



Housing First permanent supportive housing models are designed for individuals or families who have complex service needs, who are often turned away from other affordable housing settings, and/or who are least likely to be able to proactively seek and obtain housing on their own. Housing first can be contrasted with a continuum of housing "readiness," which typically subordinates access to permanent housing to other requirements.

- Housing first streamlines the application process by removing unnecessary documentation or site visits and including the minimum number of questions needed to determine tenant eligibility. It also ensures that tenants are not subject to conditions of tenancy exceeding that of a normal leaseholder, including participation in treatment or other services.
- Housing accepts referrals directly from shelters, street outreach, drop-in centers, and other parts of crisis response system frequented by vulnerable people experiencing homelessness.
- Applicants are seldom rejected on the basis of poor credit or financial history, poor or lack of rental history, a variety of criminal convictions, or behaviors that indicate a lack of "housing readiness."
- Sobriety and medication compliance are not entrance requirements and applicants are accepted regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, and participation in services.
- Use of alcohol, drugs or medication non-compliance in and of itself (without other lease violations) is not considered a reason for eviction.
- Supportive services should be customized to the needs of the tenant and emphasize engagement and problem-solving.
- Services plans are highly tenant-driven without predetermined goals. Support services are intended to help ensure housing stability and to maximize each tenant's ability to live independently.
- Services should be designed and delivered to promote integration of residents into their communities to the greatest extent possible and appropriate. There is no minimum income requirement.