

2026

English



Checklist:

First steps after being given refugee status

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

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*).
- ÚTL will send you a message (SMS) when your residence permit card is ready, and you can pick it up.

Change the phone line to your name.

Open a bank account once you have your passport or 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 refugee's travel documents

If you cannot show a passport from your home country, you may apply for travel documents. They can be used in the same way as other personal ID documents, like a passport which you need to apply for things like electronic identification (*rafræn skilríki*).

Finding a place to live

After you have been granted protection, you may go on living in the accommodation (place) for people applying for international protection for up to 4 weeks. Therefore, it is important to look for somewhere to live.

Contact the social services according to your domicile, there you can apply for financial assistance and social services. You can find information about the local authorities (municipalities) and their offices here: <https://www.samband.is/sveitarfelog>.

You can 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 grants essential furniture and household equipment according to the local rules in each municipality.
- Apply for regular housing benefit once you found housing
<https://hms.is/husnaedisbaetur>
- Special housing benefit: Extra monthly payments to help with renting an apartment, in addition to the regular housing benefit
- Financial benefits for children (*barnabætur*).

- **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 outpatients' infectious diseases departments of hospitals.
 - Grants for dental treatment.
 - Specialist assistance from social workers, psychiatrists, or psychologists.

NB: all applications are judged individually and you have to meet all the conditions set for receiving assistance.

For work:

- **You can book an appointment with a counsellor through your social worker or by yourself at the Directorate of Labour (Vinnumálastofnun, VMST)**
 - To get help with finding work and other ways of being active
 - Registering for a course (lessons) in Icelandic and learning about Icelandic society
 - Get advice about studying (learning) together with work

For your children:

- **Register in the online system of your municipality**
 - You need to register in your municipality's online system, of your municipality such as Rafræn Reykjavík, Mitt Reykjanes, or Mínar 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 carry you through to the time when the tax office will start paying full child benefit.
 - Special assistance for children, to cover costs such as pre-school fees, after-school activities, summer camps or leisure activities.

- **Apply to the Social Insurance Administration (TR; Tryggingastofnun) for financial support for single parents**
 - Information (in English) about TR's services: <https://island.is/en/child-support>
 - A request to TR for child-support payment is made through island.is: <https://island.is/beidni-um-tr-milligangi-medlag>
 - Single parent allowance: <https://island.is/en/single-parent-allowances>