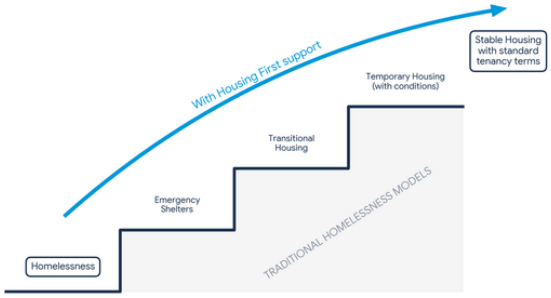
Powered by emfasis #RIGHT TO HOUSING

HOUSING FIRST

The Philosophy: A Fundamental Shift

Housing First is not just another housing program, but it represents a fundamental paradigm shift in addressing homelessness. In contrast to 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

The program offers immediate access 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 stem from long-term homelessness on the streets, mental health problems, addictions, as well as experiences of trauma, domestic violence, or abuse.

STRATEGY

The program functions as a “living lab,” putting theory into practice. At the same time, we invest in intensive training for professionals, with the goal of ensuring absolute fidelity to the model, thereby safeguarding its long-term sustainability.

THE 8 CORE PRINCIPLES

1. **Housing as a human right**
2. **Freedom of choice & self-determination**
3. **Separation of housing & support**
4. **Recovery orientation**
5. **Harm reduction**
6. **Active engagement (without coercion)**
7. **Person-centered planning**
8. **Flexible support**

WHO WE ARE & OUR EXPERTISE

Emfasis serves as Greece’s link to the European ecosystem for ending homelessness. As Greece’s official representative on the FEANTSA Board of Directors and an Associate Partner of the Housing First Europe Hub, we help shape European strategy.

Certified Specialization: We have the only two certified professionals in Greece who have completed the one-year specialization in the Housing First methodology and are now members of the Housing First Europe Hub Training Team.

2027 VISION: HOUSING FIRST FOR WOMEN PILOT

Our main goal for 2027 is to launch the first “Housing First” pilot program in Greece, which will be dedicated exclusively to homeless women. We aim to generate scientific data that will serve as a catalyst for future reforms in housing policy.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS

Sustainability: The program’s data document cost reductions in other public services (health care, social welfare), demonstrating that Housing First is the most cost-effective solution for reforming national housing policy.

Proven Effectiveness: It achieves housing retention rates exceeding **85%** after two years of participation in the program.