

**JEWISH COMMUNITY
OF ESTONIA**

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BUILDING A BETTER LIFE FOR THE JEWISH SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES IN ESTONIA



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BALTIC JEWISH FORUM**

Estonia: realities of vulnerable groups wellbeing in 2026

Estonian welfare system continues to provide very limited support to families in dire financial condition. Rapidly growing prices for basic goods and utilities significantly surpass any reported salaries and state allowances increase, which negatively impacts the target group of this project – single parent Jewish families.

The economic situation in Estonia remains very challenging. Prices on food and beverages are rapidly spiking. Recent numbers show that the annual inflation rate in Estonia rose to 6.1% in August 2025, up from 5.4% in the previous month, marking the highest level since July 2023. The increase was primarily driven by a sharp rise in food and non-alcoholic beverage prices, which climbed 9.2%, the highest since September 2023 (<https://tradingeconomics.com/estonia/inflation-cpi>) Needless to say, this directly affects families that already find themselves in a difficult financial situation.

Short-term economic forecasts are equally non-encouraging. Estonian national debt is projected to increase from 23.6% of GDP in 2024 to 25.4% in 2026. The budget deficit is expected to be 3.8% of GDP, according to the Ministry of Finance forecast. Rapid growth in government debt is expected ahead. The summer forecast of the Ministry of Finance puts the general government's budget deficit at 4% of GDP in 2026 and 3.8% of GDP in 2027. The deficit is larger than in the previous forecast because of the sharp rise in spending on defense. <https://www.eelarvenoukogu.ee/news/rapid-growth-in-government-debt-expected-ahead>

Taxes keep rising as well. Personal income tax rate will increase from 22% to 24% in 2026. Corporate income tax rate will also increase to 24% in 2026. Standard VAT rate increased to 24% from 1 July 2025.

Despite the increase of minimum salary in Estonia in 2025 to 886 euros per month, it is still very low, and doesn't rise above relative poverty level. Estonia's minimum wage is not set for 2026 yet; the exact amount for 2026 will be determined and approved by the Estonian government in the autumn of 2025, based on a framework agreement to reach 50% of the average wage by 2027. At Risk of Poverty rate was 22.50% in December of 2023, according to the EUROSTAT, which demonstrates insufficiency of our welfare system, which is unable to provide adequate benefits for over one-fifth of the country's population.

Project target group - the least protected members of society

Inadequate welfare system naturally causes people who are unable to work full-time or are forced to take sick leave to become a risk group. Single parent families belong to one of the least protected groups of the population. Being a single parent even with one child is a huge challenge, as one faces the responsibility to support all family's living expenses including basic needs, such as food, rent and utilities cost, clothes, children's education and entertainment. Additionally, the lone parent must provide for his (or, most commonly, her) children's non-material needs, communication, nurture, psychological wellbeing.

According to Statistics Estonia, in 2024, the gross hourly wages and salaries of female employees were 13.2% smaller than the hourly wages of male employees. Since single-parent families are in most cases families with mothers only, we can confidently identify these families as those who need urgent support.

The Community Jewish Family Service program's main goal was always to help families with Jewish children achieve an adequate quality of life, a level of wellbeing where they would feel secure and stable. The program criteria are based on the concept of a minimum income standard, which is a model of a family able to cover their basic needs. A model is based on a hypothetical family that consists of two adults with minimum salaries and one child, where a minimum income standard for one family member is counted. The calculation formula also includes family expenses for the apartment (rent, utilities, and mortgage). Most of the families in the program are below this standard, so they receive monthly support that fills the gap, such as food and utilities. This is considered as basic support for the neediest.

In 2026 20 families with 25 children are planned to be included in the project.

Project description: better life quality for Jewish children

The project "Building a better life for the Jewish single parent families in Estonia", supported by the Baltic Jewish Forum for many subsequent years, remains one of the cornerstones of our Children in Need program. The 2026 target group consists of 20 single-parent families with 25 children.

The main area of planned allocated financial support in 2026 will again be children's nutritional care. Participating families will be supplied with monthly allocations to their supermarket food card, which enables them to buy kosher style food in a chain of supermarkets across Estonia. Additional nutrition

will help participating families provide their children with necessary nutrition and help children with allergies get proper food.

Select children with special needs and developmental risks will also be provided with physical rehabilitation procedures as well as educational and developmental classes and courses. Sports classes will have priority as physical development is vital for every growing child. Several families in direst financial condition will receive partial compensation of their utility bills.

Integration into Jewish community and culture is also vital for children of all ages. 2026 project includes family subsidies for attending Jewish children camps and other Community events, as we consider it to be an essential part of building community spirit and cultivating the sense of belonging to Jewish values. Developmental classes for children with special needs will also help them integrate into Community life.

Detailed breakdown of planned allocations sorted by families and allocation areas:

N	Family	Kids	Type of support	Amount
1	Natan Grabak	Maria, age 8	nutritional care	600,00 €
	father		integration	250,00 €
2	Yevheniia Liutko	Maxim, age 4	nutritional care	840,00 €
	mother		medical service	250,00 €
3	Olha Khlystova	Maryna, age 13	nutritional care	600,00 €
	mother		courses	200,00 €
4	Irina Eidelkind	Sofia, age 13	nutritional care	580,00 €
	mother		classes	900,00 €
5	Inna Guraltchuk	Jaroslav, age 17	nutritional care	600,00 €
	mother		classes	300,00 €
			utilities	300,00 €
6	Mirjam Zautina	Jakov, age 17	nutritional care	840,00 €
	mother			
7	Julia Kuznetsova	Serafim, age 17	nutritional care	840,00 €
	mother		medical service	300,00 €
8	Julia Pritsko	Rosanna, age 17	nutritional care	720,00 €
	mother		classes	720,00 €

			integration	300,00 €
9	Jekaterina Burmatskaja	Ksenia, age 17	nutritional care	720,00 €
	mother		utilities	300,00 €
			integration	200,00 €
10	Ekaterina Tilinina	Petr, age 12	nutritional care	600,00 €
	mother			
11	Jelena Krõman	Anna, age 14	nutritional care	680,00 €
	mother		integration	200,00 €
			classes	700,00 €
12	Inna Elkind	Tali, age 13	nutritional care	840,00 €
	mother		classes	200,00 €
13	Anna Sidorova	Daria, age 18	nutritional care	600,00 €
	mother	Amira, age 15	nutritional care	600,00 €
14	Maria Feigman	Benjamin, age 11	nutritional care	420,00 €
	mother		classes	750,00 €
		Leja, age 8	nutritional care	420,00 €
			classes	240,00 €
15	Adel Alehodzhina	Veniamin, age 12	nutritional care	840,00 €
	mother		utilities	300,00 €
16	Jekaterina Zinovjeva	Matvei, age 7	medical service	1100,00 €
	mother			
17	Tatajana Selezņjova	Rustam, age 15	nutritional care	420,00 €
	mother		classes	670,00 €
			integration	200,00 €
		Rusalina, age 13	nutritional care	420,00 €
			classes	670,00 €
			integration	200,00 €
18	Natalia Tiniakova	Tymofii, age 16	nutritional care	800,00 €
	mother		classes	600,00 €
19	Evgeniia Gulman	Emanuel, age 16	nutritional care	500,00 €

	mother		integration	200,00 €
		Jakow, age 16	nutritional care	500,00 €
			integration	200,00 €
		Daniil, age 7	nutritional care	500,00 €
			integration	200,00 €
20	Ekaterina Ulanova	Artjom, age 14	courses	700,00 €
	mother			
				25 630,00 €
			Grant administration	2500,00 €
			Total cost:	28 130,00 €