



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



# Parental Allowance

Parental Allowance in Germany – An Overview

# Parental Allowance

Parental Allowance is a benefit for parents of babies and toddlers. It is meant to allow parents to spend time with, raise and care for their child.

Parental Allowance compensates where parents' income is lower because they are temporarily working fewer hours or stop working after the birth of their child. Thus, Parental Allowance helps secure the livelihood of these families. Even parents who had no income at all before their child was born are entitled to receive Parental Allowance.

You can claim Parental Allowance as parents living together, as a single parent or as separated parents.



## An Overview of the Different Types of Parental Allowance

There are three different types of Parental Allowance:

- Basic Parental Allowance
- Parental Allowance Plus
- Partnership Bonus

These three options can also be combined. The exact length of time for which you depends on which options you choose.

### Basic Parental Allowance

- You can receive Basic Parental Allowance for a minimum of two and a maximum of 12 months after your child's birth.
- If both parents receive Parental Allowance and are facing a loss of income, Parental Allowance will be paid for an additional two months (partner months).
- Basic Parental Allowance can only be paid during the first 14 months of the child's life, after which parents are only entitled to receive Parental Allowance Plus or the Partnership Bonus.
- Beneficiaries are entitled to work part-time for up to 32 hours a week.

### Parental Allowance Plus

- You can receive Parental Allowance Plus twice as long as basic Parental Allowance: one month of Basic Parental Allowance equals two months of Parental Allowance Plus.
- If you do not work after your child's birth, Parental Allowance Plus will only be half the amount of Basic Parental Allowance. However, if you work part-time after the birth, the Parental Allowance Plus paid each month can be equivalent to the monthly Basic Parental Allowance you would receive while working part-time.
- Therefore, parents who start working part-time soon after their child's birth benefit most from Parental Allowance Plus.
- Just as with basic Parental Allowance, beneficiaries are entitled to work part-time for up to 32 hours a week.

## The Partnership Bonus

- The Partnership Bonus is a benefit for parents who equally share their family and professional responsibilities.
- As a Partnership Bonus, each parent may claim either two, three or four additional months of Parental Allowance Plus benefits. The following conditions have to be met:
  - Both parents claim the Partnership Bonus at the same time.
  - You apply for the Partnership Bonus for at least two and at most four months. Those months need to be consecutive
  - During that time both of you work part-time, each of you at least 24 and at most 32 hours per week.
- If you are a single parent you can also claim the Partnership Bonus on your own. To that end, you only need to work between 24 and 32 hours per week.

## Parental Allowance Rates

The amount of Parental Allowance you will receive depends on how much you were earning in the year before your child was born. Depending on your income, rates range from a minimum of €300 to a maximum of €1,800 per month for the Basic Parental Allowance and from €150 to €900 per month for Parental Allowance Plus. You can use the Parental Allowance calculator (*Elterngeld-Rechner*) at



[www.familienportal.de](http://www.familienportal.de)

to find out how much Parental Allowance you are likely to receive.



## How to Apply for Parental Allowance

You can apply for Parental Allowance at your local Parental Allowance office (*Elterngeldstelle*). In some federal *Länder* (states), you can also apply online for Parental Allowance via the application assistant *ElterngeldDigital* at [www.elterngeld-digital.de](http://www.elterngeld-digital.de) (only available in German). The assistant will take you through the application step by step. In addition, technical terms will be explained and you will receive answers to frequently asked questions. You can find *ElterngeldDigital* at



[www.elterngeld-digital.de](http://www.elterngeld-digital.de)

For more information about which Parental Allowance office to contact and which form to use for your application, please see [www.familienportal.de](http://www.familienportal.de). There, you will also find many valuable tips and further information regarding Parental Allowance.

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