

## **Parenthood and Family**

In Switzerland persons with children receive financial support through child and education benefits. Working mothers are entitled to paid maternity leave of at least 14 weeks.

### **Maternity Compensation**

Generally, working mothers are entitled to a paid maternity leave (Mutterschaftsurlaub) of 14 weeks. During this time, they receive at least 80 percent of their wages. Unemployed women or women unable to work should ask the compensation fund whether they also qualify. In this case, special rules apply. Women are not permitted to work during the first eight weeks following childbirth (maternity protection, Mutterschutz).

### **Paternity Leave**

Fathers are entitled to two weeks of paid paternity leave after the birth of a child (Vaterschaftsurlaub). Unlike maternity leave, paternity leave is flexible: one can take it at one time or in individual days. However, only within six months after the birth of the child.

### **Family Allowances**

People with children receive financial support through family benefits (Familienzulagen). These are issued as child support until a child reaches age 16 and as an education allowance for young people until the age of 25. All parents are entitled to these benefits, whether they are employed, self-employed or unemployed with little means. Employees receive the allowances with their monthly wages. Additional information on family benefits is provided by employers or the social insurance office. The amount paid differs according to canton.

### **Family rental contributions**

Families with little money can apply for support contributions for their rent under certain conditions (Familienmietzinsbeiträge). The amount of the contribution depends on the income and assets of the household and the amount of the rent.

### **Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)**

[www.hallo-baselstadt.ch/en/social-security/parenthood-and-family](http://www.hallo-baselstadt.ch/en/social-security/parenthood-and-family)