

Financial Aid for Continued Housing

The Lifestyle Security Support Office (Self-Reliance Support Center) is supporting those who have lost their housing, or are in danger of losing their housing, due to economic difficulties from losing their job or closing down their business. In addition to offering support funds equivalent to rent, the center provides help in maintaining housing and employment opportunities.

Prerequisites for Aid

All conditions must be met at the time of application to be eligible.

- 1) Those who have lost their housing or are in danger of losing their housing due to economic difficulties from job loss, etc.
- 2) Either:
 - A) Those who are within 2 years of loss of job/closure of business on the day of application (※ Excluding those who were unable to look for work for 30 consecutive days or longer in the 2 years since job loss/business closure, due to illness, injury, childrearing, etc.) or
 - B) Those who, through no fault of their own, have fewer opportunities to make money through their work, in a similar situation to those who have lost their job/closed their business
※ This includes self-employed people, freelancers, and students who are paying their own tuition and living expenses
- 3) Those who were the main earner on the day of job loss/business closure
- 4) The total household income (including childrearing allowance or other forms of public aid) does not exceed the set amount per household member (standard amount + rent) during the month in which the application is submitted

Table of Standard Income Amounts per Household Members

No. of people in household	Standard amount	Rent (upper limit)	Standard income total (upper limit)
1	78,000 yen	31,000 yen	109,000 yen
2	115,000 yen	37,000 yen	152,000 yen
3	140,000 yen	40,000 yen	180,000 yen
4	175,000 yen	40,000 yen	215,000 yen
5	209,000 yen	40,000 yen	249,000 yen

- 5) On the day of application, the applicant and their household's total savings do not exceed the following:

Table of Financial Asset Amounts per Household Members

No. of people in household	Financial assets
1	468,000 yen
2	690,000 yen
3	840,000 yen
4 or more	1,000,000 yen

- 6) Registration with an official public employment security office (PESO, i.e. Hello Work) and earnestly looking for full time work (defined as work without a decided end date, or contract work of 6 months or more) through submitting applications through the free referral services of a PESO
 ※ Excluding those who fit Prerequisite 2(B), if their activities are recognized as contributing to their self-reliance
- 7) Neither the applicant nor anyone in the applicant's household is an organized crime group member as prescribed by the Act to Prevent Unjust Acts by Organized Crime Group Members (Act 77 of 1991, Article 2, Item 6)
- 8) Neither the applicant nor anyone in the applicant's household benefits from similar autonomous financial assistance systems

Amount and Timeframe

Amount

The upper limits for rent assistance is 31,000 yen for solo householders, 37,000 yen for 2 person households, 40,000 yen for households of 3-5, 43,000 yen for households of 6, and 48,000 yen for households of 7 or more. However, if the total household income exceeds the standard amount during the month of application, then the support funds will be decided by the following calculation:

Rent – (total household income from that month – standard amount) = support funds amount

Getting Funds

Every month, the rent amount will be directly deposited from the city to the lessor's/real estate company's bank account. This does not include common area usage fees, maintenance fees, parking fees, etc.

※ Exceptions for payment by credit card, payment sheet, or guarantor company.

Timeframe

3 months, as a rule

However, those who seriously look for work and otherwise meet the requirements may be able to extend the timeframe for three months (limited to 2 extensions.)

Obligations while Receiving Aid

The following job searching actions are all required during reception of aid.

1. Meeting with Lifestyle Security (Self-Reliance Support Center) for guidance at least four times a month
 2. Having employment consultations at least twice a month at an official public employment security office (PESO, i.e. Hello Work) and using their free referral services
 3. Sending out an application or having an interview at least once a week
- ※ Excluding those who fit Prerequisite 2(B), if their activities are recognized as contributing to their self-reliance

Required Documents

1. Application for Financial Aid for Continued Housing for the Impoverished
 2. Confirmation Application for Financial Aid for Continued Housing
 3. Notification on Current Housing Situation (or Notification on Intended Housing Situation)
 4. Copy of applicant's personal ID (either driver's license, My Number card, basic residence card, passport, disability handbook, health insurance card, resident certificate, *koseki*, etc.)
 5. (If applicable) copy of documents that confirm job loss or business closure within the last 2 years (letter of resignation, unemployment benefits certificate, etc.)
 6. (If applicable) copy of documents that confirm loss of income (furlough notice from employer, documentation of continuous loss of income up until the application date, etc.)
 7. Documentation of all householders' assets (copies of bankbooks, etc.)
 8. Copies of documentation of all householders' income during the application month (pay slips, pension refund notifications, unemployment benefits certificate, etc.)
 9. Copy of rent contract
- ※ Other documents may also be requested.

About Re-Applications

People whose housing aid has come to an end may be able to get additional funds through re-application, if they meet the following additional requirements.

- 1) Economic difficulties due to job loss at the employer's discretion (excluding job loss through no fault of the employee) after aid has come to an end
- 2) Aid is recognized as being necessary to support job hunting, if job hunting requirements are once more being met within two years after not meeting requirements due to illness or injury while receiving aid
- 3) Business closure (except in the case of employee fault or closure at the owner's discretion)
- 4) Loss of income at a similar level to those who have lost their job/closed their business, through no fault of their own/not at the individual's discretion

※ For 1), 3), and 4), getting funds through re-application is possible once a year has passed from the month after aid concluded.

※ For 1), and in the case of applications before March 31st, 2024, re-applications may be taken without waiting a year.

※ As of March 31st, 2023, re-applications due to special circumstances are no longer being taken.

Application Forms

Please see the Japanese-language page for the relevant forms.

Contact

Lifestyle Security Support Office

023-0801 Oshu-shi Mizusawa Yokomachi 2-1 Maple basement

Phone: 0197-47-4546

Fax: 0197-47-4547

Call Center for Financial Aid for Continued Housing

Phone: 0120-23-5572

Hours: 9:00AM – 9:00PM every day

※ Run by the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare; they are providing referrals to the housing aid system.