



# WHAT IS HOUSING FIRST?



**Housing First** doesn't wait for people to be "ready" for housing. It offers housing without preconditions but with case management and other needed supports. By swiftly connecting individuals and families to housing—without barriers to entry like employment, sobriety or mental health treatment—Housing First keeps vulnerable Kansans safe and stable. When Kansans have access to safe, stable and affordable housing, they are able to utilize services, maximize stability and prevent returns to homelessness.

## Benefits of a Housing First approach:

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- Increases client housing stability
  - Increases client self-determination & improved well-being
  - Increases client self-sufficiency through income & employment
  - Cost savings for health systems & the community
  - Decreases client likelihood of returning to homelessness
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*National Low Income Housing Coalition*



## HOUSING FIRST CORE COMPONENTS

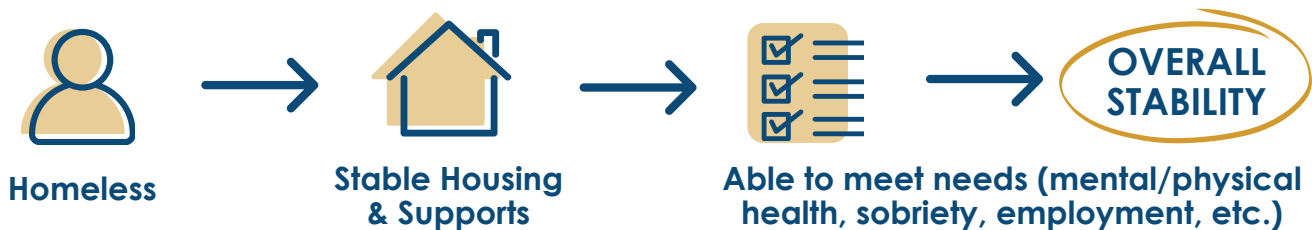
- Low barrier admission policies to prioritize those with significant housing challenges, such as no/low income, past evictions or criminal histories
- No preconditions for housing entry, such as sobriety or treatment completion
- Rapid entry into housing that reduces wait times and uncertainty
- Additional supportive services, including case management, for accessing physical and mental healthcare, employment supports & more
- Full rights, responsibilities and legal protections for tenants under leases

## HOUSING FIRST CORE PRINCIPLES

- Immediate access to housing
- Consumer choice
- Recovery-oriented
- Individualized and person-driven
- Social and community integration

## HOUSING FIRST SUCCESS STORY


Jean was a chronically homeless senior with severe disabilities living in a tent. She had disability income, but it wasn't enough to pay for housing and her basic needs. A Housing First program met Jean where she was, bringing her into supportive housing immediately, connecting her with medical, mental and behavioral health supports, and providing her with a housing voucher, so she could remain safely and stably housed and return to health long-term.



### TYPES OF HOUSING SUPPORTS

**Permanent supportive housing:** long-term rental assistance and supportive services for people with mental/physical health issues or substance use disorders who have experienced long-term or repeated homelessness

**Rapid re-housing:** short-term rental assistance and services to help people obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency and remain housed



The ultimate goal of Housing First? Long-term housing stability for everyone currently experiencing homelessness – because everyone deserves a place to call home.