



Fact Sheet

Family Allowance Act (FamZG)

This English translation is provided for convenience purposes only. The original German text fully prevails.

Background

The family allowance act (FamZG) governing family benefits has been in force at federal level since 1 January 2009. Family benefits are intended to partially compensate for the additional financial burden of having children. The amount and type of benefits vary from canton to canton.

The following family benefits are paid in the Canton of Zurich:

- **Child allowance:** The minimum child allowance is CHF 215.00 per month up to and including the month in which the child turns 12. Afterwards, the allowance is CHF 268.00 per month up to and including the month in which the child turns 16.

If the child is unable to earn a living (Article 7 of the Federal Act on the General Aspects of Social Security Law (ATSG)), the allowance is paid out until his or her 20th birthday.

- **Education allowance:** The education allowance is CHF 268.00 per month. It commences in the month after the child turns 16 and continues until the month the child completes his or her education or turns 25, whichever occurs first.

Eligible Persons

Family benefits are always paid in full, regardless of whether the employment relationship is full time or part time, provided that the employee earns at least CHF 7'560.00 per year or CHF 630.00 per month (as of 1 January 2025). No family benefits are paid for lower incomes. If more than one person is entitled to family benefits for the same child, the entitlement shall be granted in the following order:

- a. The person in employment
- b. The person who has parental care of the child or had it until the child reached legal maturity
The person with whom the child predominantly lives or predominantly lived until reaching legal maturity
- c. The person who works in the canton where the child lives
- d. Employed person with the higher AHV salary

If a person has several employers, the salaries from all the employers are added together. The family benefits then have to be drawn via the employer from whom the person receives the highest salary. If the family benefits entitlements of the persons with the primary and secondary entitlements are based on the family benefits regulations of two different cantons, the person with the secondary entitlement is entitled to payment of the amount by which the statutory minimum rate in his or her canton exceeds that of the other canton.

Eligibility of Children

- Biological, adopted, step- and foster children
- Siblings and grandchildren of the person entitled to receive family benefits if they are predominantly responsible for supporting them

Family Benefits for Children Resident Abroad

Detailed information on this topic is provided in German on the homepage of SVA Zurich. In these cases, the requirements for entitlement must be clarified, if necessary, by the authorities abroad. [See SVA fact sheet](#)

Unpaid Leave

The family benefits or differential payments are paid for the current and the three subsequent months.

Application Form

To enable the Zurich Compensation Office (SVA) to check your entitlement to family benefits, you must submit your application to the SVA. Your HR representative (PV) will be happy to send you a personalized link for the application.

Reporting Obligation

You must report all changes in your present circumstances to the HR representative (PV) or Professorships Department immediately in writing, without being requested to do so. Please use the “Change notification for employees” form.

Detailed information on the family allowance act (FamZG) is provided in German on the [SVA Zürich](#) homepage.