

THANK YOU
VERY MUCH!





FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Housing First

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WHAT IS HOUSING FIRST?

- What do you think of when you hear housing first?

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



What is Housing First?

- An evidence-based approach that centers on providing individuals experiencing homelessness with housing quickly without a time-limit and then providing services as needed.
- Places an immediate and primary focus on helping individuals and families quickly access and sustain permanent housing.
- Differs from traditional strategies (housing-ready)

Research on Housing First

- Stability is cost-effective & positively impacts quality of life & community functioning. Especially among chronically homeless and those with serious psychiatric disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or other disabilities.
- A 2015 study found that Housing First programs are more effective at increasing outpatient service utilization, as well as outreach to and engagement of clients who are not appropriately served by the public mental health system
- Reduces hospital visits, admissions, and duration of hospital stays among homeless individuals
- Participants in Housing First reduced alcohol use and likelihood of intoxication, despite no requirement to abstain from or reduce drinking to remain housed.

Housing First Best Practices

- Low Barrier: Access to programs is not contingent on sobriety, minimum income requirements, lack of a criminal record, completion of treatment participation in services, or other unnecessary conditions. No such thing as “housing ready”
- Housing and service goals and plans are highly tenant-driven
- Participation in services or compliance with service plans are not conditions of tenancy, but are reviewed with tenants and regularly offered as a resource to tenants
- Tenants in supportive housing are given reasonable flexibility in paying their share of rent on time and offered special payment arrangements for rent arrears and/or assistance with financial management, including representative payee arrangements

Housing First Principles



Immediate access to permanent housing with no housing readiness requirements



Consumer choice and self-determination



Individualized, recovery-oriented, and client-driven supports



Harm reduction



Social and community integration