# Worth knowing about housing benefit in 5 points

### Many can receive housing benefit

Housing benefit helps with the payment of housing costs: state aid that anyone whose income is insufficient can receive. Pensioners, unemployed people on unemployment benefit 1 and families with more than two children in particular are very often entitled to housing benefit. Important: Anyone who already receives support for their housing costs, e.g. citizen's allowance from the job centre or basic income support, can not also receive housing benefit.

## Housing benefit pays off extra

Those who receive housing benefit are entitled to the "Deutschlandticket Sozial" for bus and train, receive education and participation benefits for their children, are exempt from daycare fees and can visit the theatre and many other Solingen facilities at a reduced price with the Solingen Pass.

#### Housing benefit is also available for residential property

Housing benefit not only helps with rent, but also those who own their own house or flat. The encumbrance allowance helps with the payment of loan instalments, property tax, maintenance costs and more. The flat must be the family's main residence and must be located in Solingen - the housing benefit does not finance a holiday home or future retirement home.

#### Simply do a trial calculation

You can find a 'housing benefit calculator' on the Internet that you can use to test whether you are entitled to housing benefit. You can find it on the Internet at <a href="www.wohngeldrechner.nrw.de">www.wohngeldrechner.nrw.de</a>. The result is non-binding, so the payment amounts may still differ afterwards, but it is a good indication of whether you could be entitled to housing benefit. If you want, you can submit an application directly at the end of the online calculation, but unfortunately you still have to submit all the documents to Solingen town hall. (Rathaus)

## Direct line: call or email!

The housing benefit office (Wohngeldstelle) in Solingen town hall (Rathaus) works quickly and can be reached in many ways.

The service telephone 0212/290-2425 is always available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.. The staff answers most questions and concerns immediately.

Additional documents or questions can be sent by e-mail to wohngeldstelle@solingen.de.

Appointments for applications can be made via the service telephone or online on the website of the City of Solingen. Important: the appointments must be kept!

Juliane Hilbricht, Head of Housing Department