




**Housing First:
Practical
Application**



COHHIO
Training and
Technical Assistance

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio | 175 S. Third St. Suite 580 Columbus, OH 43215


About COHHIO




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Coalition on Homelessness
and Housing in Ohio

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What is your level of understanding of Housing First



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HOUSING FIRST
TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Understand the definition and principles of Housing First

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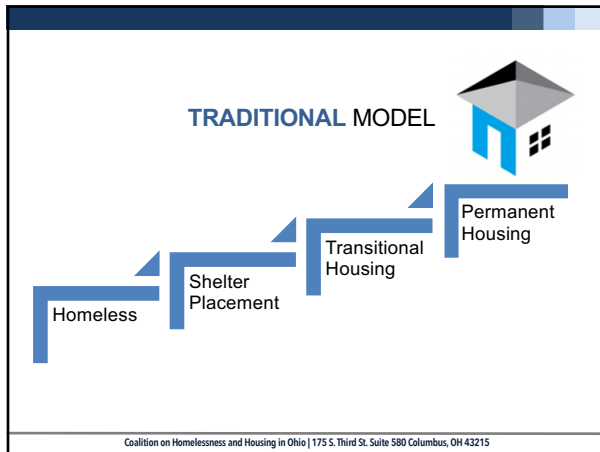
Applying Housing First philosophy throughout your program

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HISTORY OF HOUSING FIRST MODEL

Housing First emerged in the **early 1990's** in the New York response to the failure of traditional treatment to impact the "chronically homeless."

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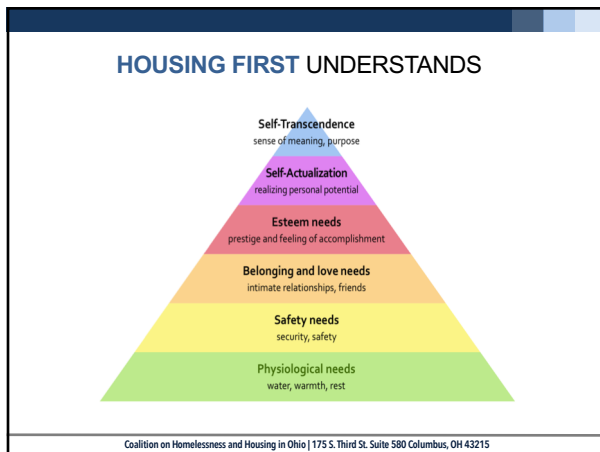
ABOUT THE HOUSING FIRST MODEL

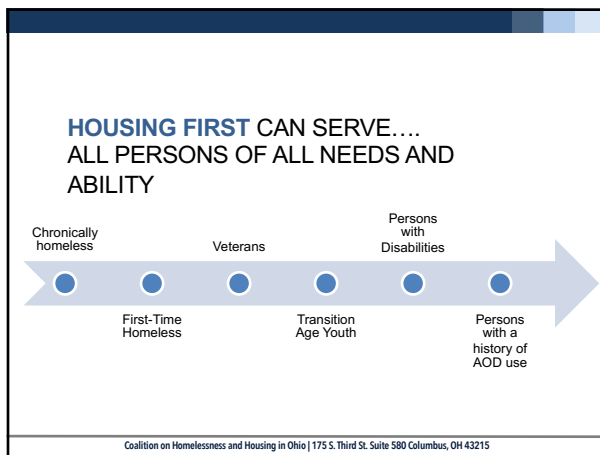
Housing First is an evidence-based model for serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

The model relies upon the principle that:

- Everyone has a right to housing regardless of their barriers or challenges

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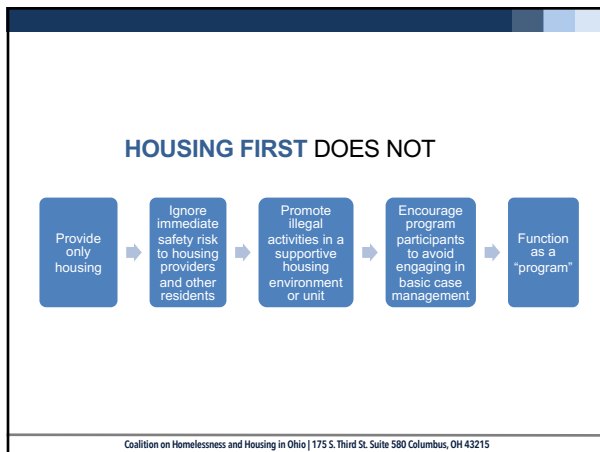
HOUSING FIRST ELEMENTS

Housing First interventions:

- Rapid Rehousing
- Supportive Housing (PSH)

<http://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/housing-first-fact-sheet.pdf>

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HOUSING FIRST OUTCOMES

Using a **consumer driven** and **adaptable approach**, these have proven to show the following:

- High rates of retention
- Reduction in the use of crisis services and interventions
- Improved health and social outcomes

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HOUSING FIRST OUTCOMES

Housing First interventions:

- Rapid Rehousing 75-91%
- Supportive Housing 98%

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What concerns do you have about Housing First?



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HOUSING FIRST CHALLENGES

What are some challenges to Housing First?

- Resources
- Belief
- Fidelity
- Community

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ELEMENTS OF THE HOUSING FIRST MODEL

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HOUSING FIRST INITIAL CRISIS INTERVENTION

While the primary goal of Housing First is to help the household obtain housing as quickly as possible, the process may vary in time.

- Begins with identifying the households immediate needs
- Helping the household through the initial trauma or transition period

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HOUSING FIRST LINKAGES TO HOUSING OPTIONS AND SUPPORTS

Housing First programs generally involve the following services to assist households in their search for housing:

- Understanding the household's needs
- Preparing for the search
- Gathering information to apply
- Assistance with obtaining the appropriate housing solution
- Negotiating lease terms with landlords
- Tenant education
- Assistance with move-in costs



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HOUSING FIRST SERVICES AND CASE MANAGEMENT

Households who become homeless or who have trouble getting out of homelessness typically have need for support and assistance to maintain permanent housing.

Voluntary services made available to clients may focus on the following:

- Health and well-being
- Employment
- Education
- Mental Health
- Substance use and addiction
- Life skills
- Parenting and family reconnection



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HOUSING FIRST FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

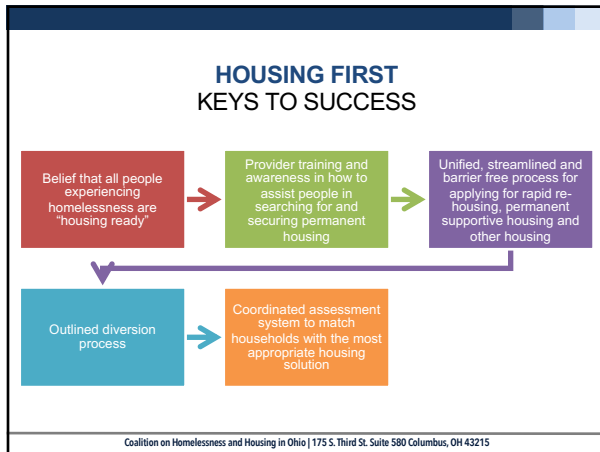
One of the most significant barriers to housing stability is the cost of obtaining housing, especially for those with prior evictions, poor credit, inconsistent rental histories, and criminal backgrounds.

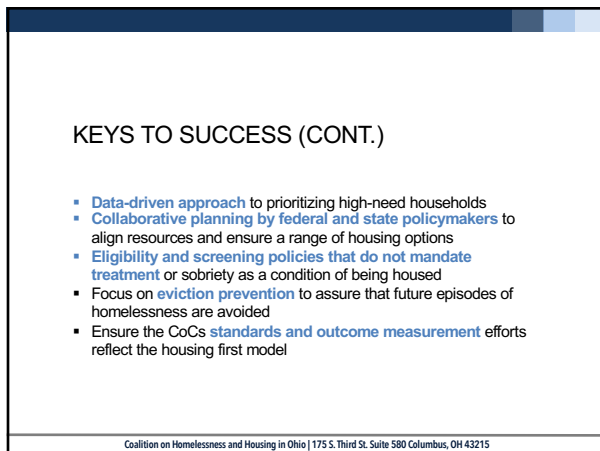
In the Housing First model, financial assistance may be provided to assist with:

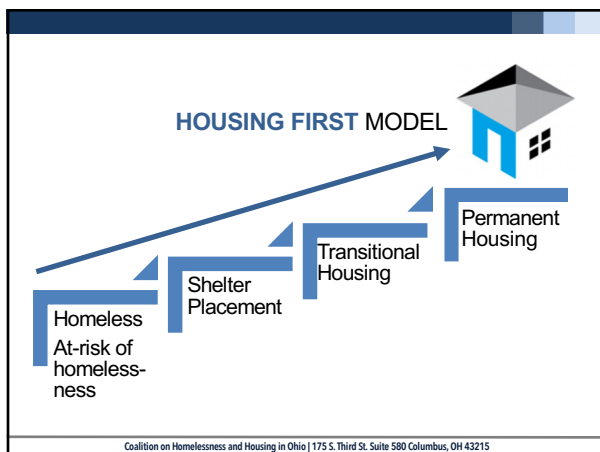
- Utility bills
- Moving costs, including rent and security deposits
- Furniture
- Food
- Other necessities



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HOUSING FIRST
Program Assessment

- ✓ No Program Contingencies
- ✓ No denials
- ✓ Reasonable Accommodations
- ✓ Alternative Plans
- ✓ Tenant Driven Plans
- ✓ Emphasize Engagement and Problem-Solving

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HOUSING FIRST
Program Assessment

- ✓ No Mandatory Services
- ✓ Staff Universally Trained
- ✓ No Substance Use Evictions
- ✓ Alternative Plans
- ✓ Avoid Evictions Back to Homelessness

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HOUSING FIRST Assessment Next Steps

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graph TD
    A[Review program policies] --> B[Develop Plan]
    B --> C[Create advisory board]
    B --> D[Evaluate data]
    E[Funding] --> B
  
```

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HOUSING FIRST

Community Assessment

✓

Coordinated system

✓

Low barriers entry

✓

Coordinated crisis response teams

✓

Data-driven approach

✓

Referrals directly from CE

✓

Affordable and supportive housing

✓

Mainstream systems

✓

Staff universally trained

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HOUSING FIRST

Assessment Next Steps

Audits

Peer Support

Incentivize

Develop Plan

Funding

Standards

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Video

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HOUSING FIRST QUESTIONS

What are some additional thoughts or questions about housing first?

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Thank You!

Josh Johnson
Joshjohnson@cohhio.org



Melissa Humbert Washington
MelissaHumbertwashington@cohhio.org

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Resources

https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Housing_First_Checlist_FINAL.pdf

<http://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/housing-first-fact-sheet.pdf>

<https://endhomelessness.org/resource/rapid-re-housing-a-history-and-core-components/>

http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/housing_first

<http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/organizational-change-adopting-a-housing->

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