

## **Abstract**

This thesis is focused on social housing for families as a specific housing policy instrument for securing housing of families with children who are for various reasons disadvantaged on the free housing market. In the thesis social housing is understood as a way towards fulfilment of the right to adequate housing and at the same time as an instrument for supporting families in their function of securing healthy development of their children in a safe environment. The aim of the thesis is to contribute to the actual debate on the creation of the state policy of social housing. It is done mainly by the mapping of housing and social policy on the state and local level. Local policy of social housing is explored particularly in five city districts of the capital city of Prague. The research draws data from documents of the city districts and interviews with the officials from property departments and social departments, in particular with the heads of child welfare sections. The research shows that the access of families with children to the instruments of local housing policy is always in some way limited. The city districts vary in the level of these limits. Some districts really offer a solution of the housing problems of families who are disadvantaged in the access to housing while others fill this function only very little, which leads to the question if it is really possible to call their housing policy instruments “social housing” or “housing acquired for social reasons”. Overall, the results of the thesis offer a detailed overview of local policies of social housing in the chosen city districts, experience and views of officials from property departments and the approaches and options of social workers from the child welfare sections. Thanks to that the thesis gives an opportunity to understand the actual instruments of the state and local administration to fulfil the housing needs of families with children and at the same time to identify the deficits and needs of change in this system.