the corridor, lamps and curtains.

In any case: If you require basic furnishing and you receive benefits from the Jobcenter or the Social Security Office for this, you're entitled to receive these as **additional benefits**. This means that they are loans, so you don't have to get into debt to receive them.

Household appliances:

You are entitled to a complete kitchen and to **new**, unused household appliances such as an oven, a refrigerator and a laundry machine.

Moreover, you're entitled to a **new** mattress for your bed. Other items you receive might only be used, but still have to be in good condition.

The Jobcenter or the Social Security Office typically grant these items as benefits in kind, which means that you receive the items themselves, not the money to buy them. You decide on the items at the **Diakonie** (the social welfare organization of Germany's Protestant churches) or the organization **Mehrwert**, after which they bring them to your apartment. The only exception is when Diakonie and Mehrwert are unable to deliver some of the requested items. In this case (at the latest after unsuccessfully asking about the delivery for the third time; always make sure to receive a confirmation that the requested items are not available!) you will receive the money required to buy these items yourself.

Hint: The delivery by Diakonie and Mehrwert includes carrying the furniture items directly into your apartment as well as connecting your oven to the electricity. Both of these services are free, so you do not have to pay for them, even if this is not explicitly stated in the document from the Jobcenter or Social Security Office confirming that you're entitled to basic furnishing.

Entitlement to new items

If people are required to avoid used items for cultural or religious reasons, they are entitled to completely new items for their basic furnishing. This pertains, for instance, to members of the Sinti people, who often follow rules prohibiting them from using certain used items.

There are certainly many other questions about support for basic furnishing. We're happy to help you with these as well.

ALSO – Counseling

**Please check the yellow ALSO-leaflet or make an appointment via email:
lk-beratung@also-zentrum.de**