



Benefits for families with children

- Child support benefit – “Family 500+” Programme
- Family benefits



Demographic situation

- Demographic forecasts for Poland are among the most pessimistic ones in the world. Poland is among the fastest-depopulating countries.
- For over 25 years by now, a low birth rate does not allow for achieving a replacement fertility rate. In 2015, the fertility rate in Poland was **1.32**, which was below the replacement fertility rate (it is assumed that a fertility rate of 2.10 - 2.15 guarantees that the replacement fertility rate is achieved).



Demographic situation

- According to data derived from surveys the following factors could encourage Polish citizens to have a child:
 - ✓ 81% of respondents mentioned higher wages,
 - ✓ 80% of respondents mentioned a better financial situation.
- At the same time, Poles declare that the family and having children are the highest values for them. Poles want to have children.
- It seems that negative demographic trends can be reversed:
 - ✓ by promoting the 3+ family model and
 - ✓ supporting such families.
- Experiences of other countries show that favorable conditions for the family encourage people to have children.



The “Family 500+” Programme

- The Programme was launched on 1 April 2016.
- The Programme is implemented under the Act of 11 February 2016 on the State Aid in Raising Children which introduced a **new type of benefit – a child support benefit.**
- This is the first such wide-scale and systemic support for Polish families.



The “Family 500+” Programme

Three key objectives of the Programme:

- **a pronatalistic (pro-demographic) one** – an increase in the birth rate by 278 thousand in 10 years,
- **investment in human capital** - investment in children,
- **reduced poverty among the youngest** – the risk of poverty among children under 17 will decrease from 23.3% to 11%.



The “Family 500+” Programme – impact on the demographic situation

- Since the introduction of the child support benefit, an **increase in the birth rate** has been observed, hence also in the Total Fertility Rate, which was 1.357 in 2016.
- According to data presented by the Central Statistical Office, a significant increase in the birth rate was observed in the period from August 2016 to June 2017 – **by 27.4 thousand**, compared to the same period in 2015-2016. In January – June 2017 only, an increase in the birth rate by **14.5 thousand** was reported, compared to the same period of 2016.



The “Family 500+” Programme

The child support benefit is paid:

- to parents, the legal guardian or the actual carer of a child (a person who actually cares for a child, provided he/she has filed a motion to the guardianship court to foster a child),
- for children **up to the age of 18**.



The “Family 500+” Programme

The child support benefit is paid:

- **for the first child**, defined as the only or the oldest child (up to the age of 18) in the family, **provided that the income criterion is met:**
 - **PLN 800 net** per family member,
 - **PLN 1,200 net** per family member in a family with a child with a disability,
- **for the second and each subsequent child in all families, irrespective of their income.**



The “Family 500+” Programme

The amount of the child support benefit

- The child support benefit in the amount of **PLN 500 (approximately EUR 120)** is paid for a child per month.
- This amount is exempt from personal income tax as well as social security and health insurance contributions.



Family benefits

Pursuant to the Act on Family Benefits, families with children, including children with disabilities, are entitled to the following benefits:

- family benefit and allowances to the family benefit,
- carer's allowances: attendance allowance, attendance benefit and special carer's allowance,
- two types of financial aid related to childbirth: one-off financial aid for giving birth to a child and financial aid for giving birth to a child granted at the discretion of local authorities,
- family benefits set out by local authorities and financed from their budget,
- parental benefits.



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- parental benefits.



Family benefits

Income criterion

To qualify for the child benefit, the family's monthly net income per person may not exceed

- **PLN 674,**
- **PLN 764 in the case of a family with a child with disabilities.**



Family benefits

- A child benefit is payable to: the parents, one of the parents or the legal or actual guardian of a child, a learner.
- A child benefit is paid until the child: turns 18 or graduates, no longer, however, than by the age of 21 or 24 where the child continues to study and holds a certificate confirming his/her moderate or severe disability.



Family benefits

Since 1 November 2016, **the child benefit is paid in the amount of:**

- PLN 95 per child at the age of up to 5;
- PLN 124 per child over 5 years of age until the age of 18;
- PLN 135 per child over 18 years of age until the age of 24.



Family benefits

Allowances to the child benefit

Individuals entitled to a child benefit may apply also for allowances to this benefit, depending on their personal situation.

The Act on Family Benefits provides for the following **allowances to a child benefit**:

- childbirth allowance,
- allowance for raising a child in a large family,
- allowance for childcare during parental leave,
- allowance for education and rehabilitation of a child with disabilities,
- allowance for lone parents and an allowance due to the beginning of the school year,
- allowance for taking up education by the child outside his/her place of residence.



Family benefits

The following benefits are independent of the entitlement to receive a child benefit:

- **parental benefits,**
- **one-off financial aid for giving birth to a child.**



Family benefits

A **parental benefit** is paid:

- in the monthly net amount of PLN 1,000 (EUR 240) for 52 weeks from the childbirth (respectively longer in the case of a multiple childbirth),
- to women who have given birth to a child but do not receive a maternity benefit or salary.



Family benefits

One-off financial aid for giving birth to a child:

- is paid in the amount of PLN 1,000 (approximately EUR 240) per child – this is a one-time benefit,
- provided that:
 - ✓ the income criterion of PLN 1,922 net per family member is met, and
 - ✓ the woman is given medical care no later than from the 10th week of gestation until the childbirth.



Family benefits

Carer's benefits

The applicable law provides for three types of carer's benefits:

- **attendance allowance,**
- **attendance benefit,**
- **special carer's allowance.**



Family benefits

The following individuals are entitled to an **attendance allowance** in the monthly amount of PLN 153 (approximately EUR 38):

- children with disabilities,
- people with disabilities, aged 16 or over, provided that they hold a certificate confirming their severe disability,
- people aged 75 or over,
- people with disabilities, aged 16 or over, holding a certificate confirming their moderate disabilities, provided that such disabilities occurred before they turned 21.



Family benefits

An attendance benefit:

- has been paid since 1 January 2017, **in the monthly amount of PLN 1,406 (approximately EUR 350),**
- to the mother or father or the actual guardian of a child, a person being a foster family related to a child and other persons bound by the maintenance obligation, for resignation from regular work or other paid work, who care for a child with disabilities, provided such disabilities occurred before the child turned 18 or while studying at secondary school or at a university, but not later than by attaining the age of 25.



Family benefits

A special carer's allowance

- is paid in the monthly amount of PLN 520 (approximately EUR 125) to individuals bound by the maintenance obligation, as well as spouses if they do not take up regular work or other paid work or resign from regular work or other paid work,
- the income criterion of PLN 764 net per family member must also be met.



Thank you
for your attention