



**Maahanmuuttovirasto**  
**Migrationsverket**  
**Finnish Immigration Service**



# Information about municipality of residence for clients receiving temporary protection

In these materials, you will learn:

- What a municipality of residence means and how to apply for it
- How having a municipality of residence affects your services in Finland



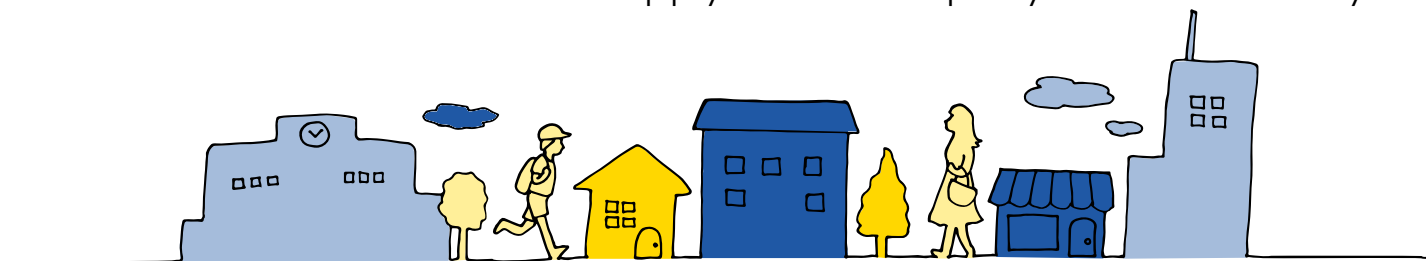
# What does a municipality of residence mean?

- Each person permanently residing in Finland has a municipality of residence. The municipality of residence is determined according to where you live. People moving to Finland from abroad must apply for a municipality of residence.
- When you have a municipality of residence, you will no longer be a client of reception services but will, instead, become a customer of a specific municipality and wellbeing services county. You will also be considered a municipal resident.
- After this, you will have the same rights, services and obligations as those permanently residing in Finland.
- The municipality of residence does not affect your residence permit issued on the basis of temporary protection.
- Your municipality of residence does not affect your rights or your citizenship in Ukraine. You can also still travel or return to Ukraine, if you wish.
- Once you have a municipality of residence, you can no longer return to the reception services.



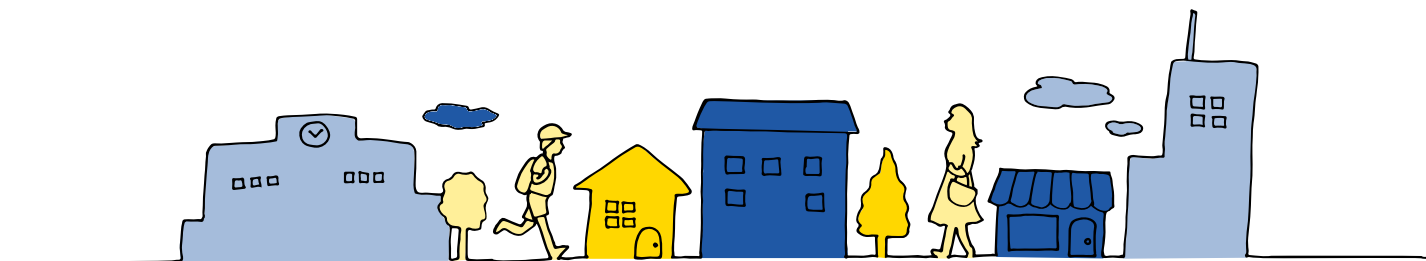
# How to apply for a municipality of residence

- Applying for a municipality of residence is not mandatory.
- The entire family applies for a municipality of residence together. Children cannot stay in reception services without their parents.
- Apply for a municipality of residence from the Digital and Population Data Services Agency.
- You can apply for a municipality of residence online without visiting the agency if all of the requirements below are met:
  - you have a residence permit issued on the basis of temporary protection and your permit is valid for at least one year
  - you have stayed in Finland for a year
    - Example: You have applied for a residence permit on the basis of temporary protection on 5 May 2022. The earliest date on which you can apply for a municipality of residence is 5 May 2023.
  - you have a Finnish personal identity code
- If you do not have a Finnish personal identity code, you can apply for it through the reception centre or by visiting a service point of the Digital and Population Data Services Agency.
- The online form will become available on 1 March 2023 at [www.dvv.fi/ukraina](http://www.dvv.fi/ukraina).
- You can use the form to apply for a municipality of residence for your entire family.



# How to apply for a municipality of residence

- You need to visit a service point of the Digital and Population Data Services Agency if:
  - you have stayed in Finland with a Ukrainian biometric passport before applying for a residence permit on the basis of temporary protection and you are able to present documentation of your residence for the duration of your stay;
  - your studies or employment in Finland will last at least two years; or
  - your family member has a municipality of residence in Finland.
- For more information, please contact your reception centre. The reception centre will help you book an appointment at a service point, if necessary.

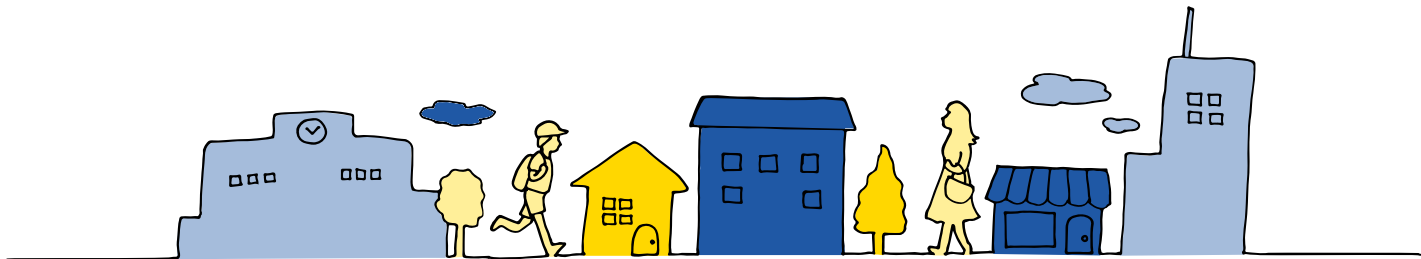


# How a municipality of residence affects your life in Finland



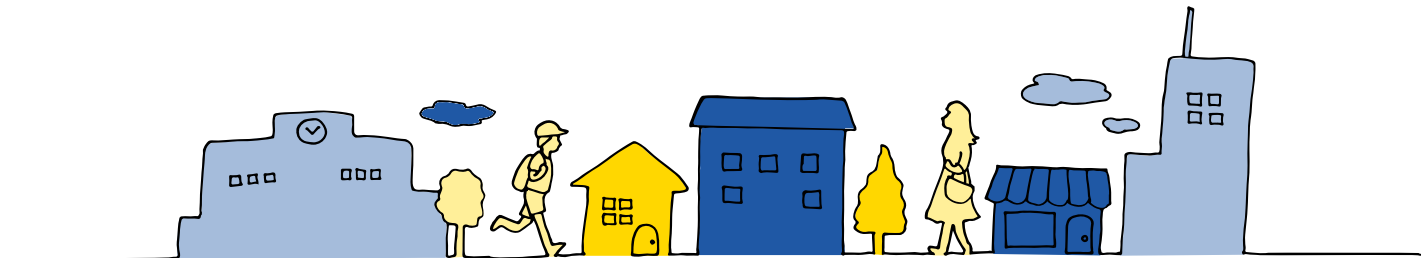
# Housing

- If you have previously arranged your own housing in private accommodation with a family member, a relative or a friend, for example, the municipality of residence will not affect your housing. In other words, you can keep living at the same address.
  - If you cannot keep living at the same address, you can find different accommodation.
  - If necessary, the reception centre can help you find accommodation.
- Remember to let your reception centre know once the Digital and Population Data Services Agency grants you a municipality of residence.
- Remember to also submit a notification of change of address to Posti.



# Housing

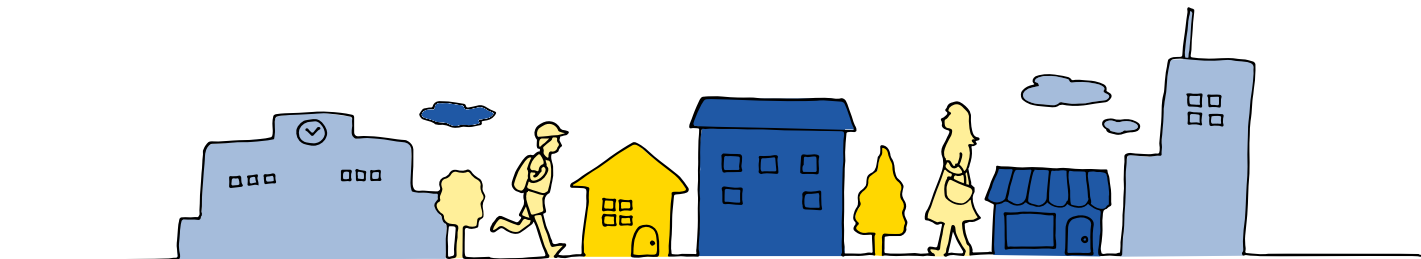
- If you have stayed at a reception centre or in accommodation arranged by the reception centre, you need to find accommodation after a municipality of residence has been designated to you.
- You can look for accommodation anywhere in Finland. You do not need to stay in the city or region where your reception centre is located.
- If necessary, the reception centre can give you advice on finding accommodation.
  - The reception centre cannot advise you on finding accommodation if you plan to move to another city or region.
- For more information on rental apartments, please visit [Rental home \(infosfinland.fi\)](https://www.infosfinland.fi/en/rental-home)
- Remember to also submit a notification of change of address to Posti.





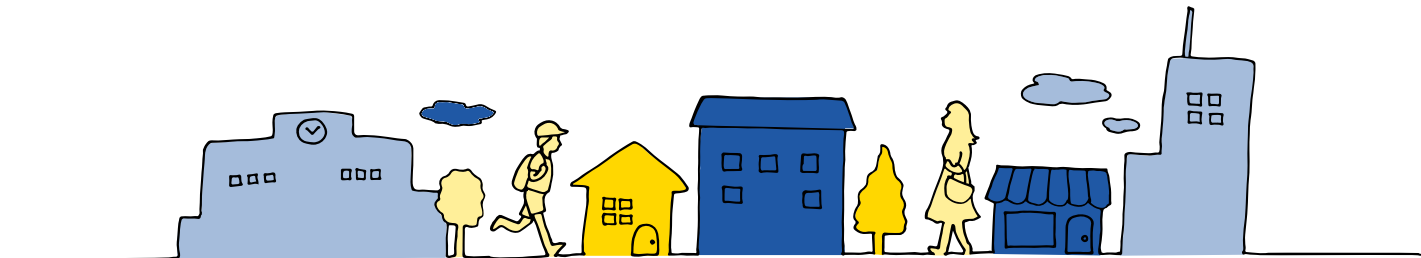
# Costs of housing

- Once you have a municipality of residence, you will pay for your housing costs on your own.
- If your income is small, you can apply for a housing allowance and social assistance from Kela (the Social Insurance Institution of Finland). Kela is in charge of residence-based social security benefits in Finland.
- You can also apply for Kela assistance towards the rental security deposit usually required by lessors.
- Please note that Kela has certain conditions for the types of housing eligible for security deposits and housing allowance. The housing must not be too large or too expensive. For more information, please contact Kela and your reception centre.



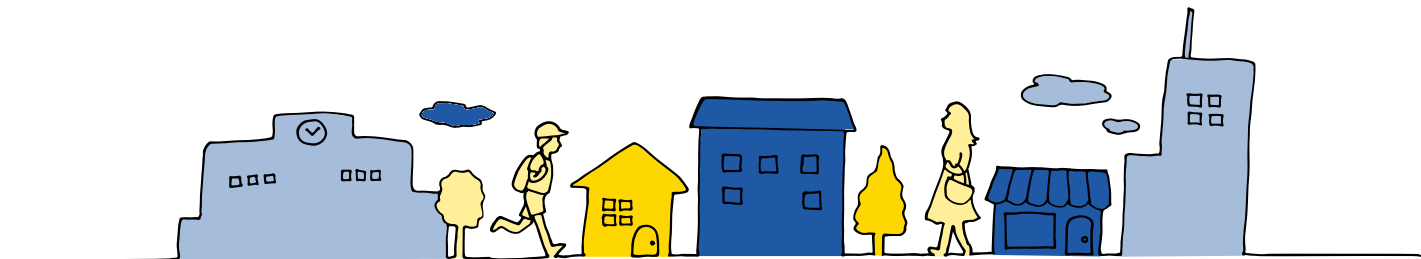
# Work

- There are no changes to your right to work.
- If you are searching for work or you need help for finding employment, register as a jobseeker at the TE Office (Employment and Economic Development Office). The TE Office will help you find work and its services are free of charge.
- You can also become a participant in local government pilots on employment. The municipal employment services can also direct you to other services of the municipality or the wellbeing services county, such as social or health services.
- [Registering as a jobseeker and searching for work in Finland – TE Services](#)



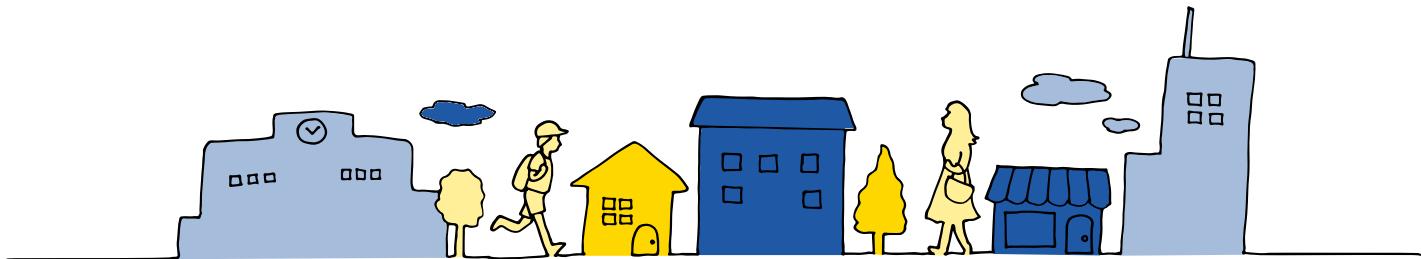
# Means of support and social security

- So far, you have been able to receive a reception allowance from the reception centre, if necessary.
- When you have a municipality of residence and your reception services end, you can no longer receive a reception allowance.
- Instead, you can apply for Kela benefits, such as:
  - child benefit
  - housing allowance
  - basic social assistance.
- For more information on benefits, please visit the [Kela website](#).



# Pension

- In Finland, the retirement age is higher than in Ukraine.
- If you have not worked in Finland, you cannot receive an employment pension.
- You can apply for old-age pension from Kela when you have lived in Finland for three years.
- People of retirement age can also apply for basic social assistance.
- For more information on pension and social assistance, please contact Kela.



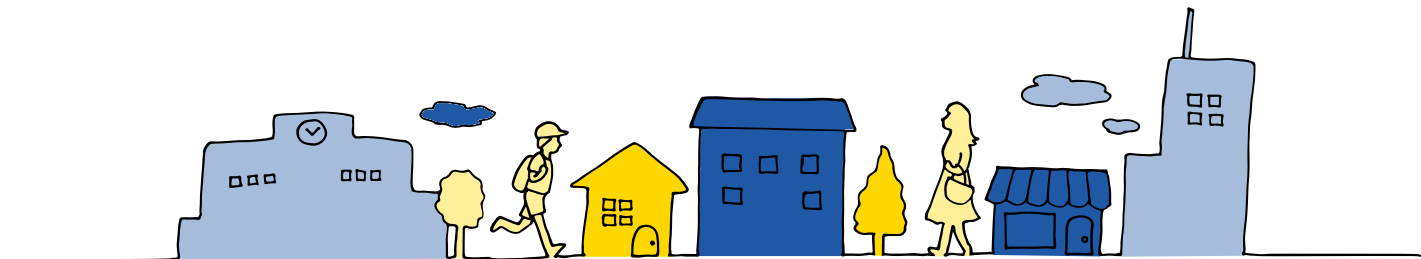
# Children's day care and school

- Your child can have a place in day care even if one or both of the parents are a stay-at-home parent.
- From the year your child turns six years old, they will be required to attend pre-primary education.
- When you and your child have a municipality of residence, your child will be required to attend compulsory education.
- The compulsory education starts during the year when the child turns seven years old and goes to school. The compulsory education ends when the child turns 18 years old.
- If you want your child to attend remote schooling arranged by Ukraine in addition to Finnish education, your child may do so outside the Finnish school hours.
- If you have any questions about your children's education, please contact your municipality of residence.
- More information on day care and school [for Ukrainian refugees | Opetushallitus \(oph.fi\)](#)



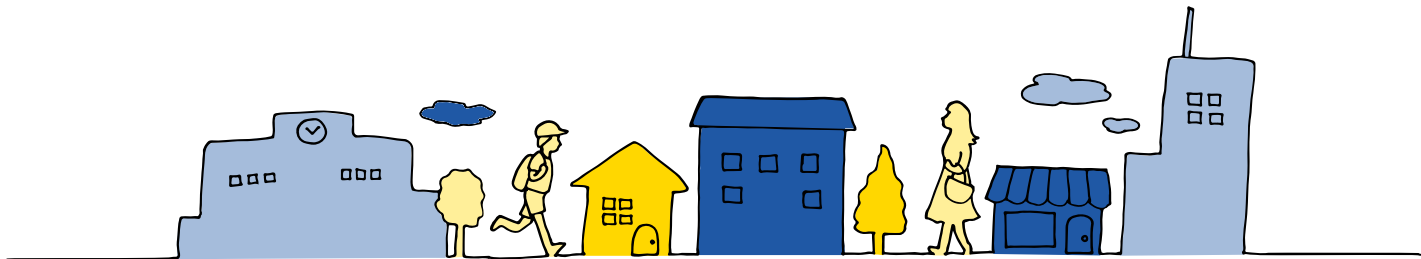
# Social and health services

- Previously, your reception centre offered you social and health services.
- When you have a municipality of residence, you have the right to the social and health services organised by the wellbeing services county.
- The scope of the health services remains unchanged.
- Your right to social services expands considerably.
- Find information on your wellbeing services county on the website of your municipality of residence. On the website of the wellbeing services county, you can find information on applying for the services.



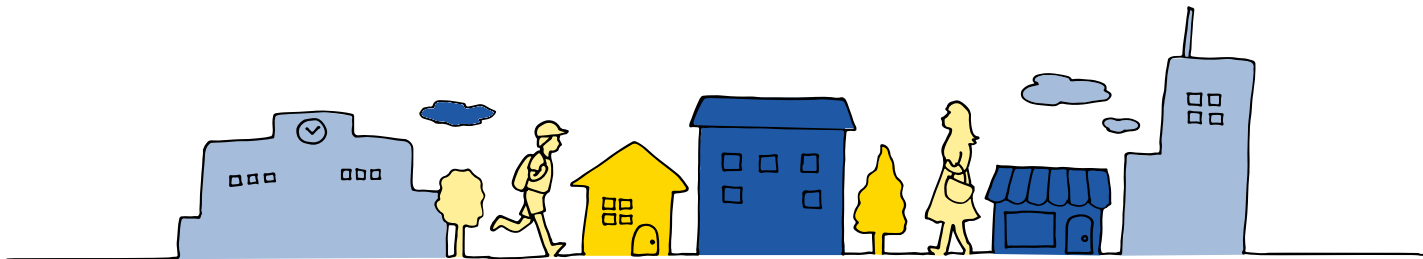
# Identity card

- When you have a municipality of residence, you can apply for a foreigner's identity card.
- Identity cards are provided by the police. Book an appointment at a police station to lodge your application.
- The card is delivered in about two weeks.
- The identity card is official proof of identity in Finland and can be used to open a bank account or obtain online banking credentials for electronic services, for example.
- If you cannot pay all the costs related to the identity card (passport photo, application fee, travel costs), you can apply for:
  - supplementary reception allowance if you are still living in a reception centre; or
  - social assistance if you already have a municipality of residence.



# Bank account

- When you have a foreigner's identity card, you can open a Finnish bank account and obtain online banking credentials for electronic identification.
- A bank account in Finland helps you receive your wages or salary and Kela benefits, for example. It also makes it easy to pay invoices with bank transfers.
- Many services, including the services of most authorities, require online banking credentials for identification.
- You will be able to use the prepaid card provided by the Finnish Immigration Service for four months after your client relationship with the reception centre ends.



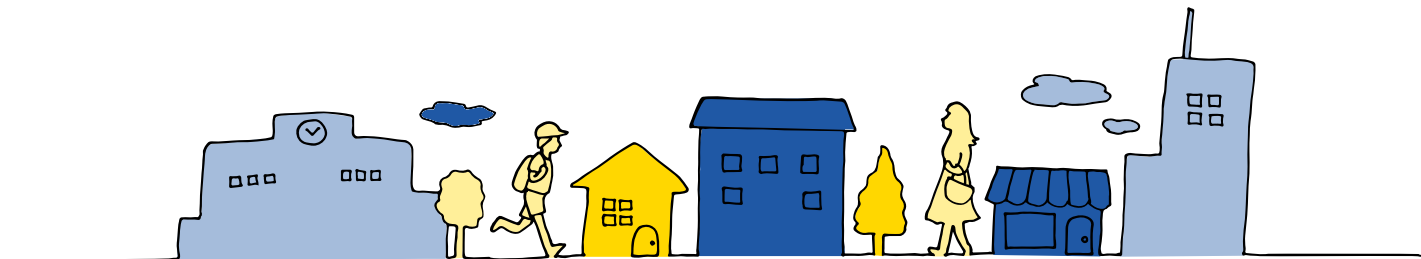


# What happens if you do not apply for a municipality of residence



# Your reception services will continue

- If you do not apply for a municipality of residence, you will remain a client of the reception centre. Your reception services will continue as usual.
  - If your current reception centre is closed, you will be moved to another centre.
- As a client of a reception centre, you have the right to apply for some Kela benefits if you have lived in Finland for at least one year.
  - Such benefits include child benefit and the housing allowance, for example.
  - If you are receiving Kela benefits, you need to include their details in your application for reception allowance.
  - Please note that, if you are receiving Kela benefits, they will affect the amount of your reception allowance.





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Migrationsverket  
Finnish Immigration Service

# Thank you

More information online

[Ваш гід по Фінляндії \(infofinland.fi\)](https://www.infofinland.fi)

<https://migri.fi/en/temporary-protection-and-municipality-of-residence>

<https://migri.fi/en/services-of-a-municipality-of-residence>

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