

## Access To Welfare

### Access to the welfare system and allowances for refugees in Greece:

If you are a recognised refugee or a beneficiary of subsidiary protection, you have the right by law to receive the necessary social assistance under the same conditions as Greek nationals. The Greek welfare system is supervised by the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity, Welfare General Secretariat.

The following entities are supervised by the Ministry.

- Legal entities of Public Law, Welfare Providers, such as the Centre for the Education and Rehabilitation of Blind Persons, the National Deaf Institution and the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA);
- The Social Welfare Centres in all the regions of the country;
- The private welfare agencies in Greece, that are accredited by the state such as associations, NGOs;
- The agencies in Greece that are registered in the National Registry.

You can find more information [here](#) in Greek, provided by the Ministry.

### Can I access national financial support?

If you are a recognised refugee or a beneficiary of subsidiary protection with a valid residence permit, you may be able to access the national welfare system. It is titled *Social Solidarity Income (SSI)* and it combines:

- Financial support (maximum of 200€ for the head of the family, plus 100€ for any additional adult, plus 50€ per child of the same family; the maximum monthly amount is 900€, regardless of the composition of the household).
- Access to complementary social services, benefits and goods such as free medical care, inclusion in social care facilities and support;
- Services that promote integration into the labour market.

If a member of my family has a disability, can we find support in

## Greece?

If you are a recognised refugee or a beneficiary of subsidiary protection with a valid residence permit, or an applicant of international protection – an asylum seeker with a valid asylum seeker's card not hosted in a Reception Centre, you may go through an assessment procedure to determine whether you qualify for a disability allowance.

To receive the disability benefit you should take the following steps.

**Step 1:** Submit your application. You can do this online [here](#). Note that information in the link is in Greek. Or you can submit an application to the Centre of Disability Accreditation (KE.P.A.) in your area. You can find the list of offices of KE.P.A. in Greece [here](#). Note that information in the link is in Greek. The relevant details and guidelines are provided [here](#) in Greek.

With your application, you must also submit:

- A complete file from your doctor, signed and stamped, as well as with the certification of the doctor's signature. The relevant form is [here](#) in Greek.
- Your residence permit or asylum seeker's card;
- Your health booklet, if you are insured;
- Your social security number (AMKA).

**Step 2:** After submitting your application, you will be informed (usually by phone) about your appointment to meet a Health Committee. After one or two months, you will be informed about the final decision and your disability 'rating'. A rating of 67% is required for persons with disabilities, and 50% for HIV positive persons, in order to qualify for an allowance. If you do not agree with the assessment and rating, you have the right to submit an objection within 10 days of notification. Note that you will need legal advice and support from an NGO in your location to submit an objection.

**Step 3:** The final step of the process is to submit an application to the municipal services in your location. You must also submit:

- The opinion or decision of KE.P.A.;
- Your valid residence permit or asylum seeker's card;
- Your tax clearance note (ekkatharistiko);
- Proof of your residence;
- Bank account details.

The amount of the disability benefit varies, depending on the type of disability and it is periodically adjusted and is paid every two months. If you face difficulties with your application, you may ask for support by an NGO in your location.

You may also contact the National Confederation of Disabled People using these details:  
+30 210 9949837 or e-mail: [refugees@esaea.gr](mailto:refugees@esaea.gr).

## Is there support available for large families?

If you are a recognised refugee with valid residence permit and you legally and permanently lived in Greece for more than ten years, together with your children, you may apply for a special allowance for large families. You can find more information in Greek [here](#), and in English [here](#). You may also ask an NGO in your location for more information.

## If I am more than 67 years old, can I find any support in Greece?

If you are a recognised refugee and meet the following criteria, you have the right to a pension for uninsured elderly, provided by the Agricultural Insurance Organisation (OGA).

- 67 years old or more;
- Have a valid residence permit;
- Do not have insurance;
- Are not entitled to a pension from another country;
- Are not entitled to any other allowance in Greece;
- You have stayed legally in Greece for 15 continuous years.

You may find more information [here](#) in Greek or request support from an NGO in your location.

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