Housing First Model vs. Traditional Housing Models

**Housing First Model**

- Evidence-based practice
- Believes in “client as expert”
- Promotes housing as a human right
- Provides clients with a high level of support in the community so that they can practice these skills independently and successfully in the future
- Offers choice at every stage
- Move-in and relocation is much quicker due to use of open market rentals
- Life skills can be learned and practiced in real-life scenarios in the home
- Costs about half as much as comparable programs serving the same populations

**Traditional Housing Models**

- Not empirically based
- Based on clinical assumptions about what clients are and are not capable of
- “Provider knows best”
- Client must demonstrate desirable behaviors to earn housing (raises ethical concerns)
- Asserts that clients with SMI require around the clock staff supervision
- Clients have little say in their housing trajectory (“take what you can get”)
- Housing depends on availability
- Independent life skills mimicked in groups or congregate settings, no real-life application
- Clients “punished” for displaying symptoms of the conditions which qualify them for services

To learn more about our training, technical assistance, and consulting services, please contact:

**Andrew Spiers, LSW** - Director of Training & Technical Assistance
Housing First University
ASpiers@PTHPA.org

**Office:** (215) 390-1500, ext. 1708  **Cell:** (610) 930-6454