



# Housing

## HOUSING AND THE HOSPICE GENERAL

You have just arrived in Geneva and receiving assistance from the Hospice général (HG). Do you have questions about your accommodations?

This document answers the following questions:

- What is the current housing situation in Geneva?
- What are the procedures when I arrive in Geneva? Who pays the rent?
- What is the HG's amount of participation for my rent?
- Does the HG cover WIFI, cable TV and phone subscriptions?
- What is the Serafe fee?
- If I am housed with a private lease or placed with a host family, do I need to take out civil liability (RC) / rental insurance?
- How do I move from a collective accommodation center to HG individual accommodations?
- How should I proceed for accommodations outside of the HG system if I have an F or B permit?

## What is the current housing situation in Geneva?

The canton of Geneva, unlike other cantons, has insufficient housing and a long waitlist for accommodations that includes residents of Geneva.

Please note that in Geneva, most people do not own their lodgings. They lease their apartments, paying monthly rent and utilities.

## What are the procedures when I arrive in Geneva?

The HG's role is to support you and provide you with accommodations upon your arrival.

If you already have a place to sleep, great! Let the social worker you meet know so that they can tell you how to proceed!

If you need accommodations, do not worry, you will be housed in a collective accommodation center. You will receive free minibus transportation from the center of Bouchet to the residence facility.

In these collective accommodation centers, you will meet people who work at the Hospice général. A collective intervention social worker will be present to propose various activities for integration and ensure harmony at the center. Furthermore, a social steward will be present to assist you in daily maintenance tasks and upkeep and will explain how residents' participation within the center functions.

You can participate in different activities and please do not hesitate to ask the team working at the collective accommodation center for more information!

## Who pays the rent?

If your accommodations are outside the HG structures but you are still helped financially, you must pay your own rent and utilities.

The HG does not intervene directly in this transaction since the lease or sublease are in your name directly and are therefore your responsibility (you will get refund every month by showing a proof of reimbursement).

## What is the HG's amount of participation for my rent?

### **Non-HG housing lease (permit N, F, B):**

- If you are accommodated through a private realty agency: The HG's financial participation for the rent is defined in the scale tables below
- If accommodations are made available to you: The HG's financial participation for the rent is defined in the scale tables below



Warning! The amount of the HG's financial participation for rent varies according to your status.

Maximum amount of contribution to housing costs for accommodations outside HG (through a private realty agency)		
Amount of person	Financial contribution for rent and utilities, with a lease or sublease signed by the HG beneficiary	
	Permit N/F	Permit F/B refugees
1 person	CHF 800.00	CHF 1100.00
2 persons	CHF 1000.00	CHF 1300.00
3 persons	CHF 1200.00	CHF 1500.00
4 persons	CHF 1400.00	CHF 1650.00
5 persons	CHF 1600.00	CHF 1800.00
6 persons *	CHF 1800.00	CHF 1950.00

\*Above six persons, the amount taken into consideration will be determined based on all the elements of the situation also when the actual rent is higher than the maximum amount allowed

In the case of an apartment or a room sublet, accommodations are regularly inspected to guarantee appropriate and adequate living conditions.

#### Does the HG cover WIFI, cable TV and phone subscriptions?

The HG does not cover or reimburse media subscriptions in apartments.

These amounts are included in the assistance allocation standards or in the utilities paid with the rent.

#### What is the Serafe fee?

The Serafe fee is used to finance radio and television programs. If you do not have a TV or radio or a smartphone/tablet in your home, you are not required to pay this tax. Otherwise, the annual Serafe fee is your responsibility. However, this fee is not applicable to people living in collective accommodation centers.

For more information, contact your social worker.



If I am housed with a private lease or placed with a host family, do I need to take out civil liability (RC) / rental insurance?

If you receive financial assistance and housing from the HG, or with a private person, you are automatically insured by the collective civil liability and rental insurance contract signed by HG.

**If you no longer receive assistance from the HG, whatever your status, the following people remain insured:**

- HG accommodations: as long as you live in the housing unit.
- Non-HG accommodations: until the end of the current calendar year. You will then have to contract civil liability / rental insurance in your name.

How do I move from a collective accommodation center to HG individual accommodations?

An individual accommodation request form is available in collective accommodation centers or from administrative units. This form gives you the information and documents necessary to constitute an application file.

How should I proceed for accommodations outside of the HG system if I have an F or B permit?

After 2 years of residence in Geneva, you will need to take steps to find non-HG accommodations. This includes registering with the Cantonal Office for Housing and Land Planning (Office Cantonal du logement et de la planification foncière) as well as with the Public real estate foundations secretariat (Secretariat des Fondations immobilières de droit public - SFIDP). You must also apply for a housing allowance at the Cantonal Housing and Land Planning Office (Office Cantonal du logement et de la planification foncière) upon presentation of the accommodation certificate issued by the HG.

*SECRÉTARIAT DES FONDATIONS IMMOBILIÈRES DE DROIT PUBLIC (SFIDP)*

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