



NY Supportive Housing Institute Glossary 2024-2025

Housing First: Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without pre-conditions and barriers to entry. It contrasts with previous linear approaches in which permanent housing was only offered after a person experiencing homelessness could demonstrate “readiness” for housing. The core features of housing first in the context of supportive housing models and as required by HUD are as follows: 1) Few to no programmatic prerequisites to permanent housing entry; 2) Rapid and streamlined entry into housing; 3) Full rights, responsibilities and legal protection for tenants; 4) Low barrier admission policies; 5) Voluntary supportive services that can and should be used to engage tenants to ensure housing stability; 6) Practices and policies to prevent lease violations and evictions; 7) Applicability in a variety of settings. There are national resources available to assist organizations in determining if they are providing supportive housing in a housing first model and what steps they need to take to achieve a high-quality housing first model.

Supportive Housing: Supportive housing combines permanent, affordable housing with services that help people live more stable, productive lives. Supportive housing is developed by combining housing that is affordable to persons with very low or extremely low incomes with flexible supportive services that are designed to meet the special needs of an individual or family. When targeted effectively, supportive housing can be cost-effective for communities. Creating supportive housing involves partnerships and collaboration. Supportive Housing is developed for people who but for housing could not access services and but for services could not maintain housing.

Institute Team Leader: The person who commits to taking a lead role in managing the team from concept development through lease-up of the supportive housing units. This person should be detail oriented and have a strong commitment to this project. The team leader is responsible for ensuring that team members attend and participate in institute sessions and complete homework assignments. The team leader is also responsible for taking information back to any key local partners.

ESSHI Tenant Eligibility Criteria:

The eligible target populations to be served under this program are families or individuals who are both homeless (see below for definition) and who are identified as having an unmet housing need as determined by the CoC or local planning entity or through other supplemental local, state and federal data, AND have one or more disabling conditions or other life challenges, including:

Serious mental illness (SMI);

- Substance use disorder (SUD);
- Persons living with HIV or AIDS;
- Victims/Survivors of domestic violence;
- Military service with disabilities (including veterans with other than honorable discharge);
- Chronic homelessness as defined by HUD (including families, and individuals experiencing street homelessness or long-term shelter stays);
- Youth/Young adults who left foster care within the prior five years and who were in foster care at or over age 16;
- Homeless young adults between 18 and 25 years old;
- Adults, youth or young adults reentering the community from incarceration or juvenile justice placement, particularly those with disabling conditions;
- Frail Elderly/Senior: Any person who is age 55 and older, who is enrolled in Medicaid, and requires assistance with one or more activities of daily living or instrumental activities of daily living. Eligible persons are referred from a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), or identified as homeless by a Health Home, hospital, Managed Care Organization (MCO), medical respite, Managed Long-Term Care (MLTC), Performing Provider System (PPS), or shelter; and
- Individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD)

ESSHI Homeless definition:

In order to be considered homeless, an individual must meet one of the following criteria: Acceptable living situations at time of referral include unsheltered homeless; sheltered homeless; prison; institutions (State Psychiatric Center or Developmental Center); hospital or skilled nursing facilities; medical respite; and OPWDD-eligible individuals who have been determined to meet the level of emergency need through the Certified Residential Opportunities review process.

ESSHI Priority Populations: chronically homeless persons, families, individuals, and/or young adults that have mental health and/or substance use disorders, and victims of domestic violence. Applications where greater than 50% of the ESSHI units are dedicated to these populations will be eligible to receive more points than those that do not.