

HONG KONG STANDARD
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200 families in housing trap can stay

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ABOUT 200 families caught in rental inflation trap will not have to move.

A proposal for temporary financial relief for public housing tenants in hardship has been approved by the Housing Authority.

Tenants with a rent-to-income ratio exceeding 25 per cent and who had been refused permission to move to cheaper flats would be able to stay in their homes with rent reductions for 12 months.

The Housing Authority's Committee on the Allocation and Standards of Vacant Flats endorsed the proposal yesterday.

Committee chairman Leung Wai-tung said rents had risen much faster than many tenant incomes, leading some tenants to pay more than 25 per cent of their income.

Leung said 196 families had been approved for rent relief under the assistance program.

The committee also confirmed that a total of 6,260 public housing flats would be available for those on the waiting lists by June.

These flats were being refurbished and work was expected to be completed in a few months. The average renovation cost was \$12,000.