

ATTACHMENT B

PRINCIPLES OF HOUSING FIRST

1. Clients are moved into permanent housing as quickly as possible, with no service or program readiness requirements.
2. The project's rules are limited to client safety, and do not try to change or control clients or their behaviors.
3. The project uses a trauma-informed approach.
4. The project does not require detox treatment and/or days of sobriety to enter.
5. The project does not conduct drug testing.
6. The project does not prohibit program entry on the basis of mental illness diagnosis and does not have a policy requiring medication and/or treatment compliance to enter.
7. The project does not bar clients based on past (non-violent) rule infractions.
8. The project accepts all clients regardless of sexual orientation or gender identification and follows all fair housing laws.
9. The project does not exclude persons with zero income and/ or limited to no work history.
10. If the project is short-term or time-limited, the services provided to enrolled clients should be focused primarily upon securing permanent housing and enhancing housing stability upon exit, as opposed to building "housing readiness," attaining sobriety, or adherence to treatment.
11. The project does not terminate program participants for any of the above listed issues. The project also does not terminate participants for:
 - a. low or no income,
 - b. current or past substance use,
 - c. history of domestic violence,
 - d. failure to participate in supportive services,
 - e. failure to make progress on a service plan, and criminal records – with the exceptions of restrictions imposed by federal, state or local law or ordinance.
12. If the project entails housing placement and/or housing stability services, program staff treat eviction and/or termination of housing as a last resort. Before termination/eviction, staff should engage as many other alternative strategies as are applicable and reasonable, including – but not limited to – conflict resolution, landlord mediation, support with rental/utility arrears, tenancy skills building, and relocation.