

HOW HAVING A MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE AFFECTS YOUR LIFE IN FINLAND

A municipality of residence means that you are no longer a client of immigrant reception services and instead become a client and resident of a municipality and wellbeing services county (hyvinvointialue). Your municipality of residence is determined by where you live.

After you have received a municipality of residence, you have the same rights, services and obligations as permanent residents of Finland. This is useful if you plan to stay in Finland for the time being.

Your municipality of residence in Finland does not affect your citizenship or rights in Ukraine. Having a municipality of residence in Finland is also not an obstacle if you want to return to Ukraine later.

Even if you do not apply for a municipality of residence, you can continue living in Finland as a client of immigrant reception services.



MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE IN FINLAND

This brochure is for you if:

- you are receiving temporary protection for refugees from Ukraine, and
- you have lived in Finland continuously for one year.

You can apply for a municipality of residence from the Digital and Population Data Services Agency. See instructions on page 3.

Housing

You are free to choose which municipality you live in.

If you have already acquired housing in Finland, having a municipality of residence may not affect your accommodation in any way.

If you have previously lived in a reception centre or in housing arranged by a reception centre, **you must now arrange and pay for your accommodation yourself.** If your income is low, you can receive a housing allowance from Kela. Kela handles residence-based social security in Finland.

The reception centre will support you until you can move into your own place to live. For example, the reception centre can advise you on how to find a rental home.

Work

Your right to work will continue as before. **You can also become a client of work trial programmes offered by the municipality.** From municipal employment services, you can also be directed to other services in the municipality or wellbeing services county, such as social or health care services.

Register as a jobseeker with the TE Office if you are looking for a job or need support for employment. The TE Office provides free help in your job search.



Income and social security

Until now, you have been able to receive a reception allowance. When you receive a municipality of residence, **your right to a reception allowance ends.**

Instead, **you can apply for Kela benefits**, such as child benefit and housing allowance. You can also receive basic social assistance from Kela if you are in need of financial support and cannot secure your income in other ways.

You can get more information on how to apply for benefits from Kela.

Children's school and day care

When you receive a municipality of residence, you have the **right to obtain an early childhood education place for your child under school age**, even if both or one of the parents stay at home.

From the year your child turns 6, s/he is **required to attend preschool education**. Preschool prepares children for primary school.

When you and your child have a municipality of residence, **your child is subject to compulsory schooling** in the Finnish education system.

Compulsory schooling begins in the year when the child turns 7 and goes to school. Compulsory schooling ends when the child reaches the age of 18. Compulsory education ends earlier if the young person has completed a certificate in general upper secondary school or vocational education, or an equivalent foreign degree.

If, in addition to Finnish education, you want your child to participate in distance learning offered by Ukraine, this can be done on your own time. No one is excluded from the Ukrainian education system for not participating in distance learning. Please note that studying at a Finnish school or educational institution requires time and effort from the child also outside school hours.

For more information and instructions on how to apply, contact your municipality of residence.

Social and health care services

You have previously had access to social and health care services through the reception centre.

After you receive a municipality of residence, you are **entitled to social and health care services organised by the wellbeing services county**. **Your right to various social services is greatly expanded:** for example, if you have a disability or illness, you can receive home care services that support your ability to live at home. The scope of health care services to which you have access remains unchanged.

Visit the municipality's website to see which wellbeing services county your municipality of residence belongs to. You can find information on how to get the services you need on the website of the wellbeing services county.



INQUIRIES:

The website of the Finnish Immigration Service contains instructions from various authorities: **migri.fi/en/temporary-protection-and-municipality-of-residence**

In the future, you will receive advice on services from your municipality of residence and can ask them if you have any questions about the services. If your question is related to residence permits, you can still contact the Finnish Immigration Service.



#MunicipalityOfResidence

#муниципалітетпроживання

HOW TO APPLY FOR A MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE

After you have lived in Finland for a year, you can apply for a municipality of residence. After this, you have the same rights, services and obligations as permanent residents of Finland. The reception centre will advise you on how to apply for a municipality of residence.

1

TEMPORARY PROTECTION PERMITS EXTENDED UNTIL 4 MARCH

As of 19 January 2023, the Finnish Immigration Service will extend the validity of all residence permits for temporary protection on the basis of a legislative change. The permits will be extended until 4 March 2024. If you have been granted temporary protection, you do not need to personally apply for an extension of your residence permit.

Do you not have a temporary protection permit yet? If you have not yet applied for temporary protection, apply for it from the Police or Border Guard. From now on, the Finnish Immigration Service will grant all temporary protection permits until 4 March 2024. For more information and instructions, visit migri.fi/en/temporary-protection

2

APPLY FOR A PERSONAL IDENTITY CODE

You can apply for a personal identity code at your reception centre at any time. The centre will forward your application to the Digital and Population Data Services Agency. Alternatively, you can apply by visiting a service location of the Digital and Population Data Services Agency.

3

APPLY FOR A MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE ONLINE FROM 1 MARCH 2023 ONWARDS

You can apply for a municipality of residence on the website of the Digital and Population Data Services Agency when

- you have lived in Finland for a year
- you have been granted a residence permit for temporary protection at least one year ago, which has been extended until 4 March 2024
- you have a Finnish personal identity code.

INSTRUCTIONS

Apply for a municipality of residence using the online form. The form will be published on the dvv.fi website on 1 March 2023. In this case, you do not need to visit our service location. You cannot apply for a municipality of residence using the notification of move form.

Are you studying? Are you employed? You can apply for a municipality of residence today if you have a residence permit for temporary protection that is valid for at least one year, and

- an employment relationship or place of study in Finland lasting at least two years, or
- you have a family member whose municipality of residence is in Finland.

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY FOR A PERSONAL IDENTITY CODE AND MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE, GO TO: dvv.fi/ukraine