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Table 1.81: Legal governance, structure, financing and administration of family benefit programs

	Governing laws	Type of program	Source of funds	Administrative organization
Australia	First law:1941 (family allowances) Current laws:1991 (orphan's pension), 1996 (family tax payment), 1997 (parenting payment, maternity immunization allowance), 1998 (family allowance)	Dual universal and social assistance system	Insured person: None. Employer: None Government: Entire cost from general revenue.	Department of Family and Community Services, general supervision. Centrelink, administration of programs throughout the customer service centers and area support offices.
Austria	First law:1948 Current law:1967	Universal	Insured person: None. Agricultural self-employed: Portion of land tax. Employer: 4.5% of payroll. Government: Grants by municipalities, according to number of inhabitants. States pay 24 shillings/year for each inhabitant. Portion of federal income tax receipts transferred to Family Allowances Equalization Fund.	Federal Ministry of Environment, Youth and Family, administration of program through Family Allowances Equalization Fund attached to Ministry. Employers (social insurance institutions or finance offices) pay allowances directly to recipients and settle surplus or deficit of contributions due with equalization fund.
Belgium	First law:1930 Current laws:1967, 1969, and 1971 (means tested allowances)	Employment related system	Insured person: None. Employer: None. Distribution of social security resources according to the needs of the family allowance scheme. Government: Subsidies to employee and self-employed programs covering any deficits.	Ministry of Social Affairs, Public Health and the Environment, general supervision. National Social Security Office, collection of contributions. National Family Allowances Office, distribution of contribution among individual funds. Privatization of family allowance payments.
Canada	First law:1944 Current law:1998 Income Tax Act	Low income residents with one or more children	Insured person: None. Employer: None. Government: Whole cost.	Department of National Revenue determines eligibility of Child Tax Benefits and administers the program.
Czech Republic	First law:1945 Current law:1995	Universal	Insured person: None. Employer: None. Government: Whole cost.	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, general supervision. District social security offices for administration of benefits.
Denmark	First law:1952 Current law:1986	Universal	Insured person: None. Government: Whole cost.	Ministry of Social Affairs, general supervision and national administration. Local (municipal) governments, local administration of program.

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Finland	First law: 1948 Current law: 1992 and 1996 (Child Home Care Allowance)	Universal	Insured person: None. Employer: None. Government: Whole cost	Ministry of Social Affairs, general supervision; Social Insurance Institution, national administration of Family Allowance Program.
France	First law:1932 Current law:1946	Universal	Insured person: None, except for self-employed and farmers. Employer: 5.4% of payroll. Government: 1.1% of total revenues used to finance family allowances, as well as tax of 1% on heritage income.	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, general supervision. National Family Allowances Fund, coordination of funds and financial equalization, tripartite governing body composed of employer, employee and family org. representatives ..
Germany	First law:1954 Current law:1996	Universal	Insured person: None. Employer: None. Government: Whole cost.	Federal Finance office, administration of benefits through the Federal Institute for Labor (through regional and local labor offices) under the title Family Fund. Separate administration of schemes for public employees.
Greece	First and current law:1958	Employment related	Insured persons: 1% of earnings. Employer: 1% of payroll. Government: None. Maximum earnings for contribution of benefit purposes is 7,612,500 drachmas/year.	Ministry of Labor, general supervision. Manpower Employment Organization, administration of allowances through local offices. Social Insurance Institute, collection of contributions.
Iceland	First law:1946 Current law:1981 ¹	Social insurance system		
Ireland	First law:1944 (child benefit), 1984 (family income support) & 1990 (lone parent's allowance). Current law:1993 (consolidates all previous laws related to social welfare)	Dual universal and social assistance	Insured person: None. Employer: None. Government: Whole cost.	Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs, administration of allowances. Payments made at post offices on behalf of the Department.
Israel ²	First law: 1956 Current law 1992	Universal	Insured person Government: Whole cost	National Insurance Institute
Italy	First law:1937 Current law:1961, 1965, 1970, 1974, 1980, 1983, & 1988 (reform of family benefits scheme)	Employment related	Insured person: None. Employer: 2.48% of payroll. Government: Various subsidies. Minimum earnings for contribution purposes: 67,474 liras/day or if higher, minimum wage.	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, and Treasury, general supervision. National Social Insurance Institute, administration of program through Central Family Allowances Fund. Individual employers pay allowances directly to own employees (except in agriculture) and settle surplus or deficit or contributions due with local branch of Institute.
Japan	First law: 1971 (children's allowance) Current laws :1981, 1985, 1991, 1994.	Dual employer liability and assistance	Insured person: None. Employer: 70% of cost (about .11% of wages) Government: With respect to employees – national treasury, 20% of cost, prefecture, 5%; city or town, 5%. With respect to self-employed and unemployed – national treasury, 66.6%; prefecture about 16.7%; city or town about 16.7%.	Ministry of Health and Welfare, supervision through Children and Families Bureau. Insurance division of prefecture welfare department and social insurance offices, collection of contributions. City or town, granting of allowances.

¹ Program transferred from social security to the tax system.

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Luxembourg	First law: 1947 (employed persons) & 1959 (self-employed persons) Current laws: 1977 (birth allowances), 1980 (maternity allowance), 1985 (family allowances), 1986 (beginning of school year allowances), & 1988 (education allowance)	Universal	Insured person: Employee, none. Self-employed, 0.7% of income. Employer: None. Government: Entire cost.	Ministry of Family, general supervision.. National Family Allowance Fund, administration of allowances.
Netherlands	First law: 1939 Current law: 1980	Universal	Insured person: None. Employer: None. Government: Whole cost.	Board of Supervision of Social Insurance, general supervision. Social Insurance Bank, administration of allowances.
New Zealand	First law: 1926 Current laws: 1964 (family benefit, discontinued from April 1, 1991), 1973 (domestic purposes benefits), 1978 (disabled child's allowance), 1985 (family support), 1986 guaranteed minimum family income), & 1996 (Independent Family Tax Credit)	Dual universal and social assistance	Insured person: None. Employer: None. Government: Entire cost financed from general revenues.	Department of Work and Income, administration of allowances through branch and district offices. Department of Inland Revenue, administration of family support, independent family tax credit and guaranteed minimum family income programs.
Norway	First and current law: 1946	Universal	Insured person: None. Employer: None. Government: Whole cost.	Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, general supervision. National Insurance Administration, national administration of program and supervision of local offices. National Insurance county offices, administration of county program and supervision of local offices. Local insurance offices, local allowance administration.
Portugal	First law: 1942 Current law: 1980 & 1997	Employment related	Insured person: 11% of earnings. Self-employed, 25.4% for mandatory and 32% for voluntary coverage into social and health care pension fund.. Employer: 23.75% of payroll. Government: Family allowances are allocated 2.8% of social pensions and health care revenues.	Ministry of Labor and solidarity, general supervision through the State Secretariat for Social Security and Work Relations. Regional Social Security Centers, administration of program.
Spain	First Law: 1938 Current Law: 1994	Employment related	Insured person: Portion of social pension contributions which are 4.7% of covered earnings based on wage classes that vary according to 11 occupational classes. Employer: Portion of social pension contributions which are 23.6% of earnings according to 11 occupational classes. Government: Pays for non-contributory pensions from general revenues.	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, general supervision. National Institute of Social Security, Treasurer General of Social Security, payment of claims.

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Sweden	First and current law: 1947	Universal	Insured person: None. Employer: None. Government: Whole cost.	National Social Insurance board, central administration and supervision. Regional and local social insurance offices, administration of program.
Switzerland	First and current federal law: 1952 (agricultural only) Cantonal law: All cantons have laws, enacted during or after 1943	Employment related	Insured person: None. Employer: Agricultural employers, 2% of payroll (federal program). Nonagricultural employers, from approximately 2% to 5% of payroll, according to canton and fund. Government: Federal and cantonal governments share residual cost for agricultural employees and whole cost for small farmers (2/3 by federal government, 1/3 from cantonal government).	Federal program: Cantonal old age and survivors' insurance funds collect contributions and pay allowances. Cantonal programs : Administered by numerous public and approved private family allowance funds, supervised by cantonal governments. Employers usually pay allowances with wages and settle only surpluses or deficit with fund.
United Kingdom	First law: 1945 (child benefit), 1987 (family credit) Current law: 1992 (consolidated law)	Dual universal and social assistance	Insured person: None Employer: None Government: Whole cost.	Department of Social Security, administration of allowances centrally through the benefits agency.