

**Housing First Narrative and Fidelity Assessment**

*Overview*

Housing First is an approach that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions. Review Section II.A.4., II.B.17.c., III.A.3.g. and VII.A.1.g. of the [FY 2017 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA)](https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FY-2017-CoC-Program-Competition-NOFA.pdf) and the Housing First PSH brief at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3892/housing-first-in-permanent-supportive-housing-brief/> for more information.

Housing First projects share essential elements:

* A focus on helping individuals and families access and sustain permanent housing as quickly as possible without time limits.
* A variety of services delivered to promote housing stability and individual well-being on an as-needed basis, and client participation in these services is voluntary.
* A standard lease agreement, i.e., housing is not contingent on engagement with services.
* A focus on reducing barriers to project entry, i.e., not screening potential project participants out for having too little or no income; an active, or history of, substance use or a substance use disorder; no employment; a criminal record (with exceptions for state-mandated restrictions); or a history of domestic violence, including the lack of a protective order or law enforcement involvement.
* Not terminating project participants from the project for the following reasons: not participating in supportive services; not making progress on a service plan; loss of income or not increasing income; being a survivor of domestic violence; not paying rent on time; and/or for needing to move to a new apartment.

Additional information about Housing First practices can be found here:

<http://thn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/THN_HousingFirstResourceList-1.pdf>.

*Housing First Narrative*

Renewal and New Project Applicants must adhere to the Housing First model to be eligible to compete in the 2017 CoC Program Competition. Applicants must include a narrative detailing how the project is adhering to or will adhere to the model. Narratives should be no longer than 3 pages, doubled spaced, 1 inch margins, and 12 point font. Narratives must provide a description of each of the following items:

1. How the project applicant is incorporating or will incorporate the essential elements of Housing First (listed in the Overview) in the project design and project written standards, or policies and procedures;
2. The experience of the applicant and sub-recipients, if any, in working with the proposed population;
3. The experience of the applicant and sub-recipients, if any, in providing housing similar to that proposed in the application;
4. How the project incorporates or will incorporate evidence-based practices for client engagement such as assertive engagement, motivational interviewing, client-centered counseling, trauma informed care, and harm reduction; and
5. The training provided or that will be provided to CoC Program-funded project staff regarding evidence-based practices.

**For Renewal Project Applicants *Only***

*Housing First Fidelity Assessment*

Please attach your CoC Program-funded project written policies and procedures that clearly demonstrate participants are NOT SCREENED OUT based on the following criteria and indicate the document and page number where the panel can find each provision.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Name of Document/File** | **Page Number** |
| Having too little or no income |  |  |
| Active, or history of, substance use or a substance use disorder |  |  |
| Having no employment |  |  |
| Having a criminal record (with exceptions for state-mandated restrictions) |  |  |
| History of domestic violence, e.g., lack of a protective order, period of separation from abuser, or law enforcement involvement |  |  |

Please attach your CoC Program-funded project written policies and procedures that clearly demonstrate participants are NOT TERMINATED from the program for the following reasons, and indicate the document and page number where the panel can find each provision.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Name of Document/File** | **Page Number** |
| Not participating in supportive services |  |  |
| Not making progress on a service plan |  |  |
| Loss of income or not increasing income |  |  |
| Being a survivor of domestic violence |  |  |
| Not paying rent on time |  |  |
| For needing to move to a new apartment, regardless of the reason |  |  |