

Housing First at the Program/Project Level

Admission/tenant screening and selection practices promote the acceptance of applicants regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, and participation in services.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Sure

Applicants are seldom rejected based on poor credit or financial history, poor or lack of rental history, minor criminal convictions, or behaviors that indicate a lack of “housing readiness.”

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Sure

Housing accepts referrals directly from shelters, street outreach, drop-in centers, and other parts of crisis response system frequented by vulnerable people experiencing homelessness.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Sure

Supportive services emphasize engagement and problem-solving over therapeutic goals. Services plans are highly tenant-driven without predetermined goals. Participation in services or program compliance is not a condition of permanent supportive housing tenancy. Rapid re-housing programs may require case management as condition of receiving rental assistance.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Sure

Use of alcohol or drugs in and of itself (without other lease violations) is not considered a reason for denying services or an eviction.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Sure

Program admission (for all services) includes a prioritization of eligible tenants based on criteria other than “first come/first serve” such as duration/chronicity of homelessness, vulnerability, or high utilization of crisis services.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Sure

Services are informed by a harm reduction philosophy that recognizes that drug and alcohol use and addiction are a part of peoples' lives, and clients are engaged in non-judgmental communication regarding drug and alcohol use, including education regarding how to avoid risky behaviors and engage in safer practices.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Sure

Housing First at the Community Level

Emergency shelter, street outreach providers, and other parts of crisis response system are aligned with Housing First and recognize their roles to encompass housing advocacy and rapid connection to permanent housing. Staff in crisis response system services believes that all people experiencing homelessness are housing ready.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Sure

Strong and direct referral linkages and relationships exist between crisis response system (emergency shelters, street outreach, etc.) and rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Sure

Crisis response providers (ES, CE) are aware and trained in how to assist people experiencing homelessness to apply for and obtain permanent housing.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Sure

Community has a unified, streamlined, and user-friendly community-wide process for referrals for rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing and/or other housing interventions.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Sure

Community has a coordinated entry system for matching people experiencing homelessness to the most appropriate housing and services, and where individuals experiencing chronic homelessness and extremely high need individuals and families are prioritized.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Sure

Community has a data-driven approach to prioritizing highest need cases for housing assistance including analysis of lengths of stay in Homeless Management Information Systems, vulnerability indices, or data on utilization and outcomes of crisis services.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Sure

Policymakers, funders, and providers collaboratively conduct planning and raise and align resources to increase the availability of affordable and supportive housing and to ensure that a range of affordable and supportive housing options and models are available to maximize housing choice among people experiencing homelessness.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Sure

Whenever possible, program exits/eviction back into homelessness is avoided.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Sure