



COVID-19 ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Current as of: 4 January 2022

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the Federal Government has provided approx. €120 billion in support of businesses. This comprises approx. **€60 billion in aid** and almost **€55 billion in loans**, plus recapitalisation measures and guarantees. The German states also developed their own assistance programmes to complement those of the federation. The system of assistance measures that was developed is flexible and can be quickly adjusted in line with what the situation demands. The Bridging Assistance programme, in particular, is a flexible, cross-sectoral instrument for reimbursing companies for their fixed costs and also for providing them with equity grants to protect their substance. Own-account workers who do not have high levels of fixed costs benefit from New Start Assistance. As the programmes are implemented, care is taken to ensure that the aid reaches the companies and own-account workers that really need it. Preventative measures against abuse and fraud are in place. The economic assistance is disbursed by the Länder.

Digital application procedures and good cooperation between the federal level and the Länder level have made it possible to grant 4 million applications so far since the beginning of the pandemic. Some 156,000 approvals were granted under the KfW Special Programme.

A total of €4.5 billion in aid for culture and the media is available under the New Start for Culture programme and the Special Federal Fund for Cultural Events. This comes on top of the spending on **short-time work allowance**. According to the Federal Employment Agency, approx. €24 billion in short-time work allowance and approx. €18 billion on social transfers resulting from short-time work allowance was spent in 2020 and 2021 (**a combined total of approx. €42 billion**). More information on aid approved so far can be found [↗ here](#).

This comprehensive aid has had the desired effect of stabilising the economy and the labour market. This has been possible thanks to a large toolbox of measures. The Bridging Assistance and New Start Assistance programmes and the rules on simplified access to short-time work allowance **have just been extended by three months, until 31 March 2022**. The higher loan limits offered under the KfW Special Programme and the KfW Instant Loan will continue to apply until 30 April 2022. Applications for the 'KfW Investment loan for municipal and social enterprises' will be accepted until 30 June 2022. All other programmes will also remain available until spring, as can be seen from the overview. The latest version of the overview of the most important programmes, complete with descriptions, is available [↗ here](#).

A full overview of the aid amounts approved and disbursed since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic is available [↗ here](#). A specific overview of the weekly progress on approvals and disbursements under the grant instruments that are currently being processed (Bridging Assistance III, Bridging Assistance III Plus) is available [↗ here](#). Detailed information on the Bridging Assistance programme can also be found [↗ here](#).

OVERVIEW OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS FOR CURRENT BRIDGING ASSISTANCE INSTRUMENTS

	Funding period	Applications submitted	Applications approved	Funding volume applied for	Funding volume disbursed
		Number	Number (share of applications made in %)	Figure in € bn	Figure in € bn (share of volume applied for in %)
Bridging Assistance III	November 2020 to June 2021	534,685	464,120 (87 %)	33.77	25.67 (76%)
Bridging Assistance III Plus	July to December 2021	49,777	26,425 (53 %)	2.45	1.26 (51%)
New Start Assistance	January to June 2021	264,579	254,936 (96 %)	1.638	1.591 (97%)
New Start Assistance Plus	July to September 2021	84,330	73,667 (87 %)	0.3	0.261 (87%)
New Start Assistance Plus	October to December 2021	52,722	41,712 (79 %)	0.186	0.145 (78%)

Current as of: 29 December 2021

For the funding period from January to March 2022, companies will be able to claim assistance from the Bridging Assistance IV and New Start Assistance 2022 programmes.