

# Housing First Fact Sheet

## WHAT IS HOUSING FIRST?

Our method is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before attending to anything less critical, such as getting a job or substance use issues.

Also, Housing First is based on the belief that client choice is valuable; having autonomy is likely to make a client more successful in remaining housed and progressing their life. Housing First programs can eliminate barriers encountered by people trying to attain permanent housing.

## WHO CAN BE HELPED BY THIS MODEL?

The Housing First approach can benefit both displaced families and individuals with all kinds of service needs.

This method has been found to be an effective approach to end homelessness for highly vulnerable populations, including chronically homeless individuals. Housing First also promotes racial equity, in that in that it takes away judgement from the providers as to who is “deserving” of long-term housing – and whom often have bias against people of color.



## DOES HOUSING FIRST WORK?

Individuals in a Housing First model access housing faster and are more likely to remain stably housed, and public assistance programs see many benefits when using this model.

Providing access to housing directly results in cost savings for communities because housed people are less likely to need and use emergency facilities, such as including hospitals, jails, and emergency shelter, than those who are homeless.

Housing First is not only cost efficient for the state, but it also reduces the trauma people face due to homelessness.



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