










What's keeping us from being a Housing First community?

Housing First is more than a slogan or an ideal. It is a philosophy on ending homelessness that is intentionally demonstrated through a commitment to strategies, practices, beliefs, and outcomes.

Consult the following assessment to evaluate your community's commitment to Housing First.

-  Do we ever lose faith in our belief that all people can thrive in housing?
-  Do we ever write off any person experiencing homelessness as a problem client or a lost cause?
-  Do we ever insist which services a person needs before or after they have been housed?
-  Do we ever deny a person a housing opportunity because we assume they will not succeed in it?
-  Are our strategies, programs, or practices ever inconsistent with Housing First principles? Do some of them align with Housing First, but others don't? Do we make decisions about when they will or won't align?
-  Are we continuously evaluating how we are operationalizing our commitment to Housing First through contract and grants awards to housing and support service organizations?
-  Are we regularly analyzing our data to measure our commitment to Housing First?
-  Do we ever turn a blind eye to our implicit biases and practices that perpetuate inequitable outcomes for people of different races, ethnicities, religions, or gender identities?
-  Have we intentionally operationalized Housing First as part of our organization's philosophy on ending homelessness, as part of our mission statement, policies and procedures, job descriptions, performance evaluations, and as part of our daily efforts to achieve that mission?