

COMPENSATION FOR IMMOVABLE PRIVATE PROPERTY IN LITHUANIA FUNFAQ

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Beginning in 1991, the Republic of Lithuania passed a series of laws that addressed the restitution of private immovable property that was nationalized or otherwise illegally expropriated during the period of occupation by the totalitarian regimes. These laws made eligibility contingent on current Lithuanian citizenship, and effectively excluded most Holocaust survivors, and their families, who no longer lived in Lithuania. In response, the Republic of Lithuania recently amended Law No. XI-1470 of the Republic of Lithuania on the Good Will Compensation for the Immovable Property of Jewish Religious Communities, dated January 1, 2023 (hereinafter, the Law), for the purpose of mitigating some of the historical injustices caused to Holocaust victims as a result of restrictive, complicated, and evolving citizenship laws. In the Law, the Republic of Lithuania committed to pay a one-time symbolic payment to eligible Lithuanian Jews or their heirs whose property was not returned in the context of valid restitution legislation. Pursuant to the Law, the Republic of Lithuania has provided 5-10 million Euros to fulfil this goal. The Good Will Foundation (GWF) was designated as the entity responsible for administering the fund and distributing the funds to eligible applicants.

The exact amount to be distributed to each individual can only be calculated when the total number of approved applicants has been determined.

ELIGIBILITY

1) Who is eligible for this payment?

The following persons are eligible to apply for this program:

- Original owners, defined as:
 - a. Persons of Jewish descent who lived in Lithuania at any time prior to May 8, 1945; and
 - b. Owned property that was nationalized or otherwise illegally expropriated during the period of occupation by totalitarian regimes between June 15, 1940 and March 10, 1990; and
 - c. Did not have the legal opportunity to restore property rights in accordance with legislation in the Republic of Lithuania, because they were non-citizens of the Republic of Lithuania between June 18, 1991 and December 31, 2001.
- Heirs to original owners:
 - a. Where there is no surviving original owner, the spouse, parents (adoptive parents), or children (adopted children) of the original owner can submit an application, and in event of their death, the grandchildren of the original owner or the grandchild's spouse can submit an application.
 - b. Applications can also be submitted by heirs stipulated in the will of the original owner, and in the event of their death, their spouse, parents (adoptive parents), children (adopted children), grandchildren, or grandchild's spouse can also submit an application.

2) What kind of property is eligible for compensation?

The following types of real immovable property are eligible for symbolic compensation:

- Structures used for economic and commercial purposes, together with their appurtenances.
- Residential houses, together with their appurtenances.
- Apartments, together with their appurtenances.

Land is not eligible for symbolic compensation.

3) I think I'm eligible, should I apply?

We encourage everyone who thinks they meet the eligibility criteria to apply.

APPLICATION PROCESS

4) Do I need to fill out an application and where do I get an application?

Yes, you must submit an application form to be eligible for this payment. The Good Will Foundation will be mailing application forms to potentially eligible survivors. If you think you are eligible you may also visit the Good Will Foundation website <https://gvf.lt/> where you can fill out an application online or download a printable form.

5) I received more than one application by mail. What does this mean?

If you have received two identical application letters, please only complete and submit one application and disregard the second.

6) Do supporting documents need to be translated?

Applications will be made available and may be completed in Lithuanian or English. Any foreign language supporting documents that are included with the application must be translated into Lithuanian or English.

7) Does my application need to be certified?

Applications submitted by mail, fax, email, online or direct delivery to the office of the GWF must be signed. If Applications/signatures of applicants are being certified in front of a Lithuanian consulate, bank, notary, a Jewish social service agency possessing a seal, city/town hall (in Europe), or a governmental office of the State of Israel, officials of these institutions certify the authenticity of the signature of the applicant who signed the Statement.

8) If I am an authorized representative, can I sign and submit the form on behalf of the claimant?

If an applicant is unable to sign this application form, an authorized representative may sign on his/her behalf and a photocopy of the Power of Attorney must be included in this application.

9) How can I send in my application form?

Applications can be submitted online or sent by mail, fax, or email. Please send your applications to one of the following:

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|-------------------------|---|
| Online: | Applications can be completed and submitted online at the Good Will Foundation website: https://gvf.lt/en/application-for-one-time-payment/ |
| Via Mail: | PE "Good Will Foundation"
Pylimo street 4, LT-01117
Vilnius, Lithuania |
| Via Fax: | +370 5 2075798 |
| Via Email: | Applications can be submitted to theGWF at rolandas@gvf.lt or natalija@gvf.lt . |
| Delivery to GWF: | Applicants themselves can deliver applications directly to the office of PE „The Foundation for Disposal of Good Will Compensation for the Immovable Property of Jewish Religious Communities“
Pylimo street 4, Vilnius, Lithuania |

10) Is there a deadline for applying?

The deadline to apply is December 31, 2023. No application received by the GWF after the December 31, 2023 deadline will be considered for payment.

11) I already submitted the application but found another relevant document. Is it too late to update my application?

In the event that certain documents are discovered after December 31, 2023, it may be possible to amend the application (after consultation with the GWF) even after the closing date.

SYMBOLIC COMPENSATION

12) How much money will I receive?

Pursuant to the law, the Republic of Lithuania committed to pay a one-time symbolic payment to eligible Lithuanian Jews or their heirs whose property was not returned in the context of valid restitution legislation, and the government has provided a total of 5-10 million Euros to fulfil this goal.

One amount of symbolic compensation is paid for all eligible property items owned by the original owner, which does not depend on the value of the immovable property. The exact amount to be distributed to each individual can only be calculated when the total number of approved applicants has been determined.

13) I had multiple properties in Lithuania, will I get multiple compensation payments?

The law does not allow for multiple compensation payments. One amount of symbolic compensation is paid for all eligible property items owned by the original owner, which does not depend on the value of the immovable property.

14) What if the property in question was owned by multiple people? Will we all receive compensation?

In the event that the property was jointly owned by more than one original owner, one amount of symbolic compensation is shared between the eligible applicants for this property.

15) What if several heirs apply for the same property? Will we all receive compensation?

In the event that several heirs apply for the same property, one amount of symbolic compensation is shared between the eligible applicants for this property.

16) Can the compensation payment be sent to me by a check?

No, we are not able to send checks, you must have a bank account opened in your name.

17) Do you need my bank information?

Yes, payment will be wired to your bank account. Please fill out the bank details in the application form.

18) I applied for compensation but have yet to receive any payment.

Symbolic payments will be paid to approved applicants July 1, 2025. Please be assured that GWF is working diligently to process all applications. You will be notified of the outcome of your application once a decision has been made.

19) What if an applicant is approved, but passes away before receiving payment?

If the original owner or their heir applied and is found eligible but passes away before the payment could be made, the surviving spouse may be entitled. If there is no surviving spouse, children may be eligible. No other heirs are eligible. Surviving spouses and children should contact the GWF.

20) Are payments taxable?

The one-time payment may be taxable and may affect your ability to obtain or maintain government assistance. It is your responsibility to verify if this payment is taxable and if it will affect government benefits or assistance. GWF will not be liable for any lost status, benefits or income resulting from your acceptance of this one-time payment.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

21) Who do I contact if I have questions?

For assistance, you may contact us via phone at +370 5 261 12 59, or via email at rolandas@gvf.lt or natalija@gvf.lt

22) Do I need a lawyer?

You do not need a lawyer to apply for the symbolic payment.

23) Is there a fee to obtain an application?

You do not need to pay anyone for this application form, and you are not required to obtain assistance in completing and/or submitting this application form.

24) What if my application is rejected?

The GWF will have an independent appeals process. If you receive a rejection letter, please follow the instructions contained in the letter.