

## Paris' social programs and services

Paris is the only French City being both a City and a *Département*, which means it has a particularly wide field of intervention in social programs, due to the French division of powers between the national State and the territorial communities. Two agencies implement the social policy in the Parisian administration: the directorate of social action, childhood and healthcare (DASES) and the municipal social services provider of the city of Paris (CASVP). Moreover, the current Parisian authorities are particularly involved in social action and made the struggle against exclusion the priority.

**The DASES** assumes all the *département* and certain municipal responsibilities in the social, medical-social and healthcare fields. Its mission is to define and steer policies, allocate various welfare benefits and subsidies, and manage public institutions and services. The pricing policy of public and private institutions and medical-social services is also determined after approval by the DASES.

Its area of intervention is very broad: autonomy (seniors, people with disabilities), child protection and specialized prevention for young people, public health, solidarity, integration and fight against exclusion.

It has a staff of 4 200 people. Its operating budget is 1.3 billion €.

Main expenditure items are as follows:

- Child welfare: 320 M€
- RSA (activity solidarity income): 361 M€
- Elderly people: 304 M€
- People with disabilities: 247 M€

### *Integration and solidarity*

The DASES is in charge of allocating the RSA (activity solidarity income) and implements the policy of the *département* in favor of the social and professional integration of the 67 000 RSA recipients. It elaborates the *département's* employment and integration program (PDIE). It manages the support structures available to RSA recipients (Paris integration centers).

It coordinates the system permitting access to housing and safeguards it; and it manages the housing solidarity fund (FSL)<sup>1</sup>. It implements emergency welfare systems (day centers, mobile assistance teams, accommodation centers and food aid). It follows up on the activity of the Paris social emergency service (*Samu social de Paris*).

It oversees the management of the Support Fund for Young Parisians (FAJP). It finances not-for-profits that foster social inclusion and fight against social exclusion.

### *The territorial welfare action*

The territorial welfare delegations and coordinators adapt the actions carried out by services in the districts; they coordinate the implementation of *département* policies on crosscutting issues all over the Paris territory.

### *Child welfare*

<sup>1</sup> The FSL is a fund helping people who are in temporary hardship to face housing rents, water and electricity bills etc.

The DASES implements preventive and protection actions for 9 000 young people from birth to majority age, and for their families. It also supports young people who turned 18. It identifies and assesses the situation of children at risk or in danger, organizes and finances individual preventive and protection actions (educational actions). It supports families (boarding schools, mothers' centers...) It takes care of young people under the responsibility of child welfare services (institutions, foster families).

### *Health*

The DASES plays a part in the field of prevention, screening and health education. Though public health is a State responsibility, Paris authorities have decided to take care of:

- the prevention and fight against major diseases (vaccination centers and medical and social centers, especially for the poor);
- a medical social prevention policy for young Parisians (school social and health services);
- preventive actions against risky behaviors and addictions;
- a program to fight obesity (PSN);
- a mission dedicated to mental health.

### **The CASVP**

The French law mandates that all cities create and fund an agency dedicated to social services. The City of Paris has chosen to expand the remit of its agency, the CASVP, far beyond mandatory provisions. These services are delivered by 6 000 employees, over 90% of whom work directly with clients. The CASVP's total budget runs at 580 M€.

### *Community services*

Each *arrondissement* (there are 20 borough) of Paris is serviced by a "section" of the CASVP, through which Parisian households can access a wide range of human and social services.

After a brief assessment of their needs, persons visiting these services can:

- Apply for city-funded cash benefits and programs (cash benefits for the elderly, the disabled and the families, access to public transport, help with child care payments, emergency assistance);
- Apply for State-funded entitlement programs (health care, cash benefits for the disabled, the elderly poor or those without resources...);
- Be offered case by case management services through the multipurpose welfare services intended for any person (isolated or families with or without children) in a situation of precariousness or facing difficulties. They help them to assert their rights, obtain a housing or safeguard it, they play a role in the protection of children and vulnerable people and in the field of socio-occupational integration.

### *Services to the elderly*

The CASVP is the main provider of housing for the elderly in Paris (8000 units in total), mostly amongst the poorest households.

The CASVP provides:

- home care services for 2000 senior citizens in their own homes (home delivered-meals, foot-care, emergency alarms);
- 600 residents in-home nursing service;
- 50 community restaurants for the elderly (4 M meals every year).

### *Services to the homeless and the very poor*

Although services to the homeless are generally State funded and provided by nonprofit organizations, Paris has chosen to implement some of these services itself, alongside and in partnership with nonprofit providers.

The CASVP runs for homeless:

- 9 shelters with a total capacity of 1000 beds;
- 9 dinner program sites provide warm, balanced and nutritious meals (1200 meals every day);
- 3 specialized social and human services (case management, access to entitlement benefits and supportive services (6400 persons);
- 2 of the 15 day programs (basic hygiene and toilet needs: showers, laundry...), medical care and social services (300 persons every day).

The CASVP participates in the annual Winter Emergency plan, opening sports facilities for the unsheltered (600 persons), and giving them a chance to connect to health and social services.

### **The Parisian Pact against exclusion (PPLCGE)**

The PPLCGE is a major initiative launched by Mayor Anne Hidalgo, shortly after her election in 2014. Her deputy Mayor Dominique Versini gathered major stakeholders (City, State, NGOs, private enterprises, beneficiaries...) to develop a comprehensive plan to fight against exclusion and homelessness. It gathers 100 shared commitments through 3 items: to prevent / to intervene / to include, such as:

- A better organization and coordination of the outreach teams for homeless people;
- A single case worker for one person or one family;
- The creation of new emergency shelters, social housing and intermediary rental;
- “*Premières heures*” meaning “first hours”: a new possibility for homeless and very marginalized persons to work only a few hours a week;
- More luggage storage;
- A digital safe where homeless and precarious people can store their documents.

### **Paris’s plan to welcome migrants and refugees**

20% of the people in Paris are migrants. And the majority of the Parisian poor and unsheltered are migrants too. The City of Paris implements actions in order to welcome them, and dedicates 7,7 M€ every year to providing French language classes.

Since the beginning of 2015, Paris, like many European cities, is facing a major crisis due to the arrival of migrants and refugees (50 to 60 arrivals every day). To take care of these vulnerable people, a program has is being shared and coordinated amongst the policy makers, the activists and the residents, relying on:

- Paris leverages its existing interventions to provide the best services regarding: food aid, unaccompanied minors (1500), pregnant women and young children;
- The creation of a humanitarian camp in Paris (2016);
- Organizing and facilitating the volunteering of the Parisians through a dedicated website;
- Promoting human rights.