



NAL

YOUTH HOUSING AND HOUSING FIRST FOR YOUTH IN FINLAND
Tiina Irjala 16.6.2022

A B O U T N A L

The Finnish Youth Housing Association

- is a non-governmental, non-profit organization established in 1971
- is a national umbrella for 23 local associations and 6 national member organisations
- owns a non-profit constructor NAL Asunnot and social services providing company NAL Palvelut
- is funded by Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organizations (STEA) which works under Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

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CORE ACTIVITIES

- Building and renting out apartments for young people between ages 18 and 29.
- Providing floating support.
- Developing and coordinating housing counselling.
- Influencing general housing policy.
- Promoting of interests of youth.
- Producing and sharing information and material, which concerns young people.

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23 local associations

- provide services supporting successful transition into adulthood
 - Housing advice and counselling
 - Floating support
 - Rent debt counselling
 - Group activities
 - Activating resident activity
 - Courses and orientation on housing

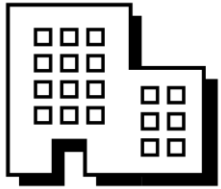
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F L O A T I N G S U P P O R T

- Youth and young adults (16-35 years)
- Specialization in clients with background in child welfare services, homelessness, substance abuse, mental health issues etc.
- Service production for municipalities → ongoing clientship in the social services
- Support for housing, health issues, work and studies, social relationships, interaction skills, meaningful use of free time and self confidence

The logo for NAL PALVELUT features the word "NAL" in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. Below it, the word "PALVELUT" is written in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is centered within a white circular area that is partially framed by a thick, pink, brush-stroke-like border.

HOUSING AND TENANCY IN NAL



4 300 apartments

1000 new tenants per year (18 % homeless
young people)



500 floating support clients per year

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T a r g e t g r o u p

- **Young people between the age of 18 and 29.**
- Those who are in transition to independent living, have acute need of accommodation and have low income are a priority.
- The applicants need to fill the selection criteria of The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (ARA): need of accommodation, low income and low monetary assets.
 - 15% of apartments are primarily reserved for tenants in need of special support.
- Fixed-term leases until the tenant turns 35. Leases can also be terminated by both lessor and tenant if necessary.

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PREVENTING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Affordable youth-specific housing

Advice and counselling to help tenants keep their apartments and to reduce the risk for the landlord

Low threshold and very **early intervention** in rent debt situations prevent evictions and indebtedness

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H O U S I N G F I R S T F O R Y O U T H

5 Core Principles and the Finnish Point of View

(This Is Housing First for Youth – A Program Model Guide by Stephen Gaetz, Heidi Walter and Chad Story)

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A RIGHT TO HOUSING WITH NO PRECONDITIONS

Housing is not conditional on sobriety or abstinence, but in scattered housing you have to be able to live in a way that doesn't cause unbearable harm for other tenants.

Motivation to accept support

Housing and services separated – normal leases where we apply the legislation concerning renting apartments; no other reasons to end tenancy

Development target: our support doesn't follow if tenancy ends.

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YOUTH CHOICE, YOUTH VOICE, AND SELF- DETERMINATION

Clients choose where they want to live and we see what we can offer. Application process is similar to young people without supports.

Tenant democracy: tenants (with or without supports) can practice decision making in the housing community with help from housing counsellor.

Quality management and client satisfaction surveys

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POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND WELLNESS ORIENTATION

Youth specific professional skill

Identity, positive sense of self, mental wellbeing

Healthy transition to adulthood

Finding educational opportunities and
identifying personal interests

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INDIVIDUALIZED, CLIENT-DRIVEN SUPPORTS WITH NO TIME LIMITS

Supports are adaptable in terms of time frames and intensity

Note to buyers: Tenders have to enable flexibility to ensure effectiveness of the service

Pay attention to transitions (from childhood home, care institution, prison...)

Everybody has a right to make mistakes and try again

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SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

Integration of those who need support into the normal youth housing community

No designated apartments to enable continuous housing and to reduce stigma

Low threshold group activities, Safe Space

Overcoming fear of social situations

Architecture creates possibilities for encounters

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K I I T O S !

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