

2022 Proviso 96- Housing First Expansion



Washington State
Health Care Authority

Proviso 96- Housing First Expansion

- ▶ HCA/DBHR is tasked in Proviso 96- To create and expand access to no barrier and low-barrier programs using Housing First and Harm Reduction models.
- ▶ These models are designed to assist and stabilize housing supports for adults with behavioral health conditions and those with co-occurring disorders.
- ▶ The Proviso states that housing supports and services shall be made available with no requirement for treatment for their behavioral health condition and supports must be individualized to person's needs/wants.

Why Housing First?

- ▶ **Housing First Key Principles:**
 - Immediate access to permanent housing services with no housing readiness requirements.
 - Choice and self-determination. Housing First is a *rights-based, individualized –person centered* model
 - Recovery orientation: not simply focused on meeting basic needs but on supporting recovery.
 - Individualized and person-driven supports: recognizes that individuals are unique, and so are their needs.
 - Social and community integration: socially supportive engagement and the opportunity to participate in meaningful activities.

Why Harm Reduction?

- ▶ Harm reduction aims to reduce the risks and harmful effects of substance use and addictive behaviors for the individual, the community, and society, without requiring abstinence.
- ▶ It emphasizes the choice that people must think for themselves and follow the path they want.
- ▶ Harm reduction works by addressing broader health and social issues through improved policies, programs, and practices.

Housing First Expansion Priorities

Expand Housing First projects across regions.

Build off existing and up and coming, Capital Fund projects managed by the Department of Commerce.

Catholic
Charities
Housing First
Grant in
Pasco, WA



Please join us for the
**Grand Opening & Dedication of
Bishop Skylstad Commons**

Monday, April 17, 2023 | 12pm

Housing First Expansion Priorities

- ▶ Agencies that have internal housing units available and is committed to prioritizing individuals and families that are experiencing behavioral health challenges and barriers to housing.
- ▶ Agencies that are in the process of establishing internal housing units and committed to prioritizes individuals and families that are experiencing behavioral health challenges and barriers to housing.
- ▶ HCA prioritize agencies that demonstrate diversity and inclusion for marginalized and underserved populations.

Housing First Recipients by Region

Greater Columbia:
Catholic Charities
(Pasco)

Greater Columbia:
Yakima Neighborhood
Health Services
(Yakima)

Spokane: Catholic
Charities
(Spokane)

Salish: Kitsap Homes
of Compassion
(Bremerton)

Thurston-Mason:
Family Support Center
(Olympia)

Great Rivers:
The Moore Wright
Group
(Aberdeen)

North Sound:
Opportunity Council
(Bellingham)

North Central:
HopeSource
(Grant Counties)

North Central: YWCA
(Wenatchee)

Southwest: SeaMar
(Vancouver)

Housing First Staffing Model

- ▶ Two Peer-Counselors (internal housing and external housing Peer Support)
- ▶ Two Housing Specialists (Scattered Site Development)
- ▶ One Supervisor
- ▶ One Residential Manager (Housing First services and property management should be separated)

Housing First Project Resources

- ▶ Housing First Program Manager, Cathi Geisler, responsible for Contractor Performance and Technical Assistance.
- ▶ Advocates for Human Potential (AHP) for a series of Housing First trainings, a program manual, and ongoing support.
- ▶ Research and Data Analysis (RDA) for managing and compiling data.
- ▶ Department of Commerce for reporting platform (HMIS)

Contact Information

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Housing First Resources

- ▶ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0376871621005470>
- ▶ <https://endhomelessness.org/blog/what-housing-first-really-means/>