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## What is Housing First?

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- Evidence-based program model
- Assists individuals experiencing chronic homelessness who are living with severe mental illness and/or substance use disorder
- Immediately offers rental subsidies and permanent housing
- No preconditions or barriers
- No end point
- Wrap-around supports are provided to assist the individual in maintaining their housing

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## Dispelling Housing First Myths

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- Housing First is not “Housing only”
- Housing First does not mean “Anything goes”
- Does not condone, endorse, or encourage drug use or high risk behaviors
- Does not attempt to minimize or ignore the harms associated with high risk behaviors
- Participants are still accountable to the consequences of their actions
- Support is offered, but clients are not sheltered from what occurs from actions they choose
- Clients make their own decisions and observe the results, staff help clients to make informed decisions based on those results

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## Benefits

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- Cost effective
- Reduces hospitalization time
- Increased participant satisfaction
- Quick start up time
- Wider community benefit
- 30+ year track record
- **85-90% retention rate after five years**
- Increased medication compliance & treatment adherence
- Eliminates need for more expensive programs

For questions please contact:

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