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

Poor credit/evictions

Criminal justice involvement

Completion of/
participation in treatment
or services

Behaviors indicating "lack of readiness"



Housing providers must accept referrals from—

Coordinated entry systems

Shelters or street outreach

County social services systems

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 tenantdriven services plans, not predetermined goals

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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 evidencebased 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 timelimited

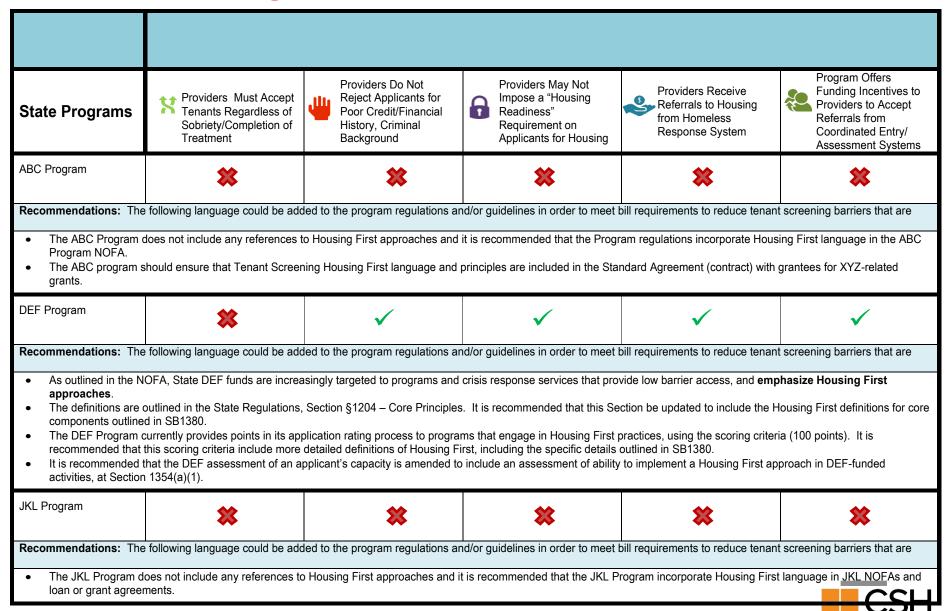
(except some housing for homeless youth)

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



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!



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