

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

FRIDAY, 06 FEBRUARY 2026

4. Mr D J Wessels to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

(a) What grant funding or financial support mechanisms are currently available to support backyard dwellers in the province that are provided (i) directly by his Department or (ii) through national government grants or programmes, (b) for each funding mechanism, what is the (i) name of the grant or programme, (ii) purpose of the grant or programme and (iii) total funding allocated to the province for the (aa) 2024/25 and

(bb) 2025/26 financial years, (c) what types of interventions are funded for backyard dwellers, (d) how many projects or households supporting backyard dwellers have been assisted through these funding mechanisms in the last financial year and (e) in which municipalities have these interventions been implemented?

RESPONSE

(a)(i)(ii)(b)(i)(ii)(iii) While the Department does not implement programmes that are exclusively dedicated to backyard dwellers, housing challenges are addressed through a combination of integrated human settlement programmes. The Department's targeted approach to Priority Development Areas ensures that projects are located in areas with a high prevalence of backyard dwellers. As a result, beneficiaries of human settlement developments are predominantly sourced from the Western Cape Housing Demand Database (WC HDDB), which represents households living in backyard structures, informal settlements and overcrowded formal housing conditions. Through this approach, backyard dwellers are systematically included as beneficiaries within broader human settlement delivery programmes.

However, several directives supported by the beneficiary selection policy play a crucial role in ensuring that backyard dwellers are prioritized. Firstly, the Department's approach is premised on the principle of balanced targeting, i.e., finding a balance between households living in informal settlements and those living in overcrowded formal conditions, in line with the Amended Beneficiary Selection Framework Policy (2022).

Secondly, the aforementioned policy is supplemented by the Department's Directive issued in August 2019, which gives further emphasis to the need for municipalities to strike a fair balance across their portfolio of housing projects. The directive provides for the 50/50 measure which allows for extra priority to be given to households living in formal overcrowded conditions. The 50/50 measure allows municipalities to include households

from overcrowded formal conditions in de-densification greenfield projects linked to Upgrade of Informal Settlement Programme (UISP) projects and not only informal settlement dwellers. This measure allows for extra priority as standard greenfield projects (Integrated Residential Development Projects (IDRP) already give priority to households from overcrowded formal areas.

In addition to the above approaches, all households benefitting from IRDP projects need be registered on the WC HDDB for the municipality and selected in registration date order whether for top structures or serviced sites, the priority assigned to households living in overcrowded formal conditions is retained in IRDP projects in the current era of fiscal constraint (for reasons explained in the above paragraph). In addition to the abovementioned programmes, households living in formal overcrowded conditions are also prioritised for Individual Housing Subsidies.

The tables and section below outline the funding mechanisms (i.e. name and purpose) that are utilized by the Department to respond to housing needs, including the provision of housing opportunities for backyard dwellers.

- Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG): Funding integrated human settlement developments, including serviced sites and top structures, benefitting households registered on the Housing Demand Database, which includes backyard dwellers.
- Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP): Delivery of subsidized housing opportunities, including both housing units and serviced sites, to qualifying households registered on the Housing Demand Database.
- First Home Finance Programme (FHFP) (previously known as FLISP): Capital subsidy to assist households earning between R3 501 and R22 000 per month to buy or build their first homes on an affordable basis. This may also include the purchase of serviced sites.

(aa) Table 1: Expenditure Report for the 2024/25 Financial Year

2024/25 Financial Year					
District	Housing Programme	Number of projects	Deliverables		Funding
			Sites	Units	
City of Cape Town	IRDP	5	0	920	R282 260 000
Provincial Projects	IRDP	10	0	366	R154 440 650
Cape Winelands	IRDP	8	0	110	R67 263 916
Overberg	IRDP	8	68	536	R174 836 619
Central Karoo	IRDP	0	0	0	R0
Garden Route	IRDP	21	151	598	R154 714 732
West Coast	IRDP	20	2 962	284	R293 649 234
Other	FHFP	2	0	1 867	R242 696 000

2024/25 Financial Year					
District	Housing Programme	Number of projects	Deliverables		Funding
			Sites	Units	
Total		74	3 181	4 681	R1 369 888 155

(bb)(c)(d)(e) **Table 2: Planned Deliverables and Expenditure for the 2025/26 FY**

2025/26 Financial Year					
District	Housing Programme	Number of projects	Deliverables		Funding
			Sites	Units	
City of Cape Town	IRDP	15	0	1 225	R225 700 000
Provincial Projects	IRDP	9	0	220	R74 831 000
Cape Winelands	IRDP	9	0	121	R58 595 000
Overberg	IRDP	12	243	569	R181 618 000
Central Karoo	IRDP	1	0	0	R4 324 000
Garden Route	IRDP	22	289	604	R300 475 000
West Coast	IRDP	21	872	1 262	R366 306 000
Other	FHFP	2	0	1 316	R181 481 000
Total		91	1 404	5 317	R1 393 330 000

Some Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP) projects in the 2024/25 financial year were in the planning and project packaging stages and therefore did not progress to construction during that period, while others in the current 2025/26 financial year remain in planning, packaging and early implementation. Accordingly, allocated funding is utilised for these preparatory processes and will only translate into serviced sites and housing opportunities once projects reach implementation. As a result, expenditure and budget allocations may not immediately reflect measurable outputs. The deliverables reflected in the table, therefore, represent completed outputs for 2024/25 and planned targets for 2025/26, with final performance to be confirmed at the end of the current financial year.

MR TERTUIS SIMMERS

MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE

DATE: