

FY2024 CoC/YHDP Housing First Approach Acknowledgment

Housing First is a homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to individuals experiencing homelessness. The core belief is that basic needs, such as food and housing, must be met before addressing other issues like employment, budgeting, or substance use.

As a CoC/YHDP Housing provider in Memphis/Shelby County, you are required to operate your program in alignment with the Housing First approach. The following outlines specific guidelines related to housing and program participants:

Key Principles of Housing First

- **Client Choice:** Housing selection, neighborhood selection, and participation in supportive services are based on client choice, which increases the likelihood of successful and sustained housing.
- **No Preconditions:**
 - Sobriety is not a requirement.
 - Medication compliance is not a requirement.
 - Participation in services is not a requirement.
 - Participation in religious activities is not a requirement.
 - There is no minimum income requirement.
 - Participation in drug testing is not a requirement.
- **No Service Mandates:** Individuals are not required to address specific problems, including behavioral health issues, or complete service programs before accessing housing. Participation in services is voluntary and not a condition for retaining housing.
- **Non-Discriminatory Access:**
 - Substance use alone, without other lease violations, is not grounds for eviction.
 - Substance abuse treatment and mental health treatments, without other lease violations, are not grounds for eviction.
 - Access to programs is not contingent on sobriety, income, criminal record, treatment completion, or service participation.
 - Programs must avoid rejecting individuals or families due to poor credit, rental history, minor criminal convictions, or perceived lack of "housing readiness."

- Programs should avoid adding requirements to a lease that would not be required on a lease for a person NOT experiencing homelessness.
- **Disability Accommodations:** People with disabilities must be offered reasonable accommodations during application, screening, and tenancy processes. Building and apartment units must include features that accommodate disabilities.

By signing below, you acknowledge and agree to operate your proposed CoC/YHDP Housing program in full alignment with the Housing First approach and its principles.

Project Name	Agency Name
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Name of Agency Representative	Title of Agency Representative
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Signature of Agency Representative	Date
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Signature of Community Alliance for the Homeless Representative	Date
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