

### Social assistance benefits programs in Romania

The budgetary allocation for all the social assistance benefits programs, during 2011-2019

The budgetary allocation for the social assistance benefits from the budget of the MoLSP, during 2011-2019:	Billion lei	Billion EUR*
2011	8,4	1.98
2012	7,9	1.77
2013	7,9	1.79
2014	8,1	1.82
2015	9,9	2.22
2016	11,7	2.60
2017	13,4	2.93
2018	14,7	3.16
2019	16.5	3.48

\* This is an approximate value resulting from the reference of the official amount to the official annual average currency exchange.

The programs currently implemented by the Ministry of Labor and Social Justice in order to reduce the poverty and promote the social inclusion of all vulnerable groups, are the following:

#### 1. State allowance for children:

- a) **Type of program:** universal benefit
- b) **Eligibility conditions:** state allowance for children is a form of protection granted by the state to all children, without discrimination. Are entitled to the child allowance for children also the children of foreign citizens and stateless persons residing in Romania, if they live with their parents. The program is targeting all children of up to 18 years old and young people over 18 years old who attend classes of high school or professional school, organized according to the law, until their completion.
- c) **Legal framework:**
  - **Law no.61/1993** on state allowance for children, republished with subsequent amendments;
  - **Government Decision no. 577/2008** for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of Law no. 61/1993 on state allowance for children, as well as to regulate the establishment and payment of state allowance for children;
- d) **Monthly amounts,** from the 1st of April 2019:
  - **150 lei** for children with the age between 2 years and 18 years old, and also for young people after the age of 18 until they finish the educational courses or vocational educational courses.
  - **300 lei** for children with the age up to 2 years old or up to 18 years old, in the case of children with disability.

The evolution of the amounts of state allowance for children during 2011-2019:

Type of benefit	Age of the children	July 2011 - 2014 (lei)	2015 (lei)	2016 – March 2019 (lei)	2019 (lei)
State allowance for children (amounts increased starting from June 2015)	children > 2 years	42	42/ 84 (June 2015)	84	150
	Child with disability > 3 years	42	84/200 (June 2015)	200	300
	children < 2 years	200	200	200	300
	Child with disability < 3 years				

## 2. Parental leave and child raising benefit and monthly insertion incentive:

a) **Type of program:** monthly benefit for raising the child

b) **Eligibility conditions:** starting from July 2016 the child raising indemnity and the insertion incentive are granted to the persons who, during the last two years prior to childbirth, earned for 12 months incomes subject to taxation according to the Fiscal Code (incomes from wages, self-employed activities and agriculture activities, including from similar periods, according to the law). The child raising indemnity is a compensation, paid from the state budget, for the parents who interrupt their professional careers and take parental leave to raise children under the age of 2 years or, if a disabled child, up to 3 years.

The amount of the child raising indemnity has been established to 85% of the average professional net income earned by the parent during the last 12 months from the last two years prior to the childbirth. The minimum amount of child raising indemnity has been increased from 1.063 lei to 1.250 lei starting from January 2018. The maximum amount of the indemnity has been established to 8.500 lei starting from September 2017.

People who are entitled to receive child raising indemnity, but still work, earning professional incomes subject to income taxation, will receive a monthly incentive insertion. The monthly insertion incentive is granted until the age of 3 years old, if the parent decides to come back to work 60 days before the child fulfils the age of 2 years old (3 years, in case of disabled child).

Has the right to the child raise indemnity and to the insertion incentive, optionally, any of the parents and also one of the persons who adopted the child, who has a child entrusted for adoption, who has a child in placement or in emergency placement, excepting the foster care person, and also the guardian person. The two benefits are granted for each birth or, as the case may be, for any of the situations aforementioned.

According to Romanian Labor Code (Law no. 53/2003) the employee has the right to ask for the suspension of individual labor contract in order to benefit from the parental leave. According to GEO no. 111/2010 the parental leave is approved by the employer at the request of the person who is entitled with and the employer has the obligation to establish the length of the leave in agreement with the employee.

The legislation regarding parental leave stipulates also other measures of job protection for persons who are entitled to this leave.

c) **Legal framework:**

- **Government Emergency Ordinance no.111/2010** on parental leave and child raising benefits, with subsequent amendments;
- **Government Decision no. 52/2011** for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of GEO no. 111/2010.

d) **Monthly amounts:** minimum 1.250 lei, maximum 8.500 lei, monthly insertion incentive 650 lei.

## 3. Benefits and aids for raising the children with disability:

- a) **Type of program:** categorical benefit (children with disability)
- b) **Eligibility conditions:** the benefits are granted to the persons/parents who take care of their children with disabilities and also to the persons with disabilities who take care of their children.
- c) **Legal framework:**
- **articles 31 and 32 from Government Emergency Ordinance no.111/2010** on parental leave and child raising benefits, with subsequent amendments;
  - **Government Decision no. 52/2011** for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of GEO no. 111/2010.
- d) **Monthly amounts:**
- **monthly benefit for raising the child with disability**, in amount of **1.250 lei**, granted to the persons who take care of children with disabilities, aged between 3 and 7 years old, who benefited from the rights established by GEO no. 111/2010 and who choose to continue with the parental leave until the age of 7 years old of the child.
  - **monthly aid for raising the child with disability**, in amount of **563 lei (45% from the minimum amount of the child raising benefit - 1.250 lei)**, granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, who take care of children with disabilities, aged between 0 and 3 years old, who don't earn any income besides the social assistance benefits for disabled persons.
  - **monthly aid for raising the child with disability**, in amount of **438 lei (35% from the minimum amount of the child raising benefit - 1.250 lei)**, granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, who take care of children with disabilities, aged between 3 and 7 years old, who don't earn any income besides the social assistance benefits for disabled persons.
  - **monthly aid for raising the child with disability**, in amount of **438 lei (35% from the minimum amount of the child raising benefit - 1.250 lei)**, granted to persons who take care of children with disabilities, aged between 0 and 3 years old, who do not fulfill the conditions established by GEO no. 111/2010 for parental leave and child raise benefit.
  - **monthly aid for raising the child with disability**, in amount of **188 lei (15% from the minimum amount of the child raising benefit - 1.250 lei)**, granted to persons who take care of children with disabilities, aged between 3 and 7 years old, who do not fulfill the conditions established by GEO no. 111/2010 for parental leave and child raise benefit.
  - **monthly aid for raising the child**, in amount of **563 lei (45% from the minimum amount of the child raising benefit - 1.250 lei)**, granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, who take care of children aged between 0 and 2 years old, who do not fulfill the conditions established by GEO no. 111/2010 for parental leave and child raise benefit.
  - **monthly aid for raising the child**, in amount of **188 lei (15% from the minimum amount of the child raising benefit - 1.250 lei)**, granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, who take care of children aged between 2 and 7 years old, who do not fulfill the conditions established by GEO no. 111/2010 for parental leave and child raise benefit.

The evolution of the amounts of child raising benefits and of the aids for raising the children with disabilities, during 2011-2019:

Type of benefit	2011 - 2012 (lei)	2013 - 2015 (lei)	2016 (lei)	2017 (lei)	2018-Sem. I 2019 (lei)
<b>Child raising benefit</b>	75% from the average of the professional net incomes earned in the last 12 months before the child birth date, which cannot be less than 600 lei and more than 1.200 lei or 3.400 lei. (from October 2012 85% according to Law no.166/2012)	85% from the average of the professional net incomes earned in the last 12 months before the child birth date, which cannot be less than 600 lei and more than 1.200 lei or 3.400 lei.	85% from the average of the net incomes earned in the last 12 months from the last two years prior to child birth date, which cannot be less than 85% of the minimum gross wage(1.063 lei until 30 January 2017)	85% from the average of the net incomes earned in the last 12 months from the the last two years prior to child birth date, which cannot be less than 85% of the minimum gross wage (minimum amount 1.233 lei from 1st February 2017) maximum amount 8.500 lei from September 2017)	85% from the average of the net incomes earned in the last 12 months from the the last two years prior to child birth date, which cannot be less than 1.250 lei minimum amount from January 2018) Maximum amount:8.500 lei
<b>Benefits and aids for raising the children with disabilities</b> (granted to persons who take care of children with disabilities or for persons with disabilities who take care of children )	150/300/ 450	150/300/ 450	159/372/ 478/531	185/432/ 555/616	188/438/563/625
<b>Insertion incentive</b>	500	500	532	616/650 from 1st April 2017)	650

#### **4. Accommodation leave and benefit:**

- a) **Type of program:** categorical benefit (granted for accommodation with the adopted child);
- b) **Eligibility conditions:** the adoptive person or, optionally, any of the spouses from the adoptive family, who earn incomes subject to income taxes, according to the provisions of the Law no. 227/2015 on Fiscal Code, as subsequently amended and supplemented, from wages and assimilated incomes, from self-employed activities and agricultural activities, can benefit from an accommodation leave of up to one year, which may include also the period of custody of the child for adoption, as well as a monthly allowance.
- c) **Legal framework:**

- article 50 from Law no. 273/2004 on adoption procedure;
  - Government Decision no.579/2016 for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of Law no. 273/2004 on adoption procedure, for the modification and completion of the Government Decision no. 233/2012 regarding the services and activities that may be performed by the Romanian private bodies in the framework of the internal adoption procedure, as well as the methodology for their authorization and for the modification of the Government Decision no. 1.441/2004 regarding the authorization of foreign private organizations to carry out activities in the field of international adoption.
- d) **Monthly amounts:** 1.700 lei.

#### 5. Benefits for persons with disabilities:

- a) **Type of program:** categorical benefit;
- b) **Eligibility conditions:** granted to the adults with disability regardless of their income, depending on the degree of disability, and to the family or legal representative of the child with high disability; high, pronounced and medium. Granted also to the family or the legal representative of the child with disability, regardless of their income.
- c) **Legal framework:**
- art. 58 from Law no. 448/2006 on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.
- d) **Monthly amounts:**
- **Monthly indemnity granted to persons with disabilities:**
    - 350 lei, granted to the adult with high disability, regardless of their income;
    - 265 lei, granted to the adult with pronounced disability, regardless of their income.
  - **Monthly complementary budget for persons with disabilities:**
    - 150 adults/300 for children, granted to the adult with high disability and to the family or legal representative of the child with high disability, regardless of their income;
    - 110 adults/175 for children, granted to the adult with pronounced disability and to the family or legal representative of the child with pronounced disability, regardless of their income;
    - 60 for adults and children, granted to the adult with medium disability and to the family or legal representative of the child with medium disability, regardless of their income.

#### 6. Family support allowance:

- a) **Type of program:** income tested benefit
- b) **Eligibility conditions:** granted to families made of husband and wife who take care of their children, those being up to 18 years old, living and contributing to the household together and earning net monthly income per family member up to 530 lei. The right to family support allowance is established by taking into account the incomes and the assets of the family referred to in the *List of assets leading to the exclusion of the right*, Annex of the GD no.50/2011. The program increases the children's education by introducing the school attendance conditionality for school children from beneficiary families; the amount of the allowance can be adjusted or diminished based on their school absences.
- c) **Legal framework:**
- Law no. 277/2010 on family support allowance, with subsequent amendments;
  - Government Decision no.38/2011 for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of Law no. 277/2010 on family support allowance.
- d) **Monthly amounts:**

Levels of incomes	Type of family	Number of children	Monthly amounts
monthly net income per family member up to 200 lei	Two-parent family	with 1 child	82
		with 2 children	164
		with 3 children	246
		with 4 children or more	328
monthly net income per		with 1 child	75

family member between 200 lei and 530 lei		with 2 children	150
		with 3 children	225
		with 4 children or more	300
monthly net income per family member up to 200 lei	Single-parent family	with 1 child	107
		with 2 children	214
		with 3 children	321
		with 4 children or more	428
monthly net income per family member between 200 lei and 530 lei	Single-parent family	with 1 child	102
		with 2 children	204
		with 3 children	306
		with 4 children or more	408

## 7. Child placement allowance:

- a) **Type of program:** categorical program;
- b) **Eligibility conditions:** Granted from the state budget for each child or young person who benefits from the measure of placement to a person, family, guardian, foster parent or to residential care organized by an authorized private body. Thus, the families are encouraged to take in placement abandoned children, providing a family climate that is so necessary for growth and harmonious development. This allowance is paid until the age of 18 years old of the child and after 18, if the measure of placement is continued after this age.
- c) **Legal framework:** article 128 from **Law no.272/2004** on protection and promotion of the children rights;
- d) **Monthly amounts:** 600 lei; for children with disabilities this amount is increased by 50%, reaching to 900 lei.

## 8. The educational incentive:

- a) **Type of program:** categorical program;
- b) **Eligibility conditions:** this program addresses to children from disadvantaged families, in order to stimulate their participation to preschool education. Is granted as a social ticket for increasing their access to education. The educational incentive is granted to the disadvantaged families if the following criteria are met:
- the child is in the evidence of a preschool unit according to National education Law no.1/2011;
  - the monthly income per family member is up to twice the level of minimum income guaranteed for a single person, namely 284 lei;
- c) **Legal framework:**
- **Law no. 248/2015** on stimulating the participation into preschool education of the children from disadvantaged families.
  - **Government Decision no.15/2016** for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of no. 248/2015.
- d) **Monthly amounts:** 50 lei/monthly for each child enrolled at the kindergarten.

## 9. Social aid:

- a) **Type of program:** income tested benefit
- b) **Eligibility conditions:** granted to families or single persons with low or no income, in a state of social need, in order to overcome the situation he/she is in. It is established as the difference between the monthly net income of the eligible family or single person and the monthly level of the guaranteed minimum income provided by the law. The right to social aid is established by taking into account the incomes of the family and also the assets of the family referred to in the *List of assets leading to the exclusion of the right*, Annex of the GD no.50/2011.
- c) **Legal framework:**
- **Law no. 416/2001** on the guaranteed minimum income, with subsequent amendments;
  - **Government Decision no.50/2011** for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of Law no.416/2001 on the guaranteed minimum income.
- d) **Monthly amounts:** monthly levels of the guaranteed minimum income:

- a. 142 lei for single person;
- b. 255 lei for family with 2 persons;
- c. 357 lei for family with 3 persons;
- d. 442 lei for family with 4 persons;
- e. 527 lei for family with 5 persons;
- f. 37 lei for each additional person exceeding the number of 5 who is a family member, according to law.

**10. House heating aids:**

**Type of program:** income tested benefit

- b) **Eligibility conditions:** the house heating aids are granted in order to compensate part of the costs with house heating during the cold season. These social protection measures are granted to single persons and families whose monthly net medium incomes per family member are up to a certain threshold established by law. The right to house heating aid is established by taking into account the incomes of the family and also the assets of the family referred to the *List of assets leading to the exclusion of the right*, Annex of the GD no.50/2011.
- c) **Legal framework:**
  - **Government Emergency Ordinance no.70/2011** on social protection measures during the cold season, with subsequent amendments;
  - **Government Decision no.920/2011** for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of GEO no.70/2011 on social protection measures during the cold season;
- d) **Monthly amounts:** the levels of incomes and the amounts of house heating aids:

Levels of incomes lei	Percentage compensation for house heating in centralized system	
	Families	Single persons
up to 155	90%	100%
155,1 - 210	80%	90%
210,1 - 260	70%	80%
260,1 - 310	60%	70%
310,1 - 355	50%	60%
355,1 - 425	40%	50%
425,1 - 480	30%	40%
480,1 - 540	20%	30%
540,1 - 615	10%	20%
615,1 - 786	5%	15%
786,1 - 1082		10%

Levels of incomes lei	Monthly amounts house heating with natural gas lei	Monthly amounts house heating with electric energy lei	Monthly amounts house heating with wood, coal and oil lei
up to 155	26	240	54
155,1 - 210	19	216	48
210,1 - 260	15	192	44
260,1 - 310	10	168	39
310,1 - 355	90	144	34
355,1 - 425	70	120	30
425,1 - 480	45	96	26
480,1 - 540	35	72	20
540,1 - 750	20	48	16

## 11. Emergency aids:

- a) **Type of program:** income tested benefit;
- b) **Eligibility conditions:** according to the national legislation, families and people in need, as a result of natural disasters, fires, accidents or any other special situations due to health or other causes that may lead to the risk of social exclusion, can benefit from emergency aids established by Government Decision.
- c) **Legal framework:**
  - Law no. 416/2001 on the guaranteed minimum income, with subsequent amendments;
  - Government Decision no.50/2011 for approving the methodological norms which apply the provisions of Law no.416/2001 on the guaranteed minimum income.
- d) **Monthly amounts:**

Emergency aids are granted within the limits of the amounts allocated to this purpose in the budget of Ministry of Labor and Social Justice, in order to cover basic needs, especially maintaining housing and ensuring living conditions, access to medical services and/or recovery health or work capacity, tackling the causes that can lead to school dropout, as well as any other causes that can induce to the risk of social exclusion.

## 12. Non-reimbursable aid for refugees:

- a) **Type of program:** categorical benefit;
- b) **Eligibility conditions:** According to Law no. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, with subsequent modifications and completions, establishes during the asylum procedure, the foreigner who are requesting a form of protection in Romania, has the right to social assistance, according to Law no. 292/2011 on social assistance, with subsequent modifications and completions. According to the provisions of article 20 from Law no. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, acknowledging refugee status or granting subsidiary protection offers the beneficiary the right to benefit from social assistance measures under the conditions stipulated by law for Romanian citizens and also the right to receive on request, within the limits of the disposable finances of the state, a non-reimbursable aid for a period of maximum 9 months if, due to objective reasons, one does not have the necessary financial means of existence. This aid can be extended for another period of maximum 3 months.
- c) **Legal framework:**
  - Law no. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, with subsequent modifications and completions.
- d) **Monthly amounts:** 540 lei.