

FREE RESOURCE

Countries That Will Pay Your Family to Move Abroad

2026 EDITION

Spain · Italy · Japan
Portugal · Switzerland · Ireland



@bravefamilytravel

Your guide to traveling — and living — the world with little kids

WHY I'M SHARING THIS

We Moved to Spain.

Then I found out Italy would have paid us €100,000 to do it instead.

I am Marae — Cuban born, raised in the US, now living in Spain with my husband and our two daughters. We made this leap before I knew these programs existed. So I put together this guide so nobody else misses the opportunity we did.

Every program here is real and verified, linked to the official program page (or a reputable source where no clean government page exists). Eligibility varies a lot — read the catch on each one and confirm it is still active before making any decisions.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

01

Pick one country

Read one page fully before moving to the next.

02

Click every link

Each links to the official program page or a reputable source.

03

Visa first

Most grants are separate from your visa application.

04

Income first

Most programs require proof of remote income.

Spain is the only move I have personally made. When you are ready to make it real, my team handles your Spain visa and paperwork at www.puenterelocation.com. For all other countries, use the official sources on each page.

Follow [@bravefamilytravel](https://www.instagram.com/bravefamilytravel) on Instagram for ongoing updates from life in Spain and abroad.

Xoxo, Marae

your travel mom bestie



SPAIN

COUNTRY 1 OF 6

Spain — Four Regional Programs Worth Knowing

We live here. We did not get any of these — we moved before I knew they existed. All are real, but each has a catch worth reading before you plan.

ASTURIAS — BABY BONUS (RURAL RATE)

Up to €2,200/child

Cash for each baby born or adopted, with the top rate in Asturias's at-risk rural towns. Open to legal foreign residents, no ancestry needed.

A reward for settling, not instant cash: you must be registered in Asturias for 12 months before applying. Window open Apr–Nov 2026.

miprincipado.asturias.es — official

CASTILLA Y LEÓN — PLAN TUYA

Under-36 housing

For under-36s: 20% off public rural homes, mortgage guarantees up to 97.5%, and rent help up to €375/mo in small towns · max property price €240K

Age cap is under 36. The viral "Arenillas free house + job" was a one-off village selection (now closed), not a standing grant.

vivienda.jcyl.es — young buyers

THE SPAIN ADVANTAGE — THESE STACK

Grant + DNV: Regional grants and the DNV are separate — you can hold both.

Latino heritage: Cuban, Mexican, Colombian + most Latin American nationals qualify for citizenship in 2 years, not 10 (Art. 22.1 Civil Code).

Child benefits: Up to €2,400/yr per child + Familia Numerosa discounts.

Get help with the visa & paperwork: our team at www.puenterelocation.com handles the whole Spain relocation process for families.

EXTREMADURA — AMBROZ VALLEY

Up to €10,000

€8K base · €10K if you're a woman, under 30, or settle in a town under 5,000 (these don't stack) · 2-yr stay · for remote workers with legal residence

Last call closed Oct 2025 — a new call is expected but undated. Verify before planning.

juntaex.es — official program

ARAGÓN — PROGRAMA 700

Subsidized rural rentals

Aragón funds town halls in villages under 3,000 to build and renovate public homes for affordable rent — so the benefit is cheaper rural housing to rent, not cash to you.

Important: the €50K–€66K goes to municipalities, not individuals. Families benefit by renting the resulting homes, not by applying for the grant.

svaragon.com — Plan 700 homes

DNV INCOME MINIMUMS (2026)

Main applicant: ~€2,760–2,850/month

First dependent: +~€916/month

Each additional: +~€305/month

Family of 4: ~€4,400/month (2026 SMI)

one.gob.es — Official DNV



ITALY

COUNTRY 2 OF 6

Italy — Up to €100,000

Italy has the most varied relocation programs on this list, from Alpine grants to €1 homes. Eligibility and open dates vary by region, so check each before you plan.

TRENTINO ALTO ADIGE

€100,000

Up to €80K toward renovation + €20K toward purchase, across 32 mountain villages. Keep it as your primary home for 10 years.

Open to foreigners · needs an Italian digital ID (SPID) to apply · opens in funded rounds, so check for the next 2026 call

provincia.tn.it — official program

SARDINIA

€15,000

Up to €15K (max 50% of cost) to buy or renovate a home in a small town — threshold rising to under 5,000 residents for 2026. Stay 5 years.

Open to foreigners · no single deadline: each town runs its own call, so you apply through a participating comune

regione.sardegna.it — housing grant

CALABRIA & MOLISE

Historic pilot — not open

Calabria's "Reddito di Residenza Attiva" offered ~€28K over 3 years to under-40s who moved to a village under 2,000 AND opened a business or took local work (not remote income). Molise ran a similar €700/month scheme.

Both pilots were tiny and are not currently accepting applications — no confirmed 2026 relaunch. Watch for a future call rather than counting on it.

[CNN Travel](#) — how the pilot worked

SICILY — €1 HOMES

€1 + renovation

Buy a derelict property for €1 in a participating town and commit to renovating within 3 years. A few towns add renovation grants up to €25K.

Open to foreigners · real costs: a €2K–€5K refundable deposit + notary/taxes, plus the renovation itself (often €20K+) · apply through the specific town

[idealista](#) — Sicily €1 houses map 2026

Marae's note: I moved to Spain, not Italy, so I have not done these grant programs myself. What I can tell you is that Trentino in particular has real families who've done this. Research specific village programs through the provincial government sites.

WE ARE REVIVING AN ITALIAN VILLAGE

We bring together families who value cultural immersion, Italian culture, and community to help bring a centuries-old village back to life. We have space in our **2027 cohorts**. Find out more at www.bravefamilyroots.com

A couple, a man and a woman, are shown from the chest up, smiling and looking down at something they are holding together. They are wearing traditional Japanese clothing: the woman is in a pink and white floral kimono, and the man is in a white haori over a dark patterned kimono. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a body of water with a traditional Japanese building visible in the distance.

JAPAN

COUNTRY 3 OF 6

Japan — Up to ~\$20,000 for Families

Japan's rural depopulation crisis funds real relocation grants, and the more children you have the more you receive. The important part is who qualifies — read the eligibility note before you count on it.

NATIONAL GRANT — REGIONAL REVITALIZATION

Up to ¥3M (~\$20K)

¥1M base per household + ¥1M per child under 18, for moving from greater Tokyo to a rural municipality (~1,300 towns take part). Stay 5 years; the grant is taxable.

Real talk: this is a Tokyo-outflow program. You must have lived or worked in greater Tokyo 5 of the last 10 years, already hold a long-term Japanese visa, and take a local job — so it is not reachable for a US family applying from abroad.

iju-join.jp (official portal, Japanese)

CHILDREN'S BONUS (MUNICIPAL STACKING)

+¥1M per child

The national grant adds ¥1M per child under 18, and some towns stack their own housing or cash incentives on top, so totals vary by municipality.

Same gate as the national grant: prior greater-Tokyo residency, an existing long-term visa, and a local job · confirm add-ons with each town

iju-join.jp (official portal, Japanese)

Marae's note: We brought our daughter to Japan and she went to a local Japanese preschool. It changed how she sees the world. Japan is a deeply family-forward culture — children are genuinely welcomed everywhere. The rural programs exist because these communities know families make a place come alive again.



PORTUGAL

COUNTRY 4 OF 6

Portugal — Tax Breaks + Interior Grants

Portugal combines cash grants for moving to its interior regions with some of the most generous tax regimes in Europe for new residents. We've been multiple times — it's one of our favorites.

INTERIOR REGION GRANTS

~€2,700–€3,800+

Emprego Interior Mais supports people who take a job or start a business in a designated low-density interior region and move there. Amount scales with contract type and family size.

Not cash for simply moving; you need qualifying interior work, and non-EU applicants must already hold Portuguese residence

iefponline.iefp.pt — Interior Mais

D8 DIGITAL NOMAD VISA

Legal residency path

Portugal's D8 lets remote workers live legally; the residence version is a path to permanent residency and citizenship after 5 years.

Heads up: the old NHR 20% tax perk closed in 2024. Its replacement (IFICI) gives 20% only for qualifying high-skill sectors

aima.gov.pt — remote-work residence

Marae's note: Portugal is genuinely one of the easiest European countries for English-speaking families to land in. The people are warm, the food is underrated, and the cost of living is lower than Spain. If you're deciding between the two, Portugal deserves serious consideration.



COUNTRIES 5 & 6

COUNTRIES 5 & 6 OF 6

Switzerland & Ireland

Two more countries with real programs — both worth knowing, both with eligibility catches to read carefully before you plan.

SWITZERLAND — ALBINEN VILLAGE

~CHF 70,000 per family

Albinen offers CHF 25,000 per adult and CHF 10,000 per child (a family of four ≈ CHF 70,000). Under 45, buy property (min. CHF 200,000), commit to 10 years or repay.

Big catch: by Albinen's own rules, foreigners without a Swiss C permit are not eligible — and a C permit means 5–10 years of prior residence. Effectively closed to a fresh US family.

www.albinen.ch

IRELAND — OFFSHORE ISLANDS POLICY

Up to €84,000

Refurbish an old property on one of 23 inhabited offshore islands: up to €84K (derelict) or €60K (vacant). Buy a qualifying home (empty 2+ yrs, built pre-2008) and make it your main residence.

Open to foreigners to buy and claim, but it reimburses renovation costs and gives no visa — you still need separate Irish residency to live there

gov.ie — [refurbishment grant](#)

Important: All programs are verified as of early 2026. Government programs change — amounts, eligibility, and availability shift. Always verify the current status on the official government website before making any decisions.

Now you know these programs exist.

Governments change programs, amounts shift, and eligibility rules evolve. Before you do anything — verify the current status on the official government website. The links in this guide take you to the right starting point.

1

Save this guide

Keep it somewhere you can come back to it.

2

Pick your country

Go back and read that page fully, all links included.

3

Verify it's open

Visit the official government site linked on that page.

4

Follow for updates

[@bravefamilytravel](#) for real stories from life abroad.

These programs are real, they have helped real families, and most people don't know they exist. You knowing about them changes what's possible for your family.

Spain questions specifically: contact@bravefamilytravel.com

Xoxo, Marae

your travel mom bestie · @bravefamilytravel

Follow [@bravefamilytravel](#) on Instagram for updates from life in Spain, real stories from our travels, and everything we learn raising world travelers.

bravefamilytravel.com · contact@bravefamilytravel.com