

Romania: Major social assistance benefits

1. Child state allowance is an universal benefit, a fixed sum paid for all children until they reach the age of 18 (and to children older than 18 who are continuing school). The allowance amounts to 200 lei (about €50) for children under the age of two and to 42 lei (about €10) for those older than two. In the case of children with disabilities, the higher allowance (i.e.200 lei, about €50) is available until the child's third year of age, followed by an allowance of 84 lei (about €20) for older children.

A new social assistance law was adopted in December 2011 (Law 292/2011). Under this new law, social assistance benefits are linked to the Social Reference Indicator (SRI) in order to ensure compatibility with unemployment insurance benefits (according to law no. 76/2002 on the unemployment insurance system and stimulation of the employment including subsequent amendments). This will also create the basis for implementing an integrated IT system which will ensure comparability and linkages between different social protection measures (contributory or non-contributory), which are provided for a person or a family. Hence, the eligibility thresholds and amounts of social assistance benefits are established in relation to the SRI by applying a social insertion index.

2. From 1 January 2011, the legislation on **child raising allowance** was modified so that currently parents are able to choose between two different ways of receiving parental leave and child raising benefits:

Option I: Parental leave and child raising allowance until the child is 12 months old:

- monthly child raising allowance in the amount of 85% of the average net income over the last 12 months before the child's birth date; the minimum is 1,2 SRI (600 lei, about €30) and the maximum 6,8 SRI (3,400 lei, about €550 EURO).
- monthly incentive paid until the child is two in the amount of 1 SRI (500 lei, about €10 EURO), if the parent decides to return to work before the child reaches the age of one.
- unpaid parental leave when the child is aged between one and two years, if the parent decides not to return to work.

Option II: Parental leave and child raising allowance until the child is 24 months old:

- monthly child raising allowance in the amount of 85% of the average net income over the last 12 months before the child's birth date. The minimum is 1,2 SRI (600 lei about €30) and maximum 2,4 SRI (1,200 lei about €300).
- monthly incentive paid until the child is two in the amount of 1 SRI (500 lei, about €10 EURO), if the parent decides to return to work after the child reaches the age of one.

The program for granting child raising benefits, which started on 1 January 2011, includes a dynamic element: parents who come back to work are entitled to a monthly incentive covering total or partial cost for child day care. In addition, during the period of parental leave and 6

months afterwards, the parent taking the leave has guaranteed job protection which means that the employer cannot dismiss him/her.

3. Program for granting family allowance, stipulated by law no. 277/2010. This allowance is based on means testing and is paid to families with children if the monthly net family income (divided by the number of family members) is lower than a threshold of 1,06 SRI (530 lei about €120).

The programme is designed to ensure better conditions for the care, education and raising of children and also to stimulate school attendance of children of school age in families who benefit from this allowance. The objective is to increase the chances of a secured future, of personal welfare through own efforts.

In 2013, additional measures were regulated to ensure protection for the most vulnerable groups of population, by increasing generosity of family allowance, with an increase of 30 % in the amount. The coverage was increased by raising the thresholds of the net income/family member up to which they can receive the family allowance (June 2013).

4. Programme for granting guaranteed minimum income (social aid) according to the conditions and amounts provided by law no. 416/2001 on guaranteed minimum income (including subsequent modifications and completions); the social aid is established as the difference between the guaranteed minimum income levels stipulated by law and the monthly net income of the eligible family or single person.

This programme is aimed at encouraging social inclusion. It includes incentives to work — the eligible individual who has a job obtains an increase of 15% in benefits — and promotes the principles of responsibility, active participation of beneficiaries through involvement in work, and activities for the benefit of the community. Starting 1 January 2011, the payment of social benefits is provided by county agencies and the funds for benefit payments are sustained from the state budget (according to law no. 276/2010, amending law no. 416/2001 on guaranteed minimum income).

In 2013, additional measures were regulated to ensure protection measures for the most vulnerable groups of population, by increasing generosity of GMI, with an increase of 13 % (by January 2014) in the amount.

5. Programme for heating allowance during the cold season (according to the Emergency Government Ordinance no. 70/2011 regarding measures of social protection during the cold season). This is available to families who use thermal energy in a centralized house heating system, persons who use natural gas, wood, coal, oil, and electricity, starting with 2013, are eligible to benefit from these measures. The Emergency Government Ordinance stipulates the maximum income of a person or a family for being eligible to the heating allowance, and it stipulates allowance amounts for heating with natural gas, wood, coal, oil, electricity and thermal energy in a centralized system.

In 2013, additional measures were regulated to ensure protection measures for the most vulnerable groups of population, including to reduce the negative impact of increasing prices of electricity and natural gases, by including in the heating benefits, eligibility for electrical energy reimbursements up to a threshold (2013).

6. Social benefits for people with disabilities (according to law no. 448/2006 regarding the protection and promotion of rights of people with disabilities). Adults with disabilities are entitled to the following social benefits: a monthly benefit regardless of income; monthly personal complementary budget, regardless of income. The family or guardian of a child with a mild, medium or severe type of disability also have the right to this social benefit during the time in which the child is in their care, supervision and support.

7. Allowance for children in foster care, of 97 lei (21 euro) granted for the material support of families or private authorized body to which the child was given in foster care, according to Law no.272/2004. Is granted from the state budget for each child in this situation.

8. Aid for refugees – granted to each person who acquired a form of protection in Romania.

9. Food allowances for people with HIV / AIDS, granted to support food needs in the specific treatment they follow.

10. Financial and emergency aids, are occasional granted for situations of need due to natural disasters, fires, accidents, or other serious health affecting situations or other special situations that may lead to the risk of social exclusion.

Social assistance benefits programmes – 2014

No.	Project/Programme	Legislative act which regulates the provision	Conditions for granting the benefits	2014
				Amount (lei)
1.	State allowance for children > 2, 3 years old	Law no. 61/1993, republished	Granted to children of up to 18 years old and young people over 18 years old who attend classes of high school or professional school, organised according to the law, until their completion	42/84
	State allowance for children < 2 years old	Law no. 61/1993, GEO no. 148/2005		200
	State allowance for children with disabilities < 3 years old			
2.	Family allowance	Law no. 277/2010		
			Two-parent families	
	- families with 1 child		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 200 lei	40
	- families with 2 children			80
	- families with 3 children			120
	- families with 4 or more children			160
	- families with 1 child		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 between 201 lei and 530 lei	33
	- families with 2 children			66
	- families with 3 children			99
	- families with 4 or more children			132
			Single-parent families	
- families with 1 child	Granted to families made of a single person who takes care of his/her children, those being up to 18 years old, living together and	65		
- families with 2 children		130		
- families with 3 children		195		

	- families with 4 or more children		earning net monthly income per family member of up to 200 lei	260
	- families with 1 child		Granted to families made of a single person who takes care of his/her children, those being up to 18 years old, living together and earning net monthly income per family member between 201 lei and 530 lei	60
	- families with 2 children			120
	- families with 3 children			180
	- families with 4 or more children			240
3.	Monthly placement allowance	Law no. 272/2004	Granted to families and persons, for each child who benefits from the measure of placement or guardianship	97
4.	Non-refundable aid for refugees	Law no. 122/2006	Granted to persons having the legal status of refugee or who benefit from subsidiary protection, persons who, from objective reasons, do not have the necessary means of existence	540
5.	Monthly food allowance (HIV/AIDS)	Law no. 584/2002; GD no. 1177/2003	Granted to adults and children infected with HIV/AIDS with in-house treatment, institutionalised and non-in-house treatment	13 lei/day for adults 11 lei/day for children
6.	Child raising allowance	GEO no. 111/2010	Granted to persons who, during the year prior to the birth of the child, earned, for 12 months, incomes subject to taxation according to Law no. 571/2003 regarding the Fiscal Code, including from similar periods, according to the law	Leave and allowance for child raising up to 1 year old, of 600 lei or 85% of the median professional income, but no more than 3,400 lei Leave and allowance for child raising up to 2 years old, of 600 lei or 85% of the median professional income, but no more than 1,200 lei
7.	Insertion incentive	GEO no. 111/2010	Granted to persons entitled to benefit from the child raising allowance up to 1 year old	500

			and who return to the professional activity until the child turns 1 year old and earns incomes subject to taxation according to Law no. 571/2003	
8.	Allowances and aids for raising the child with disability, from which:	Art. 31 and 32 in GEO no. 111/2010		
	Monthly allowance granted to persons with children with disabilities, aged between 3 and 7 years old, who benefited from the rights established by GEO no. 111/2010		Granted to persons with children with disabilities, aged between 3 and 7 years old, who benefited from the rights established by GEO no. 111/2010	450
	Monthly allowance granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, with children with disabilities, aged between 0 and 3 years old, who earn just the incomes established by art.58		Granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, with children with disabilities, aged between 0 and 3 years old, who earn just the incomes established by art.58 paragraph (4)	450
	Monthly allowance granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, with children with disabilities, aged between 3 and 7 years old, who earn just the incomes established by art.58 paragraph (4)		Granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, with children with disabilities, aged between 3 and 7 years old, who earn just the incomes established by art.58 paragraph (4)	300
	Monthly allowance granted to persons with children with disabilities, aged between 0 and 3 years old, who do not fullfil the conditions established by GEO no.		Granted to persons with children with disabilities, aged between 0 and 3 years old, who do not fullfil the conditions established by GEO no. 111/2010	300

	111/2010			
	Monthly allowance granted to persons with children with disabilities, aged between 3 and 7 years old, who do not fullfil the conditions established by GEO no. 111/2010		Granted to persons with children with disabilities, aged between 3 and 7 years old, who do not fullfil the conditions established by GEO no. 111/2010	150
	Monthly allowance granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, with children aged between 0 and 2 years old, who earn just the incomes established by art.58 paragraph (4)		Granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, with children aged between 0 and 2 years old, who earn just the incomes established by art.58 paragraph (4)	450
	Monthly allowance granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, with children aged between 2 and 7 years old, who earn just the incomes established by art.58 paragraph (4)		Granted to persons with high/pronounced disabilities, with children aged between 2 and 7 years old, who earn just the incomes established by art.58 paragraph (4)	150
9.	Monthly allowance granted to persons with disabilities	Art. 58 in Law no. 448/2006	Granted to the adult with high disability, regardless of their income	202
			Granted to the adult with pronounced disability, regardless of their income	166
	Monthly complementary budget for persons with disabilities		Granted to the adult with high disability and to the family or legal representative of the child with high disability, regardless of their income	91

			Granted to the adult with pronounced disability and to the family or legal representative of the child with pronounced disability, regardless of their income	68
			Granted to the adult with medium disability and to the family or legal representative of the child with medium disability, regardless of their income	33,5
	Food allowance for children with HIV/AIDS		Granted to the children with HIV/AIDS disability type, during family nursing	11 lei/day
	Allowance for payment of the companion of a person with high visual disability		Granted to the adult with high visual disability who asks for the allowance for the payment of a companion, equivalent to the net salary of the entry level social assistant with highschool degree from the social assistance institutions from the budgetary sector, other than the residential ones	525
10.	The minimum guaranteed income	Law no. 416/2001	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	Single person – 142 lei
				Family with 2 persons – 255 lei
				Family with 3 persons – 357 lei
				Family with 4 persons – 442 lei
				Family with 5 persons – 527 lei
For each other person over the number of 5 persons - 37 lei				
11.	Aid for house heating with thermal energy	GEO no. 70/2011	Granted to families whose monthly net medium income per family member is up to 786 lei and to single persons whose monthly net medium income is up to 1.082 lei, who	Percentile compensation of the value of the invoice for thermal energy

			do not own goods referred to in Annex 4 of GD no. 50/2011 that use thermal energy for heating the house	
12.	Aid for house heating with natural gas	GEO no. 70/2011	Granted to single persons and to families whose monthly net medium income per family member is up to 615 lei, who do not own goods referred to in Annex 4 of GD no. 50/2011 that use natural gas for heating the house	Aids between 19 lei and 262 lei
13.	Aid for house heating with electric energy	GEO no. 70/2011 (modified and completed through GO no. 27/2013)	Granted to single persons and to families whose monthly net medium income per family member is up to 615 lei, who do not own goods referred to in Annex 4 of GD no. 50/2011 that use electric energy for heating the house	Aids between 48 lei and 240 lei
14.	Aid for house heating with wood, coal and oil	GEO no. 70/2011	Granted to single persons and to families whose monthly net medium income per family member is up to 615 lei, who do not own goods referred to in Annex 4 of GD no. 50/2011 that use wood, coal and oil for heating the house	Aids between 16 lei and 54 lei, respectively 58 lei for social aid beneficiaries
15.	Emergency aids	Law no. 416/2001	Through Government Decision various amounts are granted to families and persons that are in needy situations caused by natural disasters, fire, accidents, as well as other special situations caused by illness or other causes that can lead to the risk of social exclusion	Granted for covering the basic needs of the family or of the single person found in one of the situations established by law
16.	Contributions for health social insurance for persons that benefit from child raising benefits	GEO no. 111/2010, Law no. 448/2006	Granted for persons that benefit from child raising benefits according to the provisions of GEO no. 111/2010 and art. 12, letter b of Law no. 448/2006	5,5% of the child raising benefits
17.	Contributions for health social	Law no. 416/2001	Granted for persons that benefit from social	5,5% of the social aid

	insurance for persons that benefit from social aid		aids according to the provisions of Law no. 416/2001	
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