



Housing First Assessment

Organization Name: _____ Completed By: _____
Program Name: _____

This assessment is designed to evaluate the extent to which Housing First principles are implemented by organizations for each program in the CoC in their efforts to provide housing and services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

- *For each standard, check the box if your agency fully implements the standard.*
- *For each standard, the Evidence should include detailed description on how the project implements the standard and how information is shared with participants verbally or in writing OR why the project does not fully implement the standard.*

1 **Project is Low Barrier:** Admission to projects is not contingent on pre-requisites such as abstinence of substances, minimum income requirements, health or mental health history, medication adherence, age, criminal justice history, financial history, completion of treatment, participation in services, “housing readiness,” history or occurrence of victimization, survivor of sexual assault or an affiliated person of such a survivor or other unnecessary conditions unless required by law or funding source.

Evidence:

2 **Reasonable Accommodation:** The project offers clear opportunities to request reasonable accommodations within applications and screening processes and during tenancy, and building and apartment units include special physical features that accommodate disabilities.

Evidence:

3 **Equal Access:** Equal access is provided in accordance with the 2012 and 2016 Equal Access Rules, meaning that projects must ensure equal access for persons regardless of one’s sexual orientation or marital status, and in accordance with one’s gender identity. Additionally, families must be served together as such, regardless of how they present.

Evidence:

- 4 **Participant Choice in Services:** Participants are able to choose from an array of services that emphasize engagement and problem-solving. Services offered are housing focused, participant-driven, and include the following areas of support: employment and income, childhood and education, community connection, and stabilization to maintain housing.
Evidence:
- 5 **Participant Choice in Housing:** There is a demonstrated commitment to connecting clients to housing as well as the community that they desire to be a resident of, and engaging clients in supportive services, tailored to their needs, and ensuring they are linked to necessary resources.
Evidence:
- 6 **Housing is Not Dependent on Participation in Services:** Participation in projects is not contingent on participating in supportive services or demonstration of progress made on a service plan. Housing and service goals/plans are participant-driven. Services must be regularly offered by staff, but are voluntary for participants.
Evidence:
- 7 **Harm Reduction:** Services are informed by a harm-reduction philosophy that recognizes that drug and alcohol use and addiction are a part of some participants' lives. Participants are engaged in non-judgmental communication regarding drug and alcohol use and are offered education regarding how to avoid risky behaviors and engage in safer practices.
Evidence:
- 8 **Substance Use in and of Itself is Not a Reason for Termination:** Participants are only terminated from the project for violations in the lease or occupancy agreements, as applicable. Occupancy agreements or an addendum to the lease do not include conditions around substance use or participation in substance use related services.
Evidence:

9 **Rules and Regulations:** Project staff have realistic expectations and policies that do not exceed the expectations of the grant and/or do not impede a low barrier implementation. Rules and regulations are designed to support safe and stable communities and should never interfere with a life in the community. Participants have access to the project at all hours (except for nightly in and out shelter) and accommodation is made for pets.

Evidence:

10 **Supportive Housing:** While participants are accountable for adhering to the rental agreement, adjustments may be needed on a case by case basis. As necessary, participants are given special payment arrangements for rent arrears and/or assistance with financial management, including access and connection to representative payee arrangements.

Evidence:

11 **Safety Planning:** The project implements a process led by the survivor to develop a safety plan to include an assessment of danger, particular points of vulnerability, and best approaches to increasing safety.

Evidence:

12 **Transfer Requests:** Transfers should be accommodated for participants who reasonably believe that they are threatened with imminent harm should they remain in the same unit. Whenever possible, transfers occur before a participant experiences homelessness.

Evidence:

13 **Coordinated Entry System:** Projects that cannot serve a participant work through the coordinated entry process and with partner agencies to ensure that those individuals and families are connected to housing and services elsewhere.

Evidence:

By signing, the organization acknowledges that information provided on this Housing First Assessment is, to the best of their knowledge, true and correct.

Signature

Title

Date

Program Director Signature

Title

Date