



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