



Social Relief

Contact details RCN-Unit SZW

Social Relief Department Saba

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Social Relief Department St. Eustatius

Cottage Road z/n, Oranjestad

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Consulting hours social relief:

Monday through Thursday from 08:00 am to 12:00 noon



Social Relief

Is your income insufficient to make a living, for example because you are unemployed or because your AOV benefit has been cut? Social relief is a contribution of the Central Government to support residents of the Caribbean Netherlands who are (temporarily) unable to make ends meet. RCN-Unit SZW is the government authority that provides social relief and ensures that its recipients comply with the conditions set by law to be eligible for social relief.

Who can apply for social relief?

- People that are at least 18 years of age;
- People who were born in the Caribbean Netherlands or who have been legally living there for at least 5 years;
- People with insufficient income to make a living.

Social relief amounts

The social relief amounts differ per island. They may also change annually, depending on inflation. The support consists of a basic rate. There are also individual allowances such as independent living allowance, an allowance for married people, for people with children who still live at home and for people who are not able to work. During your consultation visit, we will evaluate your personal situation. Social relief is paid once every two weeks.

What should you do if your situation changes?

If you receive social relief and your personal situation changes, for example because you get a job, you move in with your partner, or your child(ren) move out, then you are obligated to inform the SZW unit of this change. Omitting to do so can lead to a temporary stop of your allowance or to a reduction of the amount. SZW can also request information from third parties to check on your personal situation, for example through your employer.

Special Social Relief

If you incur unexpected large expenses that you cannot pay for, you may be eligible for special social relief from the SZW unit. Unexpected large expenses that may be compensated are for example a medical diet, a refrigerator, a washing machine or a bed.

Apply for special social relief

If you want to apply for special social relief, you can visit SZW during consultation hours for social relief. An employee of the support department will ask you questions about your personal situation and will assess whether you meet the requirements.

Special social relief is not paid to you in cash. If you are eligible, SZW will (partly) pay the supplier directly.

Contact us to inquire about the necessary documents for your application for special assistance.

Important Information

In order to determine if you are entitled to social assistance, you must supply SZW with information about your personal and financial situation. Strict rules are applicable:

- You are obligated to react to every call from SZW to report to them. This is to determine if you are entitled to (special) social relief and if so, to determine the amount you are entitled to.
- You must provide SZW with all the information required to determine your entitlement to (special) social relief.
- SZW can request information about you from other authorities to check and verify your right to (special) social relief.
- SZW will reject an application for (special) social relief if you do not cooperate with the investigation or if incorrect or incomplete information is provided.
- If you provided inaccurate or incomplete information to receive (special) social relief, SZW can reclaim the amount you've received.

