

Foreign students in Riga can apply for a crisis benefit grant during the COVID-19 crisis

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Riga City Council will grant benefits also to foreign students who have remained in Latvia, who study remotely and who do not have the means to provide basic needs.

Only those foreign students who, due to an emergency situation, are unable to provide for their basic needs and whose declared place of residence is in the territory of Riga municipality can remotely turn to the Riga Social Service for assistance. The amount of crisis benefit is EUR 128.00 per person.

In order to be eligible for the crisis benefit, a foreign student, like other residents of the municipality, has to prepare a written application in the official state language (Latvian) describing the situation related to the declared emergency situation during the spread of Covid-19 and attach documents, which confirm the occurrence of a crisis situation, as well as gives the evidence that it is not possible to solve financial difficulties with other resources.

Counselling services to young people, schoolchildren and families

Public health specialists at Riga municipality Welfare department have created a special e-mail account to provide an online opportunity for young persons to ask questions and receive answers on the issues which are topical for them at this moment. Based on information received from psychologists and other specialists a conclusion has been made that young people experience severe difficulties because of the emergency situation and isolation. It is already clear that this target group will have important psycho emotional problems after the end of COVID crisis.

Public health specialists at Riga municipality also provide online counselling to schoolchildren and their parents via e-mails about various aspects of public health issues. This kind of service is also widely used in addiction prevention counselling, counselling for internet addicts and gambling addicts.

Volunteer call centre for seniors continues its operation

In Riga, the Volunteer call centre for seniors which is run by and for seniors continues its operation. The call centre was established four years ago and at the present moment it is used even more than previously. The public health specialists at Riga municipality support work of the call centre by taking care about the calls as well in this emergency situation. The call centre has an important role in managing stress and anxiety of elderly people.