

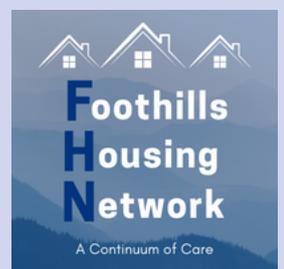
A Service Providers Guide to

Housing First



Foothills Housing Network

www.foothillshousing.org



What is housing first and why should we use it ?

Housing first is a comprehensive approach to homelessness which prioritizes securing permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness. Achieving permanent housing is prioritized over any other needs a person might have, such as lack of employment, substance abuse disorders, or mental health conditions. The goal with housing first is that once a person has stable housing, then they have a solid foundation with which they can approach seeking services for their other needs. It's also important to note that housing first does not require clients to access any other services to access or maintain housing. Housing first seeks to remove any barriers that may stand between a person experiencing homelessness and permanent housing. To do this, providers must streamline the application process and minimize unnecessary documentation requirements.

Housing first is both effective at housing people and cost effective. People in housing first programs are more likely to remain stably housed, and have an easier time addressing issues like substance abuse or mental health disorders. Additionally, is required for many grants, like the VHSP grant, to demonstrate that your organization uses a housing first approach.

Resources and Further Reading:

USICH, [Four Clarifications About Housing First](#)

CSH, [Housing First and Access to Housing](#)

National Alliance to End Homelessness, [Housing First](#)

Heading Home, [Housing First Model: An Evidence Based Approach to Ending Homelessness](#)



Resources to help implement housing first:

Canadian Housing First Toolkit, [Implementation Tasks](#)

This website provides a step-by-step guide for introducing a housing first approach to your organization.

National Alliance to End Homelessness, [Organizational Change: Adopting a Housing First Approach](#)

The most comprehensive on this list, this PDF breaks down exactly why housing first is a successful approach, how organizations can introduce it into their community, and maintain how to maintain housing first as a successful program.

Canadian Housing First Toolkit, [Challenges and Strategies](#)

This page addresses many different challenges that organizations may face while switching to a housing first approach. It then breaks down solutions so that housing first can be a smooth running program.

USICH, [Housing First Checklist: Assessing Projects and Systems for a Housing First Orientation](#)

USICH provides a checklist for providers to check their program's adherence to housing first guidelines. A great quick resource to check on your program.

USICH, [Implementing Housing First in Permanent Supportive Housing](#)

This is USICH's guide to how housing first can be implemented in PSH.



Further Training

Below are some resources where you can obtain training on a housing first approach to homelessness. All these resources are free, except the last one listed which requires a \$50 fee.

COHHIO, [Housing First: Practical Application](#)

A video training on how to introduce housing first into your organization and deepen your understanding of it.

HUD and USICH, [Core Principles of Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing Webinar](#)

A HUD and USICH joint training on housing first and rapid re-housing.

Roof Above, [Housing First Training with Sam Tsemberis](#)

A training with Sam Tsemberis, who is often considered the founder of housing first, on the housing first approach for frontline service workers.

Center for Learning, [Understanding Housing First](#)

A self-paced course includes five modules exploring the philosophy and practice of Housing First.

