



# Housing First Model vs. Traditional Housing Models

## Housing First Model

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- Evidence-based practice
  - Believes in “client as expert”
  - Promotes housing as a human right
  - Provides clients with a high level of support in the community so that they can practice these skills independently and successfully in the future
  - Offers choice at every stage
  - Move-in and relocation is much quicker due to use of open market rentals
  - Life skills can be learned and practiced in real-life scenarios in the home
  - Costs about half as much as comparable programs serving the same populations
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## Traditional Housing Models

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- Not empirically based
  - Based on clinical assumptions about what clients are and are not capable of
  - “Provider knows best”
  - Client must demonstrate desirable behaviors to earn housing (raises ethical concerns)
  - Asserts that clients with SMI require around the clock staff supervision
  - Clients have little say in their housing trajectory (“take what you can get”)
  - Housing depends on availability
  - Independent life skills mimicked in groups or congregate settings, no real-life application
  - Clients “punished” for displaying symptoms of the conditions which qualify them for services
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To learn more about our training, technical assistance, and consulting services, please contact:

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