



Progetto “Orientarsi nella nebbia” Finanziato da Regione Lombardia

Pathways to citizenship

Card 2

ISEE AND OTHER INCOME ASSESSMENT TOOLS

This sheet has been drawn up on the basis of what was said by Dr. Claudio Magistrelli in the video conference held on 11.09.2021 within the training course envisaged by the project "Orientarsi nella nebbia" (Orient yourself in the fog).

WHAT IS THE ISEE?

The Isee is the **indicator** of the equivalent economic situation. The certificate containing the ISEE indicator allows citizens to access social benefits or public utility services at favorable conditions. [Definition from the site inps.it].

The Isee is an **instrument** whose ultimate aim is to arrive at a value. It is a numerical summary of a situation that is not necessarily something only numerical, i.e. the economic condition of a household. A household's situation is made up of both numerical elements (income, assets), i.e. what the household earns and what assets it has at its disposal, and other situations that are not strictly numerical. For example, the employment situation of the members of a household, which determines their possibilities and is not a strictly numerical factor.

The number, age and health status of family members are not strictly numerical factors, so Isee is a tool that tries to translate the overall situation of a household (economic but not only) into an indicator, an **equivalent number**.

The Isee aims to serve as an instrument of social justice. That is, to try to translate different economic and family situations into a numerical value, so that they can be compared and classified.

The Isee value is usually expressed in euros and is used to establish the ranking for access to public utility services and subsidized benefits. In some situations there will be thresholds for access. That is, benefits and public utility services are open to all citizens who have an Isee value within a certain threshold or, in other situations, there are rankings to which access is based on the Isee value. Therefore, if the service or benefit is available in limited numbers, the Isee value is used as a discriminating element in order to choose, in a fair way, who is entitled to it and who is not.

In 2015, the Isee was subject to a regulatory review, and since then its use has become much more widespread than in previous years. Until 2015, it was a tool that was mainly used to determine university fees and to access certain economic aid provided by municipalities to families in difficulty. Now it is a tool that could be defined as **universal** and is used by the public administration (municipalities, regions, state, etc.) for access to welfare benefits, concessions, bonuses or services.



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Over time, some private bodies have also started to use Isee as an assessment tool (universities, RSA, etc.).

In some cases, Isee is a necessary and indispensable requirement to access benefits (citizenship income, social bonuses, etc.), while in others it can be used to obtain economic benefits (universities, school canteens, etc.).

The Isee takes a snapshot of the family's economic situation shifted two years into the past.

In order to apply for the Isee, the person must have a tax code and residence. Without these documents it is not possible to request it.

The different types of Isee

Depending on the service required, there are different types of Isee that may involve calculations and/or specific documentation. All of these Isee values are stated on the statement. Thus, the Isee 2021 uses assets and income from 2019 for the calculation.

- **ISEE Minors** is an Isee value that is calculated automatically, in most cases but not always, if there are minors in the Isee household submitting the application.

You can request the exclusion of this value, and you must do so, if you do not have the necessary calculation data for both parents of the minor child. The parents of minor children, except in certain situations (where there is a court ruling), may never be separated from the minor child. If one parent submits the Isee with the minor child in the household, but without the presence of the other parent and without his or her data, one must request the exclusion of the minor child's Isee value because the calculated Isee value would represent a value that is neither correct nor compliant with the regulations.

- When applying for **ISEE University**, you must state that you are applying for it for the university and you must specify the member of your household who intends to receive university benefits.

- **ISEE Socio-Sanitary** is required when there is a disabled person in the household, certified by a disability certificate produced by an Inps medical-legal commission.

- **ISEE Social and health residential** is an advanced version of the Isee Socio-Sanitary. It is necessary for people who are no longer able to take care of themselves and has the peculiarity of asking for the income and assets data of children who are not resident with the parent who has to be hospitalized, therefore it photographs an extended family nucleus, not the one certified by the Municipality with the family status.

- **Current ISEE** is a special Isee that can only be requested if an Isee has already been requested and if there have been changes in the income or employment situation of one of the household members in the last 18 months. It therefore provides a snapshot of the household's current situation. The current Isee is in addition to the Isee. It is valid for 6 months from the moment it is issued and for the renewal of the facilities requested it must be redone within the expiry of the 6 months.



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** Each of these Isee values responds to different needs and situations and must be explicitly requested in order to be calculated, with the exception of the Isee for minors. Without an explicit request, the statement simply shows the ordinary Isee.

A (non-exhaustive) list of benefits for which Isee is indispensable:

- Citizenship income;
- Emergency income: this is no longer in force, but for several years, in various forms and under various names, it has been presented and reactivated with more or less wide windows of access;
- Bonus baby: this is granted to all mothers who have given birth to or adopted a child.
- Bonus nursery: this is a financial benefit for access nursery school;
- Temporary allowance: current name of what will become the Single Allowance;
- Municipal Child Benefit/Maternity Allowance: Known as the Three Child Allowance and the Municipal Maternity Allowance;
- Social bonuses: this is the bonus that allows discounts on electricity bills.

A (non-exhaustive) list of (the most common) benefits for which the Isee allows access to reductions. It is not indispensable to have it, but if you present it, it can allow you to obtain these reductions.

- University fees (reduction)
- School canteens and benefits (reduction);
- RSA rates (reduction);
- Agenzia Entrate (installment facility) the presentation of the Isee does not allow to obtain real reductions but in the presence of a low Isee it is possible to instal fines.

Equivalence scale

The Isee was created with the aim of being an instrument of social justice. The element of Isee that tries to translate this impetus for justice into a numerical value is the **equivalence scale**, which is the value that reduces the economic situation indicator by acting as a divisor.

The equivalence scale is calculated on the basis of the following parameters:

- **Number of household members:** The calculation of the equivalence scale relating to household members is proportional, not direct, e.g. if a household has only 1 member the equivalence scale is 1 for a household of 5 members the equivalence scale is not 5 but a lower number.
- **Disabled members** the presence of disabled persons in the household increases the value of the equivalence scale and hence the divisor. However, the degree of severity of the disability does not have a greater impact on the value of the equivalence scale.
- **Presence of 3 or more children**
- **Households in which both parents or the only one present have been employed or engaged in business for at least six months in the reference year of the declared income**
- **Households consisting only of one non-working parent and minor children**

BENEFITS FOR WHICH ISEE IS INDISPENSABLE



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Citizenship Income

- Limit: 9,360 euros

This is a form of economic support intended for families in particular difficulty and in possession of an ISEE certificate not exceeding € 9,360. If there are minors in the household, the Isee minors is used, not the ordinary Isee value. There are other limits related to movable and immovable assets and family income. It can only be applied for by one member of the household.

If you have an Isee declaration of no more than € 9,360 you can apply for the RdC, but the income situation indicator (ISR) and the values of the assets situation indicator (ISP) must be within certain value windows that change a lot depending on the shape of the household.

The Isee statement consists of several values, of which the Isee value is the main one, but in the statement, there is also the calculation table that shows how the Isee value was arrived at, and in this calculation table, the SRI and ISP are also shown.

Emergency income

- Limit: 15,000 euro

This is a form of economic support to households in difficulty due to the Covid-19 epidemic, in possession of an ISEE certificate and the socio-economic requirements provided for by law. The application must be submitted by 31 July 2021. It is an alternative measure to the RdC.

Birth allowance (Baby Bonus)

- Limit: 7,000/40,000/40,000+ euros

- Description: It is an economic contribution granted by INPS whose amount varies according to the ISEE value. It is paid in full if the ISEE value does not exceed € 7,000. It is paid to mothers from the first month of birth until the twelfth month. It is available from the first month of the child's birth if you apply 90 days before the birth or from the time of application if you apply after 90 days. The amount varies according to the Isee value.

Bonus day-care centre and forms of support at home

- Limit: 25,000/40,000/40,000+ euros

It is a contribution granted by INPS to those who already have their children enrolled in a nursery school. The amount varies according to the ISEE value. It is paid in full with ISEE values not exceeding 25,000 €.

Temporary child benefit

- Limit: 7,000/50,000

The temporary allowance is a transitional benefit for families with dependent children who are not entitled to the Family Allowance (ANF), which is paid in the pay packet. It is aimed at, for example, self-employed workers and those not in employment. The allowance is paid according to the number of children and in a decreasing measure as the ISEE level increases (to zero at 50,000 euros Isee). Below 6,000 euros, the maximum amount is due. In the future it will replace the Assegno per il Nucleo Familiare.



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Municipal family allowance (commonly known as three-child allowance)

Limit: 8,788.99

It can be applied for by a single member of a household with at least three minor children, in possession of an Isee certificate. The request must be made at any time during the year from the moment the third child is born and you must have an Isee certificate showing 3 minor children in the household. It is paid in two six-monthly instalments. It can be requested by the mother or the father. In the case of foreign nationals, INPS refers to the individual municipalities for the type of residence permit required.

The majority of municipalities require foreigners to hold a Long-Term Residence Permit, despite the fact that the Constitutional Court has declared this measure unconstitutional and discriminatory. Few municipalities have yet implemented this Court ruling. The European Court recently ruled that it is discriminatory to provide for different measures linked to the length of stay granted, effectively equating all foreign citizens in possession of a residence permit with Italian citizens.

If one of the parents in the household has a long-term residence permit, the application must be made in the name of the parent with the long-term residence permit. If neither parent has a long-term residence permit, you should contact a lawyer to see if you can try to sue the municipality in order to have your right recognised by the Constitutional Court (see Card 1).

Municipal family allowance

- Limit: 17,416.66

This is an allowance that the non-working mother can ask her municipality of residence for the birth of her child or for adoption or fostering. It is payable to the mother even if the father works. The allowance is then paid by the Inps. It can be requested by non-working mothers of a family in possession of an Isee certificate. It must be requested within 6 months from the birth of the child, adoption or fostering.

For the type of residence permit required, INPS refers to the individual municipalities. The majority of municipalities require foreigners to have a long-stay permit.

Social bonus (SLIDE MISSING IN THOSE PUBLISHED)

- Limit: 8,265.00

These are support measures designed for people whose Isee value does not exceed 8265.00 euros and consist of discounts on electricity, gas and water rates for the entire year. Until last year, a special application had to be submitted in order to access this measure. From this year, it is no longer necessary to submit an application, but is automatically applied by the utility companies to all their customers who fall within the Inps database of citizens with an Isee value below 8265 euros. It applies to both private and condominium users.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO APPLY FOR ISEE 2021

- Identity documents of all members of the household - Applicant's identity card and health card showing the updated tax code of all members.
- Household income data for tax year 2019



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- Data on the household's real estate assets as at 31/12/2019 (including abroad)
- Data on household assets 2019 (including abroad)
- Data on the ownership of motor vehicles and other durable goods

What are movable assets

Movable assets are all financial relationships with banks, insurance companies or investment companies.

For example:

- Current accounts (balance and average balance to be declared, average balance being the average value of the current account balance)
- Savings books (balance and average balance)
- Interest-bearing bonds (amount deposited)
- Funds and securities (countervalue)
- Insurance (total premiums paid)
- Reloadable cards (balance and in some cases average balance)

Required incomes

The Isee includes all income earned during the declaration year (2019), even exempt income excluded from the 730 Form.

For example:

- Employment, pensions, collaborations
- Door-to-door sales
- Amateur sporting services
- Scholarships
- Maintenance payments (also for children)
- Civil services

In addition to the income that must be declared individually, the income paid by Inps is added during the calculation. For example, we do not have to declare the family allowance in our Isee paycheck, but it is added during the calculation because it is included in family income.

Income and assets abroad (also covered by Isee)

The Isee calculation must also include any assets held abroad or income generated abroad, which must be assessed by means of appropriate documentation.

For example:

- Foreign current accounts
- Real estate abroad
- Forms of investment with foreign institutions
- Foreign income (frontier and non-frontier)

Determining the household

Minors and parents

A first element to determine the family unit is the registry situation and therefore the family status. The family status issued by the municipality is not required, but it is possible to self-certify the



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composition of the household. However, when submitting the request for calculation, you must make sure that the declared situation is correct because it may be rejected if the municipality does not find a match between the data in its registers and those declared.

A second element is that spouses are always in the same household even if they are not living together. If they are divorced or separated, they are not in the same household.

A third basic element is that minors are always part of the parents' household, even if they do not live with them. For example, if the minor children are moved to their grandparents' house as their registered residence, for Isee purposes they are included in their parents' Isee and not in their grandparents'.

Separated, divorced, never married

The marriage bond is considered to be broken in the following cases:

- Judgment of separation
- Approval of separation by mutual consent
- Divorce request
- Temporary urgent measures of the court
- Exclusion of parental authority over children
- Unavailability (Court of First Instance)
- Minor children are always part of the household of the parent with whom they have custody (or with whom they live post judgment). In the case of joint custody, minor children are part of the household of the parent with whom they live and with whom they have their residence.
- The separated/divorced parent who is not cohabiting is not included in the children's household instead child support, whether paid to the ex-spouse or child support.
- In the absence of a court ruling, parents who are never married, even if not cohabiting, are part of the same household, regardless of their relationship.

Attention: unmarried cohabiters are considered a household. If two people share a house and are registered at the Registry Office in the same family status, they are considered a family unit for Isee purposes. If you do not want to be considered in the same family status, you must make this explicit at the time of residence.

Family members abroad

- The Isee only applies to Italian citizens or foreigners resident in Italy and in possession of a tax code.
- An Italian citizen residing abroad and registered with AIRE is drawn into the household of his spouse residing in Italy

Regional and other services

In addition to the benefits listed above, municipalities and regions may provide for measures aimed at supporting citizenship in particular situations through Isee thresholds or rankings.

Some examples:



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- School grant: are bonuses for the purchase of school supplies. It can be applied for through the Regione Lombardia portal.
- Rent contribution: it is paid to citizens in economic difficulty, which is established either by low Isee values or directly by arrears with the landlord.
- Bonus spending: it consists in the disbursement of tickets that are accepted by the commercial merchants of the municipality for the purchase of basic necessities.
- Utility payment grants: these are the municipal equivalent of utility bonuses. They are subsidies granted by the municipality for the payment of utilities to people in difficulty.

Other income assessment tools

The tax return

Although it is now the most widespread, Isee is not the only tool used by institutions and bodies to assess income. In some cases (private universities and INPS family allowances) this role is fulfilled by the income declaration (Mod. 730 and Mod. Redditi).

In addition to the assessment of income, the tax return can be used by the citizen to obtain refunds (rent, family burden, Supplementary Allowance for Domestic Workers).