

Emergency Shelter

Housing First Practices Review Tool

Screening, Triage and Access	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
<i>The emergency shelter, either directly or as part of a community-wide coordinated entry system...</i>				
A. Screens people requesting shelter for other safe and appropriate housing options (temporary or permanent) and resources to obtain/maintain their housing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Screens people requesting shelter for critical health and safety needs to identify people with more severe service needs and provide an appropriate response.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Diverts people <i>who have</i> other safe and appropriate housing options or resources away from emergency shelter and instead offers immediate linkage to homelessness prevention assistance, as needed, desired, and available.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Provides access to emergency shelter (directly or through referral) without preconditions , such as sobriety or ability to pay program fees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing-Focused Assistance and Participant Self-Determination	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
E. Participants and staff understand that the primary goals of the emergency shelter are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide temporary accommodation that is safe, respectful, and responsive to individual needs; <i>and</i> • Re-house participants in permanent housing as quickly as possible, regardless of other personal issues or concerns. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Participants are expected to be actively working on re-housing plans and engaging in related assistance to overcome immediate and direct barriers to securing housing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Participant assessment focuses on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate health and safety needs relevant to providing temporary accommodations; <i>and</i> • Information relevant to securing housing, including: participant preferences; factors that would cause a landlord to reject the person’s application (past evictions, criminal history, etc.); factors that directly led to housing instability or homelessness in the past (failure to pay rent, lease violations, etc.); and other information necessary to link participants to financial assistance and housing-related resources. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Participants are assisted with creating and updating individualized Housing Plans designed to re-house and stabilize participants as quickly as possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Staff helping to re-house participants are aware of and know how to access a wide array of housing options (public/private, subsidized/unsubsidized, all local permanent supportive housing, etc.) to help participants achieve their Housing Plan goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Housing-Focused Assistance and Participant Self-Determination	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
<p>J. Participants are provided or connected to housing location and placement assistance, including financial assistance for move-in costs, to achieve their Housing Plan goals. Assistance is provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all participants who cannot otherwise exit on their own; • Without additional preconditions, such employment or sobriety; and • With understanding that housing may cost greater than 30% of participant income and be precarious. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>K. Staff are aware of and know how to access other community resources (e.g., legal services) that can help participants achieve their housing placement and stabilization goals.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>L. Participation in services unrelated to housing placement is voluntary.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>M. Exits to other homeless situations are avoided, even when program rules are violated. People who are a risk to themselves or others are exited to more appropriate assistance, such as a more intensive program, hospital, or other emergency responder.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>N. Participants only move to other emergency shelter or transitional housing when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They desire and choose; • More appropriate to meet their health and safety needs (e.g., persons in early recovery; domestic violence survivors; those who need special accommodations); and • No permanent housing solution (with or without supportive services) is currently available that is a similar or better match for their preferences and needs. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Street Outreach

Housing First Practices Review Tool

Screening, Triage and Access	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
<i>The street outreach program, either directly or as part of a community-wide coordinated entry system...</i>				
A. Screens people contacted through outreach as soon as possible for critical health and safety needs to identify people with the most severe service needs (including people who are chronically homeless and/or with active mental health or substance abuse issues) and provide an appropriate response.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Provides access to emergency shelter, permanent housing, and services without preconditions such as sobriety, service participation, or minimum income.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing-Focused Assistance and Participant Self-Determination	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
C. Participants and staff understand that the primary goals of street outreach are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access to emergency shelter and services; and • Re-house participants in permanent housing as quickly as possible, regardless of other personal issues or concerns. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Participants are expected to be actively working on re-housing plans and engaging in related assistance to overcome immediate and direct barriers to securing housing. Participation in other services is voluntary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Participant assessment focuses on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate health and safety needs; <i>and</i> • Information relevant to securing shelter and/or housing, including: participant preferences. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Participants are assisted with creating and updating individualized Housing Plans designed to access emergency shelter and/or re-house and stabilize participants as quickly as possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Staff helping participants are aware of and know how to access emergency shelter, transitional housing, and a wide array of housing options (public/private, subsidized/unsubsidized, all local permanent supportive housing, etc.) to help participants achieve their Housing Plan goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Participants are provided or connected to housing location and placement assistance , including financial assistance for move-in costs , to achieve their Housing Plan goals. Assistance is provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without additional preconditions, such as employment or sobriety; <i>and</i> • With understanding that housing may cost greater than 30% of participant income and be precarious. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Housing-Focused Assistance and Participant Self-Determination	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
I. Staff are aware of and know how to access other community resources (e.g., legal services) that can help participants achieve their housing placement and stabilization goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Participation in services unrelated to housing placement is voluntary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Homelessness Prevention

Housing First Practices Review Tool

Screening, Triage and Access	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
<i>The homelessness prevention program, either directly or as part of a community-wide coordinated entry system...</i>				
A. Screens people applying for assistance to identify people who will become literally homeless “but for” homelessness prevention assistance (i.e., are losing their housing and have no other resources or housing options).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Prioritizes people applying for homelessness prevention assistance who have greater urgency (closer to becoming literally homeless) and/or more severe service needs (e.g., people with little or no income and/or with active mental health or substance abuse issues) to prioritize applicants when resources are limited. This includes people who are diverted from emergency shelter, but who have a safe and appropriate place to stay while they receive homelessness prevention assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Provides access to homelessness prevention assistance without preconditions , such as sobriety or minimum income level.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing-Focused Assistance and Participant Self-Determination	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
D. Participants and staff understand that a primary goal of homelessness prevention is to prevent literal homelessness as quickly as possible , regardless of other personal issues or concerns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Participant assessment focuses on barriers to obtaining and/or maintaining housing (e.g., past rental/criminal/ credit history, current income, legal issues, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Participants are assisted with creating and updating individualized Housing Plans , designed to prevent literal homelessness and stabilize participants quickly as possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Participants are provided or connected to assistance to locate and obtain permanent housing, financial assistance for move-in and/or stabilization costs, and housing case management in order to achieve their Housing Plan goals. Assistance is provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without additional preconditions, such as employment or sobriety; and • With understanding that housing may cost greater than 30% of participant income and be precarious. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Staff helping participants are aware of and know how to access a wide array of housing options (public/private, subsidized/unsubsidized, all local permanent supportive housing, etc.) to help participants achieve their Housing Plan goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Housing-Focused Assistance and Participant Self-Determination	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
I. Staff are aware of and know how to access other community resources (e.g., legal services) that can help participants achieve their housing retention and stabilization goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Participation in services unrelated to housing retention is voluntary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Rapid Re-Housing

Housing First Practices Review Tool

Screening, Triage and Access	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
<i>The rapid re-housing program, either directly or as part of a community-wide coordinated entry system...</i>				
A. Screens all people who are literally homeless and ensures quick linkage to rapid re-housing assistance, based on participant needs, preferences, and resource availability.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Screens people applying for assistance to identify people who will remain literally homeless “but for” rapid re-housing assistance (i.e., have no other resources or assistance available to exit homelessness).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Prioritizes people applying for rapid re-housing assistance who have more severe service needs and barriers to exiting homelessness.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Provides access to rapid re-housing assistance without preconditions , such as sobriety or minimum income level.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing-Focused Assistance and Participant Self-Determination	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
E. Participants and staff understand that a primary goal of rapid re-housing is to end homelessness and move participants to permanent housing as quickly as possible , regardless of other personal issues or concerns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Participant assessment focuses on barriers to obtaining and/or maintaining housing (e.g., past rental/credit/criminal history, current income, legal issues, knowledge of tenant rights and responsibilities, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Participants are assisted with creating and (for ongoing assistance) updating individualized Housing Plans , designed to re-house and stabilize participants as quickly as possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Participants are provided assistance to locate and obtain permanent housing, financial assistance for move-in and stabilization costs, and housing case management in order to achieve their Housing Plan goals. This includes assistance to address tenancy problems that may jeopardize housing. Assistance is provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without additional preconditions, such as employment or sobriety; and • With understanding that housing may cost greater than 30% of participant income and be precarious. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Staff helping participants are aware of and know how to access a wide array of housing options (public/private, subsidized/unsubsidized, all local permanent supportive housing, etc.) to help participants achieve their Housing Plan goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Housing-Focused Assistance and Participant Self-Determination	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
J. Staff are aware of and know how to access other community resources (e.g., legal services, subsidized childcare) that can help participants achieve their housing placement and stabilization goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. Participation in services unrelated to housing retention is voluntary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Transitional Housing

Housing First Practices Review Tool

Screening, Triage and Access	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
<i>The transitional housing program, either directly or as part of a community-wide coordinated entry system...</i>				
A. Screens all people who are literally homeless and ensures quick linkage to transitional housing assistance when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They desire and choose; • More appropriate to meet their health and safety needs (e.g., persons in early recovery; domestic violence survivors; those who need special accommodations); and • No permanent housing solution (with or without supportive services) is currently available that is a similar or better match for their preferences and needs. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Prioritizes people applying for transitional housing assistance who have more severe service needs and barriers to exiting homelessness.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Provides access to transitional housing assistance without preconditions , such as sobriety or minimum income level.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing-Focused Assistance and Participant Self-Determination	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
D. Participants and staff understand that the primary goals of transitional housing are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide temporary accommodation that is safe, respectful, and responsive to individual needs; • Address the service needs of participants; and • Re-house participants in permanent housing as quickly as possible, regardless of other personal issues or concerns, and as desired by the participant. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Participant assessment focuses on barriers to obtaining and/or maintaining housing (e.g., past rental/credit/criminal history, current income, legal issues, knowledge of tenant rights and responsibilities, etc.) and service needs the program is designed to address.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. In addition to other services and personal goal plans, participants are assisted with creating individualized Housing Plans , designed to re-house and stabilize participants as quickly as possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. When feasible, participation in transitional housing services does not inhibit participants from moving to permanent housing when they choose to.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Housing-Focused Assistance and Participant Self-Determination	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
<p>H. Participants are provided or connected with assistance to locate and obtain permanent housing and financial assistance for move-in and stabilization costs in order to achieve their Housing Plan goals. Assistance is provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without additional preconditions, such as employment, sobriety, or program compliance; and • With understanding that housing may cost greater than 30% of participant income and be precarious. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>I. Staff helping participants are aware of and know how to access a wide array of housing options (public/private, subsidized/unsubsidized, all local permanent supportive housing, etc.) to help participants achieve their Housing Plan goals.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>J. Staff are aware of and know how to access other community resources (e.g., legal services, subsidized childcare) that can help participants achieve their housing placement and stabilization goals.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>K. Participation in services unrelated to housing placement is voluntary.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>L. Exits to other homeless situations are avoided, even when program rules are violated. People who are a risk to themselves or others are exited to more appropriate assistance, such as a more intensive program, hospital, or other emergency responder.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Permanent Supportive Housing Housing First Practices Review Tool

Screening, Triage and Access <i>The permanent supportive housing program, either directly or as part of a community-wide coordinated entry system...</i>	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
A. Screens all people who are literally homeless and ensures quick linkage to permanent supportive housing assistance, based on participant needs, preferences, and resource availability.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Screens people applying for assistance to identify people who are the best match relative to other options.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Prioritizes people applying permanent supportive housing who have experienced a longer period of time homeless and have more severe service needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Provides access to permanent supportive housing without preconditions , such as sobriety, willingness to participate in services, or minimum income level.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing-Focused Assistance and Participant Self-Determination	<i>Always; Fully Implemented</i>	<i>Sometimes; Seeking to Fully Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Seeking to Implement</i>	<i>Not Currently; Not Seeking to Implement</i>
E. Participants and staff understand that a primary goal of permanent supportive housing is to end homelessness for people with the most severe service needs and help participants stay housed , regardless of other personal issues or concerns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Participant assessment focuses on barriers to maintaining housing (e.g., past rental/credit/criminal history, current income, legal issues, knowledge of tenant rights and responsibilities, etc.) and other service needs the program is designed to address or can address through referrals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Participants are assisted with creating and (for ongoing assistance) updating individualized Housing Plans , designed to stabilize participants in housing as quickly as possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Participants are provided or connected to financial assistance for move-in and stabilization costs and housing case management in order to achieve their Housing Plan goals. This includes assistance to address tenancy problems that may jeopardize housing. Assistance is provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without additional preconditions, such as employment or sobriety; and • With understanding that housing may cost greater than 30% of participant income and be precarious. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Staff are aware of and know how to access other community resources (e.g., legal services, subsidized childcare) that can help participants achieve their housing stabilization goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Participation in services is voluntary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Barriers, Opportunities, and Next Steps

Use the following worksheet to identify:

- Barriers or challenges to implementing Housing First practices
- Opportunities for resolving barriers, including program changes that might happen in partnership with other homeless system and community providers
- Next steps to address barriers and further implement Housing First practices

Barrier/Challenge	Opportunities	Next Steps