



Now and Tomorrow, Excellence in Everything We Do

2014-2019 Renewed Homelessness Partnering Strategy

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A decorative header image showing a row of light blue silhouettes of various people, including individuals, families, and people with disabilities, against a white background.

HPS Post-2014

- Economic Action Plan 2013 announced nearly \$600M for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) for five years, from April 2014 to March 31, 2019, with a focus on Housing First (HF).
- This builds on the Mental Health Commission of Canada's (MHCC) *At Home/Chez Soi* project and communities across the country that have found that HF more effectively addresses homelessness than more traditional approaches.
- While HF represents a significant program shift, a number of key features of the HPS will be maintained including the community-based approach and allocations to the community funding streams (Designated, Aboriginal Homelessness, and Rural and Remote).

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What is Housing First?

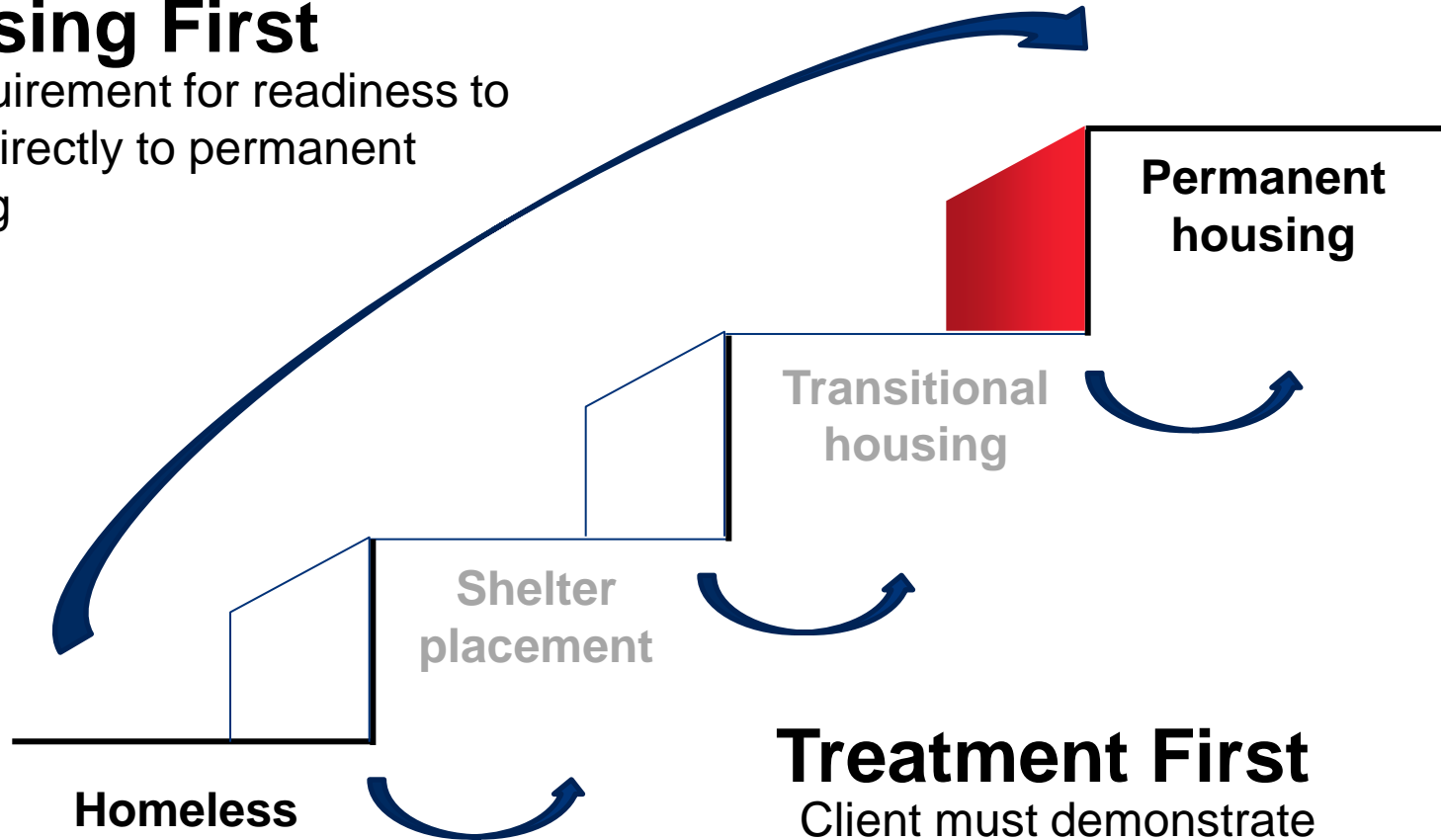
- As a philosophy, the HF approach is premised on the assumption that the first and primary need of a homeless individual is to obtain stable, permanent housing. Once stable housing is obtained, other more enduring issues, such as addictions or mental health, can be appropriately addressed.
- As an intervention, the HF approach involves moving individuals who are chronically or episodically homeless from the streets or homeless shelters directly into permanent housing. Permanent housing is complemented by the provision of services to assist clients to sustain their housing and work towards recovery and reintegration into the community.

Difference between HF and Treatment First

Based on slide from S.Tsemberis

Housing First

No requirement for readiness to move directly to permanent housing



Treatment First

Client must demonstrate readiness for each step



An Aggressive Housing First Approach

- HF involves moving homeless individuals rapidly from the street or emergency shelters into stable long-term housing with supports.
- Key principles of HF include:
 - Quickly moving homeless individuals into stable permanent housing;
 - Offering clients choice in housing;
 - Separating housing provision from treatment services;
 - Requiring tenancy responsibilities, such as paying a portion of the rent;
 - Integrating housing into the community; and
 - Supporting participants to maintain housing and increase self-sufficiency.
- The target population will be individuals who are chronically or episodically homeless, i.e. those who have experienced extended periods and/or repeated bouts of homelessness in the recent past. In order to successfully implement HF, it will be important for communities to know the size and location of their chronically and episodically homeless populations.

A horizontal row of light blue silhouettes depicting various people, including a person in a wheelchair, a person with a cane, a person with a stroller, and a family, set against a light blue background.

The HPS 2014-2019

The renewed HPS emphasizes the following:

1. Housing First approach with investment targets
2. Outcome based measurement and data sharing
3. Collaboration regarding coordination of services with designated communities and provinces/territories (P/T)



The HPS Approach to Housing First

■ Target population

- Chronically or episodically homeless individuals (i.e. those who have experienced extended periods or repeated episodes of homelessness in the recent past)

■ Investment Targets

Big 10 Communities	Allocations over \$200K	Other/Rural Communities
A minimum of 65% of HPS funding must go to Housing First activities starting April 1, 2015	A minimum of 40% of HPS funding must go to Housing First activities starting April 1, 2016	About 14 communities, mainly rural areas and the North, will be encouraged to implement Housing First; however, there is no target.

A decorative header image showing silhouettes of various people, including individuals, families, and people with strollers, in shades of blue and white against a light background.

Housing First in practice

Housing First involves mainly three kinds of service supports:

1. **Housing with supports** to help the client to find housing, move in, and maintain that housing;
2. **Clinical supports** to provide health and social services to the client to help them achieve housing stability and encourage well-being; and
3. **Complementary supports** to integrate the client into the community and foster self-sufficiency; these support could include assistance finding employment, volunteer work or accessing training.

A decorative header image showing silhouettes of various people, including individuals with disabilities, families, and groups, in light blue tones against a white background.

Housing with Supports

Housing with supports involves mainly:

- Providing clients with permanent housing
- Helping clients stabilize and maintain their housing

Eligible Activities

- Facilitating access to housing
- Providing **time-limited** bridging to the provincial/territorial or municipal system (e.g. rent subsidies)
- Apartment set-up
- Repairing private market housing damages caused by HF clients; and
- Landlord-tenant services

A horizontal row of light blue silhouettes depicting various people and groups, including individuals, families, and people with disabilities, set against a light blue background.

Clinical Supports

Clinical supports involves mainly:

- Providing recovery-oriented supports to help clients maintain housing stability, improve quality of life and, to the extent possible, foster self-sufficiency
- Supporting the clients' self-determined needs assessment through a clinical case management approach:
 - Outreach services
 - Referral to mainstream health services
 - Coordination with multi-professional specialists

Case Management Models

- **Two major case management models under Housing First:**
 1. Intensive Case Management (ICM)
 2. Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)

Model	Eligible Activities
ICM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ICM model links clients to existing services in the community• All <u>ICM-related activities</u> are eligible for HPS funding
ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACT is a recovery-oriented, comprehensive, multi-professional, model that usually includes comprehensive Clinical supports• Core elements of ACT are <u>not</u> eligible for HPS funding• HPS funding can be invested, however, in funding a coordinator and/or peer support worker <p><i>Of note, clinical/medical staff are provincial jurisdiction ad therefore are ineligible under the HPS</i></p>



Complementary Supports

Complementary Supports help to foster client's longer-term goals of community integration and autonomy

Eligible Activities

- Facilitate access to income supports
- Pre-employment support and bridging to the labour market
- Life skills development (e.g. budgeting, cooking)
- Supports to improve clients' social integration

Note: Service Providers should avoid creating new services where current supports already exist

Other eligible Housing First Activities

Activity	What does it involve?
Housing First readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying, integrating and improving services (e.g. staff training)• Determining and testing the model (ACT, ICM or other)• Identifying barriers and opportunities for permanent housing
Client intake and assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopting coordinated intake management and client identification
Data tracking and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying the size and make-up of the chronically and episodically homeless population,• Tracking client

A horizontal row of light blue silhouettes depicting a diverse group of people, including individuals with disabilities, families, and professionals, set against a light blue background.

Working together

Collaborative service delivery is needed to ensure that:

- Persons who are chronically and episodically homeless receive necessary supports at the right time and by the appropriate service provider
- Duplication of services are avoided within the community
- Sustainable programs are created



Eligible Activities (outside of HF)

- **Support services:** housing placement, life skills training, supports delivered through case management, or referrals to appropriate resources
- **Coordination of resources and leveraging:** consultation, coordination, planning and assessment, partnership and network development in support of HF implementation, service integration
- **Data collection:** point-in-time counts, community progress indicators, local research
- **Community Entity Administration:** administration, printing, etc. (lesser or equal to 15% of community allocation)
- **Capital investments:** activities that aim to preserve or improve the capacity of existing facilities, including new construction, purchase and renovation



More details on capital investments

- **Under Housing First**

- Furniture to set up an apartment
- Repairs to private market housing as a result of client damage

- **Outside Housing First**

- Purchase, construction or renovation of transitional or supportive housing, or non-residential facilities
- Purchase or construction of new emergency shelter facilities (only under the HPS Rural and Remote Homelessness funding stream and non-designated communities receiving funding under the Aboriginal Homelessness funding stream)



Ineligible activities under renewed HPS

- Advocacy
- Purchase of vehicles
- Direct income support
- Daycare
- Software development/purchase that prohibits participation in NHIS or duplicates HIFIS
- Activities on-reserve
- Repairs, renovation or creation of affordable or social housing units
- Purchase or construction of new emergency shelter facilities (excluding those funded under the HPS Rural and Remote Homelessness funding stream and non-designated communities receiving funding under the Aboriginal Homelessness funding stream)

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Next Steps

Fall 2013

- **Community Planning:** The community planning process, aligned with the new policy directions, will begin. Communities will be expected to begin the necessary foundation work to support their HF investments.
- **CE Recommendations:** Community Advisory Boards recommend CE agreements in late October; Ministerial approval sought for December 2013-January 2014.

April 2014

- **Implementation Begins:** Communities will be expected to lay the groundwork for HF early and be prepared to implement the renewed program as of April 1, 2014. Nevertheless, to avoid gaps in services that could arise during the time it takes to carry out community calls for proposals, there will be a period of transition in which Community Entities will be able to renew selected service projects for up to one year upon recommendation from the CAB. These are projects that need to be continued while the community transitions to HF.