

2025

English



**Checklist:**

**First steps after being given refugee status**

Information for people who have just been granted the status of  
refugees in Iceland

## Checklist: First steps after being given refugee status

- ☐ **Put your name on your post-box** to be sure of receiving posts, including important letters from the Directorate of Immigration (Útlendingastofnun, ÚTL).
- ☐ **Photograph for your residence permit card (*dvalarleyfiskort*)**
  - Photographs are taken at the ÚTL office or, outside the metropolitan area, at the local District Commissioner's office (*sýslumaður*). Appointments can be booked through <https://island.is/s/utlendingastofnun/timabokanir>.
  - ÚTL will send you a message (SMS) when your residence permit card is ready, and you can pick it up.
- ☐ **Open a bank account** once you have your residence permit card.
- ☐ **Apply for electronic identification (*rafræn skilríki*):** <https://island.is/rafraen-skilriki> and <https://www.audkenni.is/> (or at your bank)
- ☐ **Apply for basic financial assistance (*grunnfjárhagsaðstoð*)** from the Social Services in your municipality (*félagsþjónustan*).

You can find information about the local authorities (municipalities) and their offices here:

- ☐ [Sveitarfélög | Samband íslenskra sveitarfélaga](#)

- ☐ **Travel documents**

If you cannot provide a passport from your home country, you can apply for a travel document for refugees or a passport for foreign nationals (*ailien's passport*) if you have humanitarian permit. These can be used like other personal ID documents such as a passport.

<https://island.is/en/travel-document-for-refugees>

## Checklist: Finding a place to live

### ☐ Finding a place to live

Once you have been granted refugee status you can stay at the accommodation for people applying for international protection for up to eight weeks. Therefore, it is important to look for somewhere to live.

### ☐ Apply to the social services (*félagsþjónusta*) for assistance with rent and buying furniture and equipment

- Loan to pay a deposit on rented housing (leiguhúsnæði; apartment, flat)
- Furniture grant for essential furniture and household equipment
- Special housing benefit: Extra monthly payments to help with renting an apartment, in addition to regular housing benefit.
- A grant to cover the first month's expenses, since housing benefit is paid out afterward.

### ☐ Apply for regular housing benefit

- <https://hms.is/husnaedisbaetur>

## Checklist: Other assistance you can apply for through a social worker

### ☐ Study grants for people who have not finished compulsory school or upper senior school

### ☐ Part-payment of the cost of the First Medical Check **in out-patients infectious diseases departments of hospitals**

### ☐ Grants for **dental treatment**

### ☐ **Specialist assistance from** social workers, psychiatrists, or psychologists

### ☐ **N.B.: Each application is reviewed individually**, and you must meet all the conditions set by the municipality to receive assistance

## Checklist: For your children

- **You need to register in your municipality's online system, of your municipality** such as Rafræn Reykjavík, Mitt Reykjanes, or Míнар síður on the Hafnarfjörður website, to enroll your children in **school, school meals, after-school activities**, and more.
- **Apply through a social worker for assistance for your children**
  - A grant, equivalent to full child benefit, to support you until the tax office will start paying full child benefit
  - Special assistance is available for children, to cover costs such as pre-school fees, school meals, after-school activities, summer camps or leisure activities.
- **Apply to Tryggingastofnun (TR; the Social Insurance Administration) for child pension and parental allowances**
  - Financial support for single parents
  - Applications are made through My pages on the island.is website: <https://island.is/umsokn-um-barnalifeyri>
  - Information (in English) about TR's services: <https://island.is/s/tryggingastofnun>