

Basel City¹:

Status of the bill	ADOPTED - A referendum was held on the proposal. The electorate of the canton of Basel-Stadt approved the proposal on 18 May with 63.2% of votes in favour. Prior to this, on 5 February 2025, the Cantonal Parliament (<i>Grossrat</i>) had already clearly approved the revised proposal with 81 votes in favour, 10 against and 7 abstentions.
Focus	<p>Economic Development Fund in the areas of innovation, society and the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Innovation: In particular, research, development and related innovative production activities are to be promoted. Research activities may include basic research as well as applied research. The latter includes industrial research, experimental development or a combination of both. <p>Eligible activities in innovation include personnel expenses for research and development (R&D) in the canton of Basel-Stadt and northwestern Switzerland (defined as the cantons of Basel-Landschaft and Jura, as well as adjacent regions in the cantons of Aargau and Solothurn), depreciation of R&D assets (including high-tech production) in the canton of Basel-Stadt and the rest of Switzerland, and clinical trials in Switzerland as well as the necessary pharmaceutical production in Switzerland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social: The most important element in the society focus is the promotion of voluntary parental leave. In addition, the Government Council (<i>Regierungsrat</i>) would like to promote research collaborations in areas of life sciences that are particularly relevant to society globally, with the secondary goal of strengthening an entrepreneurial, innovative ecosystem in Basel. <p>Employees whose contractual place of work is in the canton of Basel-Stadt are eligible for contributions towards voluntary parental leave, provided that the statutory leave required under Swiss law has already been granted.</p>

¹ Preservation of the attractiveness of the location: The Basel location package; Partial revisions of the Economic Development Act (StaföG) and the Act on Direct Taxes (StG) and report on four suits, report of the WAK, business 24.0790.02; Table last updated on 2 December 2025.

	<p>- Environment: The funding initiative in the environment module is intended to provide targeted support for the phase-out of fossil fuels in order to decarbonise the economy and promote the efficient use of energy.</p> <p>Eligible activities in environment protection include measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the canton of Basel-Stadt, measures to increase energy efficiency in the canton of Basel-Stadt and Switzerland, and the reduction of the emissions intensity of direct greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.</p>
Funding	<p>To finance the contributions, an innovation fund will be created into which 80% of the contributions will be directed. The remaining 20% will go into another fund for society and the environment. Together, both funds will receive a total of CHF 150–500 million annually. The society and environment fund will allocate CHF 15 million to research collaborations in the field of life sciences.</p> <p>Contributions towards innovation vary between 3 and 25% for eligible expenses. Contributions towards voluntary parental leave are limited to up to three weeks for 80% of the salary, with a maximum of CHF 220 per day. Contributions per tonne of CO₂ equivalent saved range between CHF 15 and 150 depending on the place at which the reduction of CO₂ equivalent is achieved.</p>
Form of contributions	Contributions can be made in the form of grants, qualified tax credits (QRTC) or other recognised tax credits.
Decision-making authority	The Government Council (<i>Regierungsrat</i>) decides on the annual allocation of the funds, taking into account the budget balance. The Government Council also makes a final decision on withdrawals from the funds. It may delegate competence to the relevant department.
Application and approval	Applications for the first year had to be submitted until 30 September 2025. The Office for the Economy and Labour (AWA) will dispose over the subsidies and the first payment will be made by the end of March 2026. The regulatory process stipulates that, starting in 2026, applications must be submitted by 30 June each year. ²

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For more information about the process, please visit the following webpage: <https://www.bs.ch/themen/arbeit-und-steuern/unternehmen/unterstuetzung-von-unternehmen/das-basler-standortpaket-basel-stadt-foerdert-innovation-elternzeit-und-klimaschutz>.

	In addition to other requirements, it is particularly important to note that a properly audited annual financial statement (a limited audit is not sufficient) is required for the application.
Entry into force	After a successful vote, the Government Council (<i>Regierungsrat</i>) determined that the new location promotion measures will enter into force on 30 June 2025.