

# Regulations concerning grants for assisted return and forced return

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This translation is updated as of 26 og July 2024. The English version does not have legal status, and is not updated continuously.

## Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of grants for assisted and forced return is to ensure that as many foreign nationals as possible with a duty to leave Norway return to their country of origin. The grant is also intended to contribute to economic development and welfare in the country of origin, in that part of the grants are disbursed after the return or are provided in the form of services such as support to start a business, schooling, work training or similar.

## Section 2. Who are eligible for grants

Grants for assisted return are available by application to foreign nationals who

- a. have a duty to leave Norway or have an application for protection under consideration
- b. have a known place of residence or known contact information
- c. can fly unaccompanied without posing a threat to themselves, their fellow passengers or the safety of the aircraft.

Applicants who are to return to a country other than their country of origin are eligible for grants if they hold a valid and renewable residence permit in the country receiving them.

Applicants with sole parental responsibility for a child under 18 years of age who is resident in Norway, are only eligible for grants for assisted return if the application also includes the child. Children under 18 years of age are only eligible for grants for assisted return if the application also includes the person or persons with parental responsibility for them in Norway.

Applicants who cannot return unaccompanied but must be accompanied by the police for flight safety reasons, because they lack travel documents or because providers of return and reintegration services are unable to offer returns to certain countries, may nevertheless be eligible for grants.

Grants are available for forced returns to Afghanistan and Morocco pursuant to Section 16 and Section 17.

## Section 3. Applicants who are nevertheless not eligible for grants

Unless the Directorate of Immigration has reason to believe that a grant will contribute to a return, grants for assisted return will not be granted to persons who

- a. are citizens of Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Botswana, Georgia, Ghana, India, Israel, Kosovo, Croatia, Montenegro, Mongolia, Namibia, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, South Africa, Tanzania or Ukraine
- b. are citizens of a country not subject to a visa requirement
- c. have come to Norway for the purpose of applying for a grant for assisted return

- d. have previously received a grant for assisted return, repatriation or in connection with forced return
- e. wish to return to a country that participates in the cooperation under the Dublin Regulation
- f. have held a residence permit on grounds other than a need for protection that has expired and that has not been renewed or revoked
- g. have had an application for residence in Norway rejected because the applicant holds a residence permit in or a visa to Switzerland or an EU/EEA country.

Grants for assisted return cannot be granted to foreign nationals who are wanted for, suspected of, charged with or indicted for a criminal offence in cases when it is not desirable for the foreign national to leave the country. It is up to the responsible prosecuting authority to decide whether a criminal case constitutes an obstacle to assisted return.

A grant for assisted return will not be awarded if the police have come so far in implementing a forced return pursuant to the Immigration Act Section 90 seventh paragraph that it would not be expedient to discontinue the forced return. Nor will a grant be awarded if there are indications that the purpose of the application is to delay a forced return.

0 Amended by Regulations No 2806 of 15 December 2020 (entered into force 1 January 2021).

#### **Section 4. Travel grant**

Travel expenses, plane tickets and the costs of obtaining travel documents are covered by the immigration authorities. The travel grant is paid to everyone who receives a grant for assisted return pursuant to the Regulations, and it includes practical assistance with organising and making the journey, assistance in transit and on arrival in the country of origin. Upon departure, a travel allowance in the amount of USD 80 per adult and USD 110 per child is paid to cover expenses incurred in the course of the journey.

#### **Section 5. Reintegration grant**

In addition to the travel grant pursuant to Section 4, a grant for reintegration after arriving in the country of origin may also be granted, regardless of age. Grants for reintegration are awarded in an amount of up to

- a. NOK 15,000 for persons who apply for assisted return before the deadline for leaving Norway stipulated in the decision
- b. NOK 5,000 for persons who apply for assisted return after the deadline for leaving Norway stipulated in the decision.

Unaccompanied minors always receive a reintegration grant of NOK 20,000.

In addition to the amount in the first section letter a, families receive NOK 10,000 for each child for which assisted return is applied for before the deadline for leaving Norway stipulated in the decisions.

0 Amended by Regulations No 2806 of 15 December 2020 (entered into force 1 January 2021).

#### **Section 6. Reintegration grant for unaccompanied minors**

In addition to grants pursuant to Section 5, unaccompanied minors who can return to a family member, an appointed guardian or another satisfactory care situation, are eligible to receive up to NOK 22,000. The grant can be provided in the form of services such as education, work training, support to start a business or similar.

In addition, a grant in the amount of NOK 10,000 will be paid directly to the family member or appointed guardian to whom the child returns.

Before the return of an unaccompanied minor, the Directorate of Immigration must draw up a plan for how the reintegration grant is to be used and how the unaccompanied minor is to be followed up after being returned. The unaccompanied minor shall receive follow-up in the form of reintegration services for six to twelve months after the return.

A reintegration grant can be paid regardless of whether the conditions stipulated in Section 2 and Section 3 are met.

0 Amended by Regulations No 2806 of 15 December 2020 (entered into force 1 January 2021).

## **Section 7. Reintegration grant for particularly vulnerable groups**

In addition to the grant pursuant to Section 5, a grant of up to NOK 22,000 can be paid after the return. The grant can be provided in the form of services such as education, work training, support to start a business or similar, and the following groups are eligible:

- a. applicants between 18 and 23 years of age who came to Norway as unaccompanied minors
- b. single persons over the age of 60 years
- c. possible victims of human trafficking
- d. victims of violence, coercion or exploitation
- e. applicants with special medical needs.

A reintegration grant can be paid regardless of whether the conditions stipulated in Section 2 and Section 3 are met.

## **Section 8. Reintegration grant for applicants who are particularly costly to society**

In addition to the grant pursuant to Section 5, a grant of up to NOK 22,000 can be granted before, during and after the return to applicants whose needs entail significantly higher costs for society than normal, for example in the form of special accommodation arrangements in reception centres or other institutions. The grant is provided in the form of services.

A reintegration grant can be paid regardless of whether the conditions stipulated in Section 2 and Section 3 are met.

0 Amended by Regulations No 2806 of 15 December 2020 (entered into force 1 January 2021).

## **Section 9. Reintegration grant for return to Afghanistan**

In addition to the grant pursuant to Section 5, applicants returning to Afghanistan may, regardless of age, be paid an amount in USD corresponding to up to NOK 2,000 on arrival in Afghanistan to cover expenses related to their onward journey and accommodation.

Grants pursuant to Section 5 first paragraph letter a. are paid in USD corresponding to up to NOK 7,500 on arrival in Afghanistan and up to NOK 7,500 after a stay of at least three months in Afghanistan.

In addition to the grant pursuant to Section 5 first paragraph letter b., an amount in USD

corresponding to up to NOK 8,000 is granted. Of the total amount of up to NOK 13,000, up to NOK 6,500 is paid on arrival in Afghanistan and up to NOK 6,500 after a stay of at least three months in Afghanistan.

In addition to the reintegration grant, applicants who return to Afghanistan, alternatively a family member already living in Afghanistan, are eligible for reintegration support in the form of help to find a job, work training, support to start a business, adapted education or vocational training.

0 Amended by Regulations No 2806 of 15 Dec. 2020 (entered into force 1 January 2008), No 768 of 18 March 2021 (entered into force 1 April 2021).

## **Section 10. Reintegration grant for return to Somalia**

In addition to the grant pursuant to [Section 5](#), applicants who return to Somalia and who have a connection to an area in Southern or Central Somalia that is defined as safe, or who have a connection to Somaliland or Puntland, may, regardless of age, be awarded up to NOK 30,000 in the form of services such as schooling, work training, support to start a business or similar after their arrival in Somalia. After returning, the applicant must draw up a reintegration plan in consultation with the service provider.

## **Section 11. Reintegration grant for return to Morocco**

In addition to the grant pursuant to [Section 5](#), applicants who return to Morocco may, regardless of age, be awarded up to EUR 2,000 in the form of services such as support to start a business, schooling, work training or similar after their arrival in Morocco. After returning, the applicant must draw up a reintegration plan in consultation with the service provider.

0 Amended by Regulations No 768 of 18 March 2021 (entered into force 1 April 2021).

## **Section 11a. Reintegration grant for return to Iraq**

In addition to the grant pursuant to [Section 5](#), applicants who return to Iraq may, regardless of age, be awarded up to NOK 30,000 in the form of services such as schooling, work training, support to start a business or similar after their arrival in Iraq. After returning, the applicant must draw up a reintegration plan in consultation with the service provider.

0 Added by Regulations No 768 of 18 March 2021 (entered into force 1 April 2021).

## **Section 12. Conditions for disbursement of grants**

Grants for assisted return will only be disbursed if the recipient leaves within three months of the date of the decision to award a grant. If this deadline is not complied with, the grant will lapse.

The Directorate of Immigration may nevertheless uphold a decision to award a grant for assisted return if circumstances outside an applicant's control prevented him/her from leaving Norway within three months.

Grants received after the return, either in cash or in the form of services, will only be disbursed if the grant recipient contacts the return and reintegration services provider within one year of leaving Norway.

## **Section 13. Application process and right of appeal**

Applications for grants for assisted return must be submitted on the prescribed form to the Directorate of Immigration, which considers such applications.

Decisions to reject an application for grants under these Regulations may be appealed to the Immigration Appeals Board.

0 Amended by Regulations No 2766 of 6 Sept. 2021.

## **Section 14. Repayment obligation**

If an applicant receives a grant he or she was not entitled to or in an amount higher than he or she was entitled to as a result of having provided incomplete or incorrect information, the Directorate of Immigration may demand repayment of the amount the applicant was not entitled to receive.

If grants are used in a way that does not comply with the requirements stipulated in these Regulations or the decision to award a grant, the Directorate of Immigration may demand that the grant be repaid in full or in part.

If a person who has received a grant re-immigrates to Norway within two years after leaving, the Directorate of Immigration may demand that the grant be repaid in full or in part. However, this does not apply if the grant recipient is granted a residence permit based on a new application for protection following his or her return to Norway.

## **Section 15. Reintegration grant for forced return of foreign nationals who are particularly costly to society**

A foreign national who entails significantly higher costs to society than normal, for example in the form of special accommodation arrangements in reception centres or other institutions, and who is forcibly returned, is eligible for a grant of NOK 3,000. Grants can also be awarded to cover health-related expenses or similar in connection with the return to the recipient country.

Section 12 third paragraph and Section 14 third paragraph apply to forced returns.

## **Section 16. Reintegration grant for forced return to Afghanistan**

A foreign national who is forcibly returned to Afghanistan will receive an amount in USD corresponding to up to NOK 3,000 in cash on the flight to Afghanistan and up to NOK 10,000 in cash after arriving in Afghanistan.

Section 12 third paragraph and Section 14 third paragraph apply to forced returns.

## **Section 17. Reintegration grant for forced return to Morocco**

A foreign national who is forcibly returned to Morocco will receive an amount in EUR equivalent to up to NOK 3,000 in cash after arriving. In addition, up to EUR 1,000 will be granted in the form of services such as schooling, work training, support to start a business or similar after arriving in Morocco.

A foreign national who is forcibly returned and who is particularly vulnerable as mentioned in Section 7 first paragraph will receive an additional amount in EUR equivalent to up to NOK 3,000 in cash after arriving. In addition, a grant of up to EUR 3,000 will be awarded in the form of services such as schooling, work training, support to start a business or similar after arriving in Morocco. The foreign national shall receive follow-up in the form of reintegration services for twelve months after arriving.

Section 12 third paragraph and Section 14 third paragraph apply to forced returns.

## **Section 18. Entry into force**

These Regulations will enter into force on 1 March 2020.