

Implementing Housing First Checklist

January 10, 2018

SB 1380 Requirements

“By July 1, 2019, agencies and departments administering state programs . . . shall collaborate with the coordinating council to revise or adopt guidelines and regulations that incorporate the core components of Housing First, if the existing guidelines and regulations do not already incorporate the core components of Housing First.”

Requirements apply to any program providing housing or housing-based services to people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, whether the program was designed to address homelessness or not.

SB 1380 Housing First Principles

Key Areas:

- Tenant Screening
- Housing-Based Services Individualized to Meet Tenant's Needs
- Services Are Voluntary
- Housing Permanency

Tenant Screening

Tenant selection practices accept applicants regardless of—

Sobriety/use of alcohol/drugs

Completion of/ participation in treatment or services

Poor credit/evictions

Behaviors indicating “lack of readiness”

Criminal justice involvement



Housing providers must accept referrals from—

Coordinated entry systems

County social services systems

Shelters or street outreach

Homeless services providers



Services Tailored to Needs of Tenants

Services Individualized to Meet the Specific Needs of the Beneficiary/Tenant, Rather than to Require the Tenant to Meet Programmatic Compliance

Emphasis on tenant-driven services plans, not predetermined goals



Services providers use evidence-based practices, offer whatever the tenant needs to obtain & sustain housing stability, such as—

Engagement practices

Harm reduction



Trauma-informed

Services Promoting Housing Stability

Providers are required to offer services emphasizing problem-solving, rather than services designed to meet set therapeutic goals.

Providers educate beneficiaries/ tenants on avoiding risky behaviors, and connect tenants to evidence-based treatment.



Providers Must Offer Services, Tenants/Beneficiaries Participate Voluntarily

Services Cannot Condition Tenancy/Residency on Participation in Services or Program Compliance



Housing providers accept most vulnerable, eligible beneficiaries/tenants, regardless of willingness to participate in services.

Housing Permanency

Tenants Have Lease Protections and Rights & Responsibilities of Tenancy























Not time-limited

(except some housing for homeless youth)

Use of alcohol or drugs without lease violations is not basis for eviction

Time-limited homeless youth programs: documents efforts to avoid evictions, help tenants access permanent housing

Housing First Checklist

State Programs	 Providers Must Accept Tenants Regardless of Sobriety/Completion of Treatment	 Providers Do Not Reject Applicants for Poor Credit/Financial History, Criminal Background	 Providers May Not Impose a "Housing Readiness" Requirement on Applicants for Housing	 Providers Receive Referrals to Housing from Homeless Response System	 Program Offers Funding Incentives to Providers to Accept Referrals from Coordinated Entry/Assessment Systems
ABC Program					
<p>Recommendations: The following language could be added to the program regulations and/or guidelines in order to meet bill requirements to reduce tenant screening barriers that are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ABC Program does not include any references to Housing First approaches and it is recommended that the Program regulations incorporate Housing First language in the ABC Program NOFA. The ABC program should ensure that Tenant Screening Housing First language and principles are included in the Standard Agreement (contract) with grantees for XYZ-related grants. 					
DEF Program					
<p>Recommendations: The following language could be added to the program regulations and/or guidelines in order to meet bill requirements to reduce tenant screening barriers that are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As outlined in the NOFA, State DEF funds are increasingly targeted to programs and crisis response services that provide low barrier access, and emphasize Housing First approaches. The definitions are outlined in the State Regulations, Section §1204 – Core Principles. It is recommended that this Section be updated to include the Housing First definitions for core components outlined in SB1380. The DEF Program currently provides points in its application rating process to programs that engage in Housing First practices, using the scoring criteria (100 points). It is recommended that this scoring criteria include more detailed definitions of Housing First, including the specific details outlined in SB1380. It is recommended that the DEF assessment of an applicant's capacity is amended to include an assessment of ability to implement a Housing First approach in DEF-funded activities, at Section 1354(a)(1). 					
JKL Program					
<p>Recommendations: The following language could be added to the program regulations and/or guidelines in order to meet bill requirements to reduce tenant screening barriers that are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The JKL Program does not include any references to Housing First approaches and it is recommended that the JKL Program incorporate Housing First language in JKL NOFAs and loan or grant agreements. 					

Options

- Housing First Learning Collaborative
- Peer to Peer groups
- CSH training to support State Agencies/Departments and Staff:
 - In person
 - Online
- Customized One-on-One TA to address technical issues
- Reporting
- Clear Timeline and Schedule
(July 1, 2019 implementation deadline)

Recommendations

- Adopt the checklist as a tool
- Provide guidance as to how State Agencies/Departments can adopt the tool
- Conduct an initial checklist review
- Assess Needs (at State Agency/Department level)
- Identify areas for resource leverage
- Offer technical assistance to support implementation
- Establish a schedule to evaluate State Agency/Department programs

THANK YOU!



stay connected



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