



Service Models and Financing Services in Housing First Programs for Families

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Service models in Housing First programs for families vary depending on the target population, program design, and the resources that are available.



Program Design Variations

- Target Population
- Referral Linkages
- Staffing
- Voluntary vs Mandatory Services
- Length of Home-Based Case Management
- Oversight of Participants' Financial Management
- Other Services: In-House or Out-of-House



Target Population

Most Housing First programs serve families who are already homeless and involved with the homeless services system.



Referral Linkages/Sources

For Housing First programs built into the existing continuum of care and receiving referrals from short-term housing providers, it is important that those referral agencies incorporate services and housing needs assessment and referral into initial shelter admission and planning processes.



Staffing

- **Separate vs Integrated Functions**
- **Case Management Ratios**
- **Other Functions/Positions**



Voluntary vs Mandatory

In most programs, services are voluntary. Upon enrollment in these programs, participants may be asked to sign a contract that confirms their willingness to participate in case management, but there are no consequences if they do not participate.



Duration of Home-Based Case Management

Most programs provide a minimum of six months to one full year of case management services, and link families to mainstream services and resources for longer term support.



Design of Case Management After the Move into Permanent Housing

Housing First programs are based on a home visitation model with time-limited, individualized services delivery. By “meeting families where they’re at”, both literally and figuratively, these programs promote a family-centered approach to case management.



Oversight of Family Finances

As with case management services generally, most Housing First programs do not require families to participate in financial management counseling and education. However, budget counseling is generally provided to families as a component of “transitional services.”



Other Services

Some programs offer additional services to promote family social and economic well-being, including IDA Programs and Family Self-Sufficiency Programs.



Financing Services

Housing First programs rely on a complex mix of public and private funding sources to support their work.



Sample Public Funding Sources

- **HUD-Supportive Housing Program**
- **Community Development Block Grants**
- **Emergency Shelter Grants**
- **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families**
- **Special State Funds**
- **Local (city or county) and State Contracts**



Sample Private Funding Sources

- **Private Foundations**
- **Corporations**
- **Local Banks**
- **Faith Community**
- **Private Donors**

