



# Housing First Ends Homelessness: Successful City, State, & Federal Programs

This product accompanies the *Housing First Ends Homelessness: Successful City, State, & Federal Programs* webinar, which is available for viewing [here](#).

## Overview of Homelessness in the United States

As of 2022,  
**582,462** people  
are homeless  
with **127,768**  
chronically  
homeless

Primary social  
determinants of  
housing insecurity  
are *poverty,*  
*unemployment,*  
*and lack of*  
*affordable housing*



**69,137**  
individuals  
experiencing  
homelessness  
in **Southeast**  
alone

In 2022, **21%** of  
individuals  
experiencing  
homelessness  
reported having a  
*serious mental*  
*illness*



# What is Housing First?

## Brief History

- Started in **1992** as Pathways to Housing
- The program model views housing as the main foundation for the improvement of life

**3 Main Principles: permanent housing support, provide robust resources/services, and be client driven**

- Clients are not required to address all issues prior to housing

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## Resources Offered

*The most successful strategy is to direct clients towards resources that are flexible and niche to the person and will assist the person the most - BE CREATIVE!*



Spiritual  
Wellness/Nutrition



Arts/creative  
work



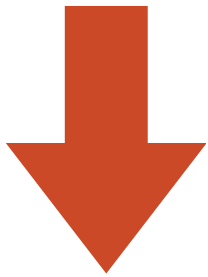
Employment  
Income,  
entitlements, legal



Addiction support  
Peer support  
Mental & physical  
health services

## Housing First Outcomes

2021 study demonstrated  
Housing First programs...



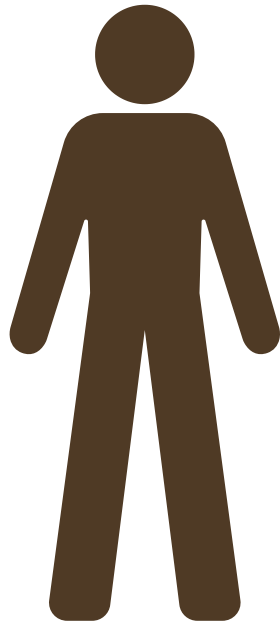
*homelessness  
by 88%*

**&**



*housing  
stability by  
41%*

*Housing First can save up to...*



*\$29,000 per  
person per year*

*by reducing the frequency and duration of  
hospital visits as well as interactions with  
law enforcement*

# ***Housing First: Three Ways***

## *City, State, & Federal*

### **City Level : Milwaukee County Housing Services**

#### **Model**

Housing First program is operated through **Milwaukee County Housing Services** and is led by the **Housing First Resident Advisory Council** comprised of both clients and staff to continuously improve care

#### **Key Principles**

Clients dictate treatment stages while still receiving rental assistance and without needing to worry about status of billing

#### **Funding Sources**



Funding made possible through local tax levies and community contributions

#### **Community Partners**



County level legal and police departments, Department of Transportation, local parks, health systems, universities, and furniture banks

# Results



**Homelessness has effectively been decriminalized as more individuals reach out to housing first instead of law enforcement**

Time spent in the shelter has reduced by **72%**

Reduced Medicare costs by **\$2.1 million** per year



Reduced mental health costs by **\$715K** per year

Reduced costs to legal system by **\$600K** per year



***No unsheltered families for about 3 years***

# State Level: Georgia Housing Voucher Program

## Model

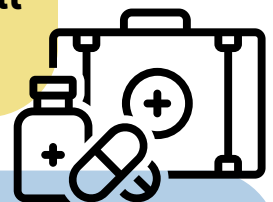
Born out of **2008 Olmstead Settlement Agreement** to expand alternatives to institutionalization for individuals with disabilities the program provides permanent supportive housing to individuals living with a psychiatric disability who are experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk and is operated through **Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)**

## Primary Domains of Services

Outreach, assessment, application, housing search, leasing, stability

## Client Eligibility

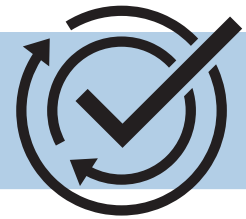
**Must have diagnosis of serious mental illness (SMI) and be experiencing homelessness or enrolled in a residential program**



Client is *not required* to pay **more than 30%** of income but there is capacity for individuals with no income

Individuals **do** need to be approved for Medicaid

# Results

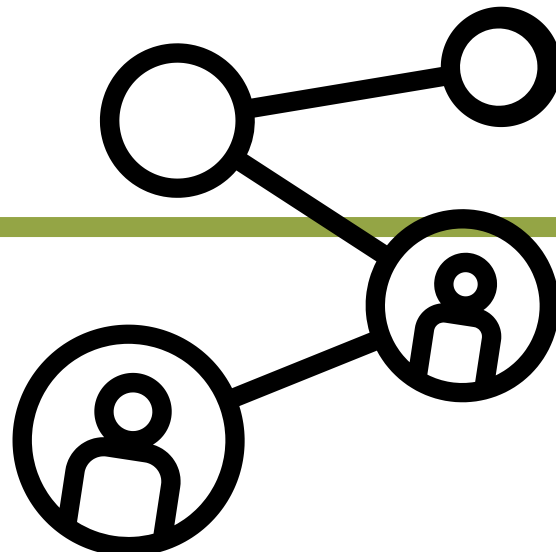


**Attempting to connect provider EMRs and statewide HMIs to the state's health information exchange to facilitate whole-person care**

Since implemented in 2019, 2200 clients have been served



Large spikes in referral numbers now that the support system is in place with no waitlist currently



# Federal Level: HUD-VASH - Veteran's Affairs (VA) Model

## Model

Although not a comprehensive Housing First model the HUD-VASH housing assistance uses its **key principles** to move veterans and their families into permanent housing and promote an independent transition

Comprehensive services are delivered through local VA medical centers

VA provides clinical case management model for veterans to obtain and maintain housing where

## Key Principle

Intensity of case management services varies based on:

**Necessity**

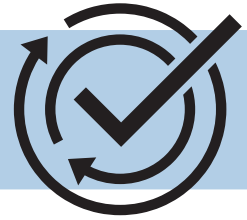
**&**

**Client Driven**





# Results



3 states and 83 cities have effectively ended veteran's homelessness with rates at a functional 0



**Functional Zero**

The number of people who are homeless flow **in and out** but overall burden has **reduced**



**Increase in Funding**

Federal funding for 2023 is about **\$94.4 million** to support approximately **11,000** new vouchers

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