



Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness

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## MO-604 Housing First/Housing Focused Policy and Procedures

<b>Original Approval</b>	11/6/2020
<b>Approved Revisions</b>	

**Policy:** Current and prospective HUD-funded programs adopt a housing first and housing focused approach, defined herein.

**Definition:** The Housing First<sup>1</sup>/Housing Focused approach has two basic parts:

1. **Low-barrier access:** Homeless households are quickly stabilized in permanent housing without any preconditions regarding income, work effort, sobriety or any other factor, thus ending their homelessness and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. This approach is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before attending to anything less critical. This approach does not prohibit programs from targeting populations deemed by HUD and GKCCEH to warrant prioritization.
2. **Low-barrier participation requirements:** Once housed, the program emphasis is on supporting households to remain housed, i.e., assertively offering services that consider households' unique circumstances, strengthen resources, build resiliency, and promote adherence with a household's lease agreement. Outside of Rapid Re-housing programs which require monthly case management, programs should not universally mandate participation and are encouraged to carefully evaluate on a case-by-case basis the necessity, benefits, and drawbacks that mandated participation may have on important outcomes, e.g., employment, increased income, reduced substance use, and strengthened social connection. GKCCEH prefers programs do not impose participation requirements as a condition of households retaining their housing, based on the theory that exercising choice in supportive services is likely to make a client more successful in remaining housed and improving their life. Programs must review and adhere to the annual HUD NOFA's instruction on participation mandate permissibility.

<sup>1</sup> Based on language from HUD and the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

**Procedure:**

1. The Administration Committee assesses for adherence to the Housing First/Housing Focused approach in the local application documents.
2. Every applicant for new, renewal, bonus, and/or reallocated funds commit to adhering to a low barrier, Housing First/Housing Focused approach in their project application.
3. Level of adherence is part of the GKCCEH monitoring process. Adherence will be evaluated by review of housing program's internal policy detailing how it consistently and equitably promotes Housing First/Housing Focused approach; how participation requirements, if implemented, are decided; and consequences for a household if it does not comply with participation requirements. CoC MO-604 recommends lack of participation be brought to the Housing Stability Team for review.
4. Monitoring results inform the rank and review process.