

Information about the 'Ruggensteunregeling' (support scheme) for status holders

March 2021

# Support scheme for status holders

# What is the support scheme?

The 'Ruggensteunregeling' is a support scheme for (former) status holders who have received housing with a youth contract through the Municipality of Amsterdam. You may not have found another home when your rental contract expires. In that case, you can use the support scheme. The scheme involves a one-time offer of another home through the municipality.

**Note:** If you decline this property, you are responsible for finding a home yourself.

- Will you be **28 or older** when your rental contract ends? You will then be offered a home with an indefinite contract.
- Will you be **under the age of 28** when your rental contract ends? You will then be offered youth housing. If you are again unable to find housing on your own after this second contract expires, you can again use the support scheme.

The support scheme is established in Article 2.6.8 (1e) of the Amsterdam Housing Regulation 2020. The municipality will mediate to get you a new home. You will receive the offer of the new home from a housing corporation.

## How does the support scheme work?

One year before the end of your rental contract: you will receive a letter from the Municipality of Amsterdam that your rental contract will expire and that you can make use of the support scheme.

Nine months before the end of your rental contract: the Municipality of Amsterdam will ask you if you want to use the support scheme. If you want to, you need to send data. A Neighborhood Team member can help you with this. You can make an appointment. You can then also discuss your personal situation. The municipality and the housing corporation may have to consider certain things when finding you another home. **Please note** that the municipality can only take your personal situation into account in very urgent cases. There is no room to consider personal preferences or housing wishes.

Six months before the end of your rental contract: make sure you can be reached at the e-mail address with which you are registered at WoningNet. From this point on, one of the housing corporations may offer you another home. In Amsterdam, there is a major shortage of (social) rental housing. Therefore, it is impossible to say when you will receive this offer. In any case, you will receive an offer before the end of your rental contract. You will not end up on the street.

Do you think you qualify for the support scheme and have not received a letter one year before your contract expires? Then contact the neighborhood team in your district. They can help you.

# Conditions for participation in the support scheme

The support scheme only applies if you meet the following conditions:

- You are a status holder and you are housed through the Municipality of Amsterdam with a youth contract.
- You are registered with www.woningnet.nl.
- You agree to the mediation conditions (see bottom of this page).

## WoningNet

All affordable rental housing (social housing) is distributed in the Amsterdam region through WoningNet. You must pay the renewal fee annually. If you have been registered long enough, you can find housing yourself through WoningNet. You can also participate in a draw.

#### Save for the move

Moving costs money. Make sure you save enough money. Consider paying a security deposit for the new home, additional rental costs if the rental contracts overlap, possibly buying new items, furnishing the new home, and the cost of moving. Can you not (fully) pay the costs of the move yourself? You can then apply for special assistance. The neighborhood team in your district can help with the application. The municipality will then calculate whether special assistance is possible.

#### Questions?

Do you have a question about the support scheme? The neighborhood team can help you. Visit: <a href="https://www.buurtteamamsterdam.nl">www.buurtteamamsterdam.nl</a> to see where you can apply for help.

### Mediation conditions for the support scheme

- You have a valid registration with WoningNet. If you are not registered or have not renewed it, please register again.
- The housing offer is a one-time offer, you cannot choose.
- The municipality determines whether the housing is suitable.
- In the six months before your rental contract ends, you are easily accessible by phone and email. If you do not respond to an offer of housing, the offer expires and mediation stops.
- You will honor any agreements about paying rent arrears. If you fail to comply with these agreements, mediation will stop.
- You give the Municipality of Amsterdam permission to view or change your information on WoningNet as necessary to offer you housing.
- You agree to the neighborhood teams, the Municipality of Amsterdam and the housing corporation exchanging data. This only concerns the data needed for your housing.
- You know that mediation will stop if you fail to keep agreements or if your circumstances have changed.
- You declare that you understand the contents of these mediation terms and conditions.
- If you are not proficient (enough) in the Dutch language, you can get help from an interpreter. The interpreter has properly understood and explained the contents of these terms to you.

The Municipality of Amsterdam can only mediate you if you agree to these mediation conditions.