



## 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. In addition, the cantons have issued their own cantonal laws. In the Canton of Zurich, the introductory act and the ordinance to the introductory act came into effect on 1 July 2009.

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

- **Child allowance:** The minimum child allowance is CHF 200.00 per month up to and including the month in which the child turns 12. Afterwards, the allowance is CHF 250.00 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 250.00 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 7,110.00 per year or CHF 592.00 per month (as of 1 January 2019). 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
- c. The person with whom the child predominantly lives or predominantly lived until reaching legal maturity
- d. The person to whom the family benefits regulation in the child's canton of residence is applicable
- e. The 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

- a. Biological, adopted, step- and foster children
- b. 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 with the authorities abroad.

**Unpaid Leave**

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

**Application Form**

To enable us to check your entitlement to family benefits, please fill out the “Registration for employees” application form from SVA Zurich, sign it, and submit it to the Human Resources (HR) department or Professorships Department together with a copy of your family certificate or copies of the relevant official documents (birth certificates, etc.).

**Reporting Obligation**

You must report all changes in your present circumstances to the HR department 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 Zurich homepage](#).