

Decision:

19.12.2023

Unofficial Machine Translated Document**Establishment Decision: a programme to end long-term homelessness by 2027****Setting up**

The Ministry of the Environment has today set out a programme to end long-term homelessness by 2027.

Term of office

1.1.2024-31.12.2026

Background

In line with Petteri Orpó's government programme, a national programme to eradicate long-term homelessness will be launched in cooperation with key ministries, city regions, welfare regions and organisations. The programme will strengthen cooperation between the state, welfare regions and cities to eradicate long-term homelessness. It will take particular account of young homeless people and promote the creation of supported housing units for young people.

According to a study by the Housing Financing and Development Agency (ARA), there were 1 133 people who were long-term homeless in Finland in 2022. This is 185 fewer than in 2021. In addition to appropriate housing solutions, many long-term homeless people need a range of social and health services. At the same time, they may have financial, substance abuse and mental health problems. These people may not be able to cope with even strong support in mainstream housing, but need small supported housing units.

Tailored housing solutions and social and health services to support housing are needed to tackle long-term homelessness. In line with the Government Programme, the Ministry of the Environment has been given primary responsibility for reducing homelessness. The Ministry of the Environment guides and finances the acquisition, construction and renovation of housing. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health directs and finances social and health services. The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health are at the heart of the fight against long-term homelessness, i.e. housing and housing support services. In addition, actions to ensure an adequate supply of housing and work to prevent evictions support this objective. In order to tackle long-term homelessness, these two areas of responsibility need to be coordinated.

**Postal address Postal
address**
Postal Address

**Visiting
address**
Besöksadress
Office

**Teleph
one**
Teleph
one
Telephone

**Fax
Fax
Fax**

**e-mail, internet
e-mail, internet
e-mail, internet**

Ministry of the Environment

PL 35
00023 Council of State

Aleksanterinkatu 7
Helsinki

0295 16001
+358 295 16001

09 1603 9320
+358 9 1603 9320

kirjaamo.ym@gov.fi

Following the reform of the organisation of social and health services, the need for cooperation between municipalities, welfare regions and the State will become more acute.

In line with the government programme to strengthen social justice, permanent funding will be allocated to eradicate long-term homelessness by 2027. In addition, housing units for the long-term homeless will be financed by ARA investment grants for special groups and subsidised loans. Participating cities and welfare regions are eligible to apply for funding for investments to end long-term homelessness and for the development and introduction of social and health services. Funding will be allocated on the basis of plans to be drawn up under the programme.

In addition, the government programme will build a cross-government homelessness prevention package that will enable early identification of the risk of homelessness and the provision of assistance to prevent homelessness. This package will include, inter alia, housing advice and related assistance. The grant is based on a temporary law on housing advice support for municipalities for the period 2023-2027.

Objectives of the programme

- Long-term homelessness will be eradicated by 2027.
- Affordable and state-subsidised housing, including the necessary small subsidised housing units, is available in sufficient numbers for the long-term homeless in the programme cities. The subsidised housing services meet the needs of the users.
- Cities and welfare regions have joint implementation plans to end long-term homelessness.
- At municipal and welfare region level, a wide network of cooperation is in place to eradicate and prevent long-term homelessness.
- A joint approach has been established between cities, welfare regions and the state to consolidate the work against long-term homelessness to a level that will prevent long-term homelessness from rising after the programme period.

Programme measures

1. The programme cities and prosperity areas will jointly develop a plan to eradicate long-term homelessness by 2027. The plan should include at least the following:
 - a. A description of the situation of long-term homelessness and key measures to address potential problems.*
 - b. The roles and division of labour between the city and the welfare region in ending long-term homelessness by 2027.*
 - c. The number of existing housing units and housing units allocated to the long-term homeless and the number of new housing unit places needed to meet the target for depreciation, and measures to ensure appropriate allocation of housing to the long-term homeless.*
 - d. A model for the provision of adequate and integrated social and health services for people living in residential units.*
 - e. Actions to support the transition of residents of housing units to less subsidised housing.*
 - f. Ensuring low-threshold mobile and outreach social and health services to improve the situation of people in need of strong housing support in order to end long-term homelessness.*
2. Strengthening cooperation between those working on long-term homelessness. Participating cities and welfare regions will jointly set up a network of homelessness co-workers, including organisations and service providers, in their area.

Organisation

The programme has a steering group to manage the programme and monitor progress on the ground. The Steering Group provides direction and support for the practical development work. The Steering Group may invite experts to attend hearings. The composition of the Steering Group is as follows:

Chairman

Deputy Mayor Daniel Sazonov, City of Helsinki Members of

the Management Team

Housing advice Tommi Laanti (alternate member Legislative Counsel
Anu Karjalainen), Ministry of the Environment, Vice-Chairman

Ms Virva Juurikkala, Social Counsellor, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (alternate member to be appointed later)

Minna Sartes, Integration Director, City of Turku (alternate member Tomi Henriksson, Real Estate Development Manager, City of Vantaa)

Development Specialist Susanna Hult, City of Jyväskylä (alternate member Helene Vanninen, Housing Manager, City of Lahti)

Marko Korhonen, Director of Welfare, North Savo Welfare Region (deputy member Tapio Nieminen, Director of Adult Social Services, Länsi-Uusimaa Welfare Region)

Nina Peränen, Welfare Coordinator, Central Finland Welfare Region (alternate member Eija Leino, Director of the Working Age and Social Welfare Emergency Services, Päijät-Häme Welfare Region)

Teija Ojankoski, CEO, Y-Foundation (alternate member Kimmo Karvonen, CEO, Sini-ribbon Foundation)

Managing Director Sanna Tiivola (deputy member Service Manager Jussi Lehtonen), Vailla vaki- nais asuntoa ry

The secretariat of the Steering Group is provided by the Ministry of the Environment.

According to the quota provision in Section 4a of the Act on Equality between Women and Men (609/1986), there must be at least 40% of both women and men in working groups. The total number of women and men members and deputy members of the management group set up by the Ministry of the Environment is 60% and 40% respectively. This is considered sufficient to meet the quota requirement as not all participating organisations have men in the relevant positions.

The programme also has a programme group, which brings together all the cities and welfare regions participating in the programme, as well as governmental actors, in addition to the steering group.

The programme team invites: the

City of Espoo

City of Helsinki

City of Jyväskylä City

of Kuopio City of Lahti

City of Oulu City of

Tampere City of Turku

City of Vantaa City of

Vantaa

Central Finland Well-being

Region Länsi-Uusimaa Well-

being Region Pirkanmaa Well-

being Region

Päijät-Häme Well-being Region

North Ostrobothnia Well-being
Region North Savo Well-being
Region Vantaa and Kerava Well-
being Region Southwest Finland
Well-being Region
Housing Finance and Development Centre Ara
Rikosseuraamuslaitos
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

Costs and financing

The members of the Steering Group and the Programme Group work without any remuneration. Meeting expenses are paid from the Ministry of the Environment's budget account 7000130250 Housing and Cultural Environments, 35010101 Common Expenditure.

Minister for the Environment and Climate ChangeKai Mykkänen

Matleena Haapala, Legislative Counsellor

Annexes -

Chair and members of the Steering Group Invited
to the Programme Group

For information

The following persons have signed this document electronically / Följande personer har undertecknat denna handling elektroniskt /

This document has been signed electronically by the following persons:

Haapala Matleena 91188496C

Mykkänen Kai 91308328X

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