

Table 1.82.: Family And Child Allowance Programs: Coverage, Qualifying Conditions, Benefit Levels And Other Related Allowances

	Coverage	Qualifying conditions	Benefit levels	Other allowances
Australia	Residents with one or more children.	Child must be under age 16 (18 if student and ineligible for federal student assistance). Parent or guardian as well as child (with exceptions) must be residents of Australia.	Minimum family allowance (means-tested at high level): A\$23.70/fortnight per child; A\$7.80 supplement for 4 th and each subsequent child.	Birth grant. Higher family allowance for persons with dependent children who receive pensions or other benefits or in low moderately paid work. Single parents are eligible for parenting payment and higher family allowance if meet criteria. Orphan pension. Maternity immunization allowance. Family tax payment for families eligible for higher family allowance.
Austria	Permanent residences with one or more children. Aliens are eligible if employed for more than 3 months or resident for at least 5 consecutive years.	Child must be under age 19; age 18 or student with taxable income less than 3,899 shillings /month, or during vocational training with taxable income of less than 3,899 shillings/month; no limit if disabled.	1,300 shillings/month for each child up to age 10, thereafter 1550/month until age 19, then 1,850 shillings; 1,650 shillings for permanently disabled child.	Birth grant Additional grant for special needs children available.
Belgium	Gainfully occupied persons or social insurance beneficiaries with one or more children. Special systems for public employees and self-employed persons. Families not covered are eligible for means-test allowances.	Child must be under age 18; 21 if disabled; or 25 if full-time student or seeking employment. Eligible children may include dependent grandchildren, brothers, sisters, stepchildren, and other dependent minors. Income limit for means-tested allowances: 86,792 francs/quarter with one child, increasing 20% for each additional child.	2,760 francs/month for first child (4,084 francs if child of old age pensioner or of person unemployed for more than 6 months, 5,670 francs if child of disabled person), 5,007 francs for 2 nd (5,861 francs of old age or disability pensioners), 7,476 francs/month for 3 rd child (7,626 for 3 rd child of old age or disability pensioner or unemployed). Supplement of 471 francs/month for 1 st child aged 6-12 years, 718 francs for 12-16 years, and 758 francs if child over age 18.	Birth grant Supplement for disabled children. Means-tested allowance payable to families not eligible for regular allowances. Adjustment of benefits for wage and price changes and other economic factors. Revenues used to finance child care centers.

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	Coverage	Qualifying conditions	Benefit levels	Other allowances
Canada	Low income residents with one or more children.	Child must be under age 18. Benefits decline as family net income increases. An earned-income supplement is available to low-income families that are in the work force.	No family allowance. Replaced by refundable tax credit. See other allowances.	A child tax benefit of C\$1,020/yer payable for each qualified child, plus an additional C\$75 for the third and each additional child. The benefit is reduced at the rate of 5% of family net income in excess of C\$25,921 for families of 2 or more children, and at 2.5% for single child families. Earned income supplement for low-income working families.
Czech Republic	Families with children.	Dependent children, up to age 26 if student.	Means tested benefit for families whose income is 1.1% below living minimum equals 32% of living minimum of children for each child. Benefits equals 28% of living minimum of children per child for family incomes between 1.1% and 1.8% of living minimum.	Birth grant. Parents' allowance for parents caring for children at home.
Denmark	Resident citizens, aliens having resided in Denmark for one or more years (3 years for special supplement) or aliens covered by reciprocal agreements.	Child must be under age 18.	Basic annual allowance, 11,300 kroner/child 0-2 years old, 10,200/child 3-6 years old, 8,100 kroner if 7-17 years of age.	
Finland	All residents with one or more children.	Child must be under age 17.	6,420 marks per year for one child, 14,300 marks for two children, 23,650 marks for 3 children, 34,460 marks for 4 children, and 12,280 marks/year for each additional child.	Birth grant. Child home care allowance (child must be under age 3). Partial home care allowance for parents working less than 30 hours/week. Means-tested supplement .

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France	Families living in France for at least 3 months.	Must have at least two children under age 20 and earn less than 55% of minimum wage.	684 francs per child for first 2 children; 876 francs for subsequent children. Additional 192 francs for children 10-16 years; 341 francs/child.	Young child allowance from 5 months of pregnancy to until age 3. Income tested family supplement. Accommodation allowance. Family support allowance for single parent. Parental education allowance. Child care benefit for hiring help. Special education allowance. Beginning of school year allowance.
Germany	Residents who are subject to income tax with one or more children.	Child must be under age 18 (under age 21 if unemployed, 27 if student or trainee or if no training place available, no limit if disabled). For children above age 18 years of age, the amount of allowance varies according to income.	DM 250/month for first and second child, DM 300 for the third child and DM 350 for each subsequent child. Lower rates paid for children living in foreign countries with lower cost of living.	Special needs children receive benefit (no age limit).
Greece	Employees in industry, commerce and related occupations with one or more children. Employees receiving equivalent allowances from employer exempted.	Child must be under age 18 (no limit if disabled), 22 if student), single, living in Greece or other European Union member country. Parent must have 50 days employment in preceding year for full allowance.	2,000 drachmas/month for first child, 6,000 drachma/month for two children;, 13,500/month for three children, 16,400 for four children; and 2,750 drachmas/month for each additional child.	Additional payments for widows, widowers, and soldiers.
Iceland¹				
Ireland	Child benefit for age 16 and under (19 if student or disabled). One-parent family payment for single parents with limited means who is not receiving child support, not cohabitating and earning less than £12,000 per year. Means-tested Family Income Supplement for working parents of at least one child under age 18 (or 21, if student).	Child must be under age 16 (19 if student or disabled).	£31.50 for first and second child; I£42/month for third and each additional child. Benefits doubled for each of triplets or more children.	One parent family payment. Adoptive benefit. Income tested family income supplement. Multiple birth grant.

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	Coverage	Qualifying conditions	Benefit levels	Other allowances
Israel²		Child must be under age 18.		
Italy	Spouse dependent on insured; children must be under age 18 (no limit if disabled); brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews must be orphans or dependents under age 18, (no limit if disabled) and not eligible for survivor pension. Separate provisions for self-employed and formerly self-employed pensioners.	Spouse dependent on insured; children must be under age 18 (no limit if disabled); brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews must be orphans or dependents under age 18, (no limit if disabled) and not eligible for survivor pension.	Benefit varies according to size and income of family from 20,000 to 1,869,000 lire for up to 7 children.	Large family supplements. Annual adjustment of pensions based on average increase in gross domestic product within the last five years. Separate provisions for self-employed agricultural workers, self-employed and formerly self-employed pensioners.
Japan	Residents with one or more children: child under age 3.	Resident's income must be less than 3,811,000 yen in previous year for family of four. Special allowances for employees and public employees with income less than 6,206,000 yen for a family of four.	5,000 yen/month for first and 2 nd child, and 10,000yen.month for each subsequent child.	
Luxembourg	All residents with dependent children who are brought up and legally domiciled in the country.	Child must be under age 18, age 27 if student and no limit if disabled before age 18.	5,371 francs/month for one child; 13,102 francs/month for 2 children; 24,459 francs for 3 children; and 9,354 francs/month for each additional child. An additional 548 francs/month/child for children aged 6-11 years, and 1,646 francs for age 12 and older.	Birth allowance. Beginning of school year allowance. Education allowances. Supplementary allowance for disabled children Adjustment indexed to cost of living.
Netherlands	All residents with one or more children.	Child must be under age 18.	Range from 321.92 guilders per quarter for families with one child under age 6 years of age to 641.69 guilders per quarter/child for families with 6 children between 12 and 17 years of age. Adjustment made twice a year on basis of price index changes.	
New Zealand	Domestic purpose benefit: Single parent caring for dependent child under age 18, or person caring for someone other than or own child who would otherwise be hospitalized.	Payable to unsupported single parents over age 18; resident during last 10 years (no residence requirement for children born in New Zealand).	NX\$ 211.82/week to single parent with one child, NZ\$231.09 for single parent with 2 or more children. Payable after 1-10 week	Child disability allowance: Persons caring for physically or mentally disabled children at home. Family support: Low income

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			waiting period, determined by previous income and family circumstances. Benefits reduced if income above NZ\$80/week and if employment conditions not met.	beneficiary families with dependent children. Independent family tax credit:
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Norway	All resident children.	Child must be under age 16.	11,112 kroner/year for first and 2 nd child, 13,092 kroner for 3 rd and for each additional child. In addition, annual supplement of 7,884 kroner/child between age 1 and 3. Sole supporter receives benefits for one child more than actually supported. Beneficiaries living in artic region receive annual supplement of 3,792 kroner/child.	
Portugal	Employed persons, unemployed and pensioners. Voluntary insurance available to certain categories of employed persons not covered by any other contributory program.	Child must be under age 16 (25 if student or disabled).	Benefit levels vary by income and number and age of children. Families with high income levels not covered.	Special supplement for disabled children. Special education allowance. Constant attendance supplement. Funeral grant. Supplement for parents taking leave to care for sick children under age 10 (no limit if disabled).

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	Coverage	Qualifying conditions	Benefit levels	Other allowances
Spain	Contributory system: All employees, social security pensioners and persons receiving cash sickness benefits who have one or more eligible children. Non-contributory system: All citizens and legal residents not entitled to childrens' social security or other public benefits.	Child must be under age 18 (no limit if at least 65% disabled). For income tested allowance the family income must be below 1,202,991 pesetas/year if one child and 15% increase for each additional child. No income limit for disabled children.	For children under age 18: 36,000 pesetas/year; 72,000 pesetas/year if child 33% disabled; 455,460 pesetas if at least 65% disabled, 683,220 pesetas if 75% or more disabled.	Low income supplement. Disabled supplement.
Sweden	All residents with one or more children.	Child must be under age 16 (20 if student, 23 if attending special school for mentally retarded).	750 kronor per month per child. Supplement payable to families with 3 or more children;	
Switzerland	Federal program: Agricultural employees and small self-employed farmers who have one or more children (family allowances) or spouse (housekeeping allowance) Cantonal programs: Nonagricultural employees with one or more children; several cantons also cover some self-employed, including farmers. Employers usually affiliate with family allowance funds; in some cantons; in some cantons, employers may guarantee payment. Special systems for public employees.	Federal program, child must be under age 16 (20 if unable to work and not receiving full disability pension, 25 if student). In most cantonal programs, children must be under age 16 (18-20 is disabled and 25 if student).	Federal program, 160 francs/month for first 2 children (180 in mountain regions); 165 francs/month for the 3 rd and subsequent children (185 in mountain regions). Household allowance: 100 francs for each married worker. Cantonal program: Legal minimum, 140 francs to 294 francs/month for each child. Funds often higher than legal minimum.	Birth grants. Vocational training allowances.
United Kingdom	Residents with one or more children	Child must be under age 16 (19 if full time student). 26 weeks residence in UK of last 52 weeks. Family credit for low-income families requires responsibility for at least one child under age 16 (or 19 if full-time student); working at least 16 hours/week, and savings less than £8,000.	£14.40/week for eldest qualifying child, £9.60 for each additional child.	Family credit replaced by Working Families' Tax Credit.