Housing First: Practical Application

About COHHIO

Webinar Information

- All participants lines are muted.
- Use the questions feature in the GoToWebinar control panel to submit questions.
- This webinar will be posted to COHHIO's website.
- This webinar is being recorded.
What is your level of understanding of Housing First

HISTORY OF HOUSING FIRST MODEL

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

HOUSING FIRST UNDERSTANDS

- Self-Actualization
  - Realizing personal potential
- Esteem needs
  - Prestige and feeling of accomplishment
- Belonging and love needs
  - Intimate relationships, friends
- Safety needs
  - Security, safety
- Physiological needs
  - Water, warmth, rest
- Self-Reliance
  - Sense of meaning, purpose
HOUSING FIRST CAN SERVE.... ALL PERSONS OF ALL NEEDS AND ABILITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chronically homeless</th>
<th>Veterans</th>
<th>Persons with Disabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First-Time Homeless</td>
<td>Transition Age Youth</td>
<td>Persons with a history of AOD use</td>
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HOUSING FIRST ELEMENTS

Housing First interventions:
- Rapid Rehousing
- Supportive Housing (PSH)


HOUSING FIRST DOES NOT

- Provide only housing
- Ignore immediate safety risk to housing providers and other residents
- Promote illegal activities in a supportive housing environment or unit
- Encourage program participants to avoid engaging in basic case management
- Function as a "program"
HOUSING FIRST OUTCOMES

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

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

HOUSING FIRST OUTCOMES

Housing First interventions:

- Rapid Rehousing 75-91%
- Supportive Housing 58%

What concerns do you have about Housing First?
**HOUSING FIRST CHALLENGES**

What are some challenges to Housing First?

- Resources
- Belief
- Fidelity
- Community

**ELEMENTS OF THE HOUSING FIRST MODEL**

- Initial Crisis Intervention
- Services to Sustain and Support Defender
- Financial Assistance to Help with Costs Associated with Becoming Re-Housed

**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 household's immediate needs
- Helping the household through the initial trauma or transition period
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

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

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
Belief that all people experiencing homelessness are "housing ready"

Provider training and awareness in how to assist people in searching for and securing permanent housing

Unified, streamlined and barrier-free process for applying for rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing and other housing

Outlined diversion process

Coordinated assessment system to match households with the most appropriate housing solution

**HOUSING FIRST MODEL**

- Homeless
- Shelter Placement
- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Housing

**KEYS TO SUCCESS (CONT.)**

- Data-driven approach to prioritizing high-need households
- Collaborative planning by federal and state policymakers to align resources and ensure a range of housing options
- Eligibility and screening policies that do not mandate treatment or sobriety as a condition of being housed
- Focus on eviction prevention to assure that future episodes of homelessness are avoided
- Ensure the CoCs standards and outcome measurement efforts reflect the housing first model
HOUSING FIRST Program Assessment

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

HOUSING FIRST Program Assessment

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

HOUSING FIRST Assessment Next Steps

- Review program policies
- Develop Plan
- Create advisory board
- Evaluate data
- Funding
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

HOUSING FIRST
Assessment Next Steps
- Audits
- Peer Support
- Incentivize
- Develop Plan
- Funding
- Standards

Video
HOUSING FIRST QUESTIONS
What are some additional thoughts or questions about housing first?

Thank You!

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Resources
https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Housing_fi ng_CheC klist_FINAL.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