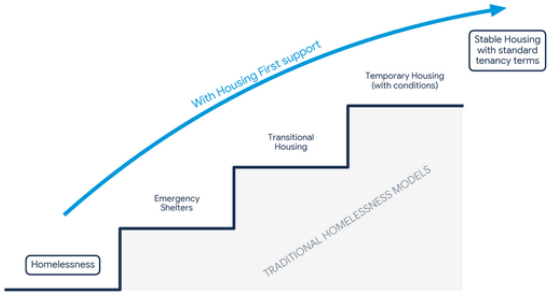
HOUSING FIRST

The philosophy

Housing First is not just another housing program.It represents a fundamental paradigm shift in addressing homelessness. Unlike the traditional "staircase" model of transition, where individuals must prove they are "ready" for independent living, Housing First recognizes permanent housing as the starting point and as a **fundamental human right.**

It provides immediate access to independent housing without preconditions such as compliance with treatments. Housing stability creates the foundation for improving mental health and reintegration.



How It Works In Practice

Theprogram offersimmediateaccess to a stable residence with the **rights and obligations of a regular tenant**. From the moment of settling into the home, addressing the individual's remaining needs begins through intensive and coordinated open-ended support (without a strict time limit).

These needs may be linked to long-term homelessness on the streets, mental health problems, addictions, as well as experiences of trauma, domestic violence, or abuse.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS

Sustainability: Program data documents **the reduction of costs in other public services** (health, social welfare), proving that Housing First is the most cost-effective solution for changing national housing policy.

ProvenEffectiveness: Achieves housing retention rates that exceed **85%** after 2 years of participation in the program.

The 8 Core Principles

1. Housing as a human right: Housing is not a reward for effort, but a basic condition for life.
2. Choice & self-determination: The beneficiary controls the decisions regarding the space they will live in and the services they will receive.

3. Separation of housing & support: Remaining in the home does not depend on participation in detox or therapy programs.

4. Recovery orientation: Focus on the individual's potential for improving physical and mental well-being.

5. Harm Reduction: Accepting and supporting the individual with respect, without requiring complete abstinence from substances.

6. Active engagement without coercion: Support teams build relationships of trust while respecting autonomy.

7. Person-centered planning: Services are exclusively adapted to the unique needs of each individual.

8. Flexible support: Providing assistance with the required frequency and intensity, for as long as needed.

Specialized Approaches

Housing First for Women (HF4W):

Focuses on creating acompletely safe environment, utilizing approaches based on empowerment and trauma-informed care. It addresses "invisible" homelessness, high risks of gender-based violence, and complex needs arising from these experiences.

Housing First for Youth (HF4Y):

Adapted to thedevelopmental needs ofyoung people (13-24). It focuses on education, smooth social integration, building healthy relationships, and preventing chronic homelessness by promoting autonomy.