



Parental Allowance

Parental Allowance in Germany – an overview



Federal Ministry
for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth

[bmbfsfj.bund.de](https://www.bmbfsfj.bund.de)

Parental Allowance

Parental Allowance is a benefit available to mothers and fathers who want to stay at home or work less in their profession after the birth of their child in order to care for them. It allows them to have time for themselves and their child.

Parental Allowance compensates for the loss of income after the birth of a child. It thus helps to secure families' livelihoods and supports parents in sharing family and work responsibilities equally. Parental Allowance is also available to parents who had no income before their child was born.

You can receive Parental Allowance whether you are cohabiting, single or separated parents.



Parental Allowance in Germany – an overview

There are three types of Parental Allowance:

→ **Basic Parental Allowance**

→ **Parental Allowance Plus**

→ **Partnership Bonus**

Depending on your life situation, you can combine Basic Parental Allowance, Parental Allowance Plus and the Partnership Bonus. How long you will receive Parental Allowance altogether depends on which options you choose.

While receiving Parental Allowance, you can work part-time for up to 32 hours per week.

Basic Parental Allowance

- Couples can split 14 months of Basic Parental Allowance, calculated from the date of birth, between themselves. This requires that at least one of the parents earns less in a period of 2 months of a child's life after the child's birth than before.
- One parent can receive Basic Parental Allowance for a maximum of 12 months of a child's life.
- One parent needs to apply for at least 2 months of a child's life of Parental Allowance (Basic Parental Allowance or Parental Allowance Plus).
- Both parents can generally receive Basic Parental Allowance at the same time for 1 month within the first 12 months of a child's life.
- If you are a single parent, you can receive Basic Parental Allowance for 14 months of a child's life on your own.

Parental Allowance Plus

- You can also receive Parental Allowance Plus after your child is 14 months old.
- You can receive Parental Allowance Plus for twice as long as Basic Parental Allowance: One month of a child's life of Basic Parental Allowance corresponds to 2 months of a child's life of Parental Allowance Plus.
- If you do not work in your profession after your child's birth, Parental Allowance Plus will be half the amount of Basic Parental Allowance. If you work part-time after the birth, the

monthly Parental Allowance Plus can be the same as the monthly Basic Parental Allowance with part-time income.

- This means that parents who work part-time after their child's birth benefit most from Parental Allowance Plus.

Partnership Bonus

- The Partnership Bonus supports parents in sharing their family and work responsibilities equally.
- You and the other parent can each receive 2, 3 or 4 additional months of Parental Allowance Plus. This requires that:
 - Both parents use the Partnership Bonus at the same time.
 - They apply the Partnership Bonus for 2, 3 or 4 consecutive months of the child's life.
 - During this time, both parents work at least 24 and at most 32 hours per week.
- If you are a single parent, you can use the Partnership Bonus on your own. This requires that you yourself work between 24 and 32 hours per week.



Parental Allowance rates

The rate of Parental Allowance depends on how much you earned in the year before your child was born. Generally, you receive 65 per cent of your net income before the birth of your child. Basic Parental Allowance varies between a minimum of 300 euros and a maximum of 1,800 euros per month. The rate of Parental Allowance Plus varies between 150 euros and 900 euros per month.

You can use the Parental Allowance Calculator (*Elterngeldrechner*) to get a rough idea of how much Parental Allowance you might receive. You can also use the Parental Allowance Calculator to plan the period in which you receive Parental Allowance.

You can find further information on the Family Portal (*Familienportal*) provided by the Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth at www.familienportal.de.





Applying for Parental Allowance

You can apply for Parental Allowance at your local Parental Allowance Office (*Elterngeldstelle*) or online. In all federal states (Länder), you can apply for Parental Allowance online. In many states, you can get online support from *Elterngeld Digital* when applying. A digital assistant takes you step by step through the application process, explains special terms, provides answers to frequently asked questions and identifies data errors.

For more information about which Parental Allowance Office to contact and which form to use for your application, please see **www.familienportal.de**. There you will also find many useful tips and further information on Parental Allowance.

Explanatory film



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