

LWV AT A GLANCE

Some brief information on the public
Welfare Association of Hesse





OUR SERVICES

REGIONAL ASSOCIATION

The public welfare association of Hesse (LWV) is funded by the State's districts and independent municipalities, on whose behalf it finances social services to physically and mentally disabled citizens, and those facing special social challenges in everyday life and on the job. The LWV has registered offices in Kassel, Darmstadt and Wiesbaden.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & INTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

A growing number of disabled citizens in Hesse – approx. 65,000 in 2024 - are eligible for assistance in managing their everyday lives. The LWV is legally responsible for providing these services, which include both integration assistance and support in overcoming special social challenges. The objective is to allow disabled citizens to live their lives as independently and self-determinedly as possible. If possible, they should be able to participate in social life in their neighbourhood or community, and to pursue gainful employment. The LWV finances supportive measures in all spheres of life, residential, recreational and on the job. The scope of these measures is determined by the goals disabled clients themselves set.



FOCUS ON PEOPLE: Together with many other institutions in all of Hesse, the LWV serves the needs of disabled people.

INTEGRATION OFFICE

The Integration Office of Hesse's LWV is partner to more than 100,000 severely disabled working persons and their employers. Its services are designed to support severely disabled or equivalently challenged citizens taking part in the labour market. Its employees consult and provide support to companies setting up accessible workplaces and trainee positions. Special Integration Service (IFD) assistants accompany disabled staff to and support them at their workplace. These services are financed by a corporate compensation levy. In accordance with Germany's Social Security Code, SGB IX, companies with 20 or more employees are required to employ at least five percent severely disabled workers. Companies that opt not to are obliged to pay the compensation levy.

SOCIAL COMPENSATION

Under the Social Security Code, SGB XIV, the Social Compensation Department of the LWV provides support to victims of crime, and to the victims of both world wars, people injured on military or alternative civilian service and those injured by immunisation. The Department is the point of contact for affected persons and for their surviving dependants up to 5 years after the injury. It advises them and provides assistance in the form of cash and non-cash benefits.

EDUCATION AND EARLY SUPPORT

More than 5,000 children with special education needs are supported by special education counselling centres, schools or by the LWV's supra-regional consulting and support centres. In order for these children to benefit as much as possible from educational programmes the LWV provides facilities and subsidises the purchase of special education equipment. The LWV currently runs 15 special education schools, focusing on children and youths with visual and hearing impairments, emotional, social and mental development, and on providing lessons to children with illnesses, four boarding schools and seven interdisciplinary early education consulting and support centres. Six supra-regional consulting and support centres support young students attending regular schools. The LWV also assists local regular schools in their efforts to educate visually impaired or blind children by subsidising equipment.

VITOS

The LWV is the sole shareholder of Vitos gGmbH, a corporate holding operating psychiatric hospitals for adults, children and adolescents, and specialised clinics for orthopaedics, neurology and psychosomatics. Vitos also runs forensic psychiatry hospitals for the treatment of mentally ill or addicted criminal offenders. Vitos is the largest provider for the outpatient, partial and full inpatient treatment of mentally ill people in Hesse. Vitos also includes youth welfare institutions and care services for mentally disabled patients (Vitos Teilhabe gGmbH) as well as for psychologically and emotionally disturbed patients (psychiatric outpatient care).

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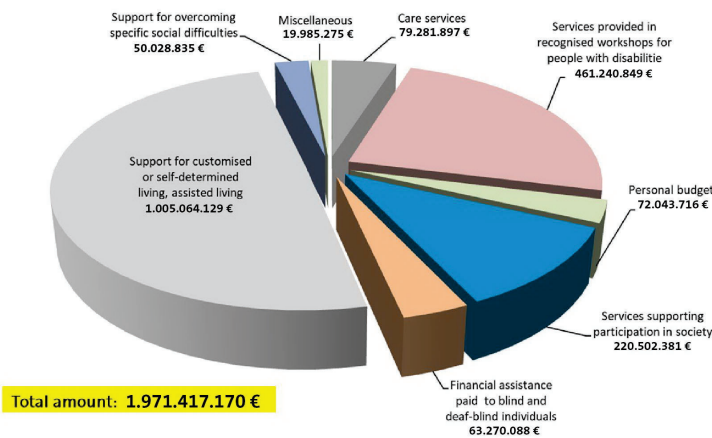
LWV - FACTS AND FIGURES

FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

The work done by the LWV is mainly funded by Hesse's districts and independent municipalities. These make what are known as *association contributions*, which are employed for the purposes of supporting disabled people; the LWV is set to receive 1.804 billion euro in 2024. The LWV receives further funding from revenue sharing among municipalities, a compensation levy charged on Hessian companies and from reimbursements under the social compensation law. A smaller portion of LWV outlays is covered by pension and accident insurers, health insurance companies and employers' liability insurance associations.

The budget for 2024 amounts to 2.38 billion euro, the largest part of which (1.97 billion euro) is designated for spending on integration and assistance in overcoming particularly severe social challenges (incl. assistance for homeless women and men). The LWV tailors individualised services and maintains a solid financial management in order to optimize spending despite continuously rising case numbers.

INTEGRATION ASSISTANCE & SOCIAL SERVICES





LWV-employee Tobias Hupfeld at his handicapped accessible place of work.

EMPLOYEES

As at 31 December 2023, the LWV had 1,406 employees and 60 junior staff at its three administrative centres in Kassel, Darmstadt and Wiesbaden and a number of other locations. A further 378 people worked at special needs schools and centres. Vitos employs approximately 11,500 people.

ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY

The Association Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the Hesse LWV; it is also called the ‘Hessian Social Parliament’. The 75 delegates to the Association Assembly are elected by the councils of the districts and independent municipalities. A term of office is five years; the current 17th term started on November 1st, 2021. Just like any other parliament, the Association Assembly draws on expert committees to prepare decisions. The Assembly is currently chaired by Friedel Kopp.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

The Administrative Committee conducts the LWV’s business. It can be compared to the Federal State of Hesse’s magistrates, or the State’s district committees. It comprises three full-time members and 14 volunteer councilors. The Committee is chaired by State Director Susanne Simmler; Deputy Chair is senior councilor Ulrike Gote and the third full-time member is Dieter Schütz. The members of the Administrative Committee are elected by the Association Assembly.