ESG & ESG-CV Office Hours
2/23/2022

How to ask a question…

- Question Format:
  - All questions must be submitted in the chat box
  - Please type your organization and question into the chat box
  - The team will read questions out loud at the end of the presentation and will provide answers if possible throughout the presentation
  - All questions and answers entered into the chat box will be recorded as part of the public record

Agenda

- Announcements
- ESG/ESG-CV Updates
- Office Hours Update
- ESG/ESG-CV Q&A
- Brown Bag Session: Understanding & Implementing Housing First

Upcoming Trainings

- **Landlord Engagement: Community Events Workshop- 3/14, 3/18 1:00-2:30pm PST:** This workshop will discuss various community engagement efforts that increase landlord engagement and get new units into your system. The group will discuss what works well, lessons learned, and identify various audiences and events to help recruit new landlords for rapid rehousing. This workshop series would be provided in 2 sessions and topics will be tailored based on the needs of the communities participating in the workshop.
  - Registration Link: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMofuusrj4tEtWZQ9SqmWXQfmIBWCcfsxe7

- **Centralized Landlord Engagement Workshop- 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 12:00-1:30pm PST:** This workshop is designed to assist communities to establish a centralized system-level approach to landlord engagement. The target audience for these sessions are CoCs or other system leaders ready to establish a centralized landlord engagement effort in their CoC. Participants will be actively engaging with other system leaders and the facilitators to foster a peer learning environment. This workshop series will be provided in weekly sessions from March 10-24, and participants are expected to attend all three sessions.
  - Registration Link: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAoceyspj8oHdxVjOZFxmPITWDE-3Nk7s-L

Upcoming Trainings

- Cal ICH is hosting a webinar next Wednesday, March 2, titled "Housing First: An Overview of Core Components and Practices”. Folks are encouraged to share the link broadly with direct service providers.
  - Click here to register: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MRfPTPKzQuSAS2Mp9qpLRQ.

ESG Updates

2021 ESG Applications

- We just finished our Review
- Award announcements will be mid-March 2022 (posted to our ESG webpage)

2020 ESG (annual) Contracts

- **Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention:**
  - **A lease is required if you are using motels and hotels to house clients under RRH or HP.**
  - Refer to: 24-CFR 576.103 - 576.106 (ESG Federal Regulations)

ESG Updates

2020 Contracts - continued

- **Expenditure Deadline: July 7, 2022**
  - Be sure you are expending your ESG annual funds

ESG Updates

ESG Team Members:

- **Diana Prado**
- **Giovanni Martinez**
- **Sarah Theobald**
- **Tuesday Cool**
- **Sam Lieu**
- **Anthony Zepeda**

We have realigned our grant management territories. You may have a new ESG Grant Rep.

Please reach out to your Rep or contact us at: ESGNOFA@hcd.ca.gov

ESG-CV Reminders & Updates

- Continue to work towards submitting your February RFF and Budget Amendments for cleaning up Indirect Costs

HCD Office Hours Updates

Upcoming Office Hours topics:

- 3/2/2022: Trauma Informed Practices
- 3/9/2022: CES: Assessing the assessment
- 3/16/2022: Coordinated Entry System FAQ
- 3/23/2022: Racial Equity and Data (HMIS and HDIS)

COVID Response Resources

Standing Up Infection Control Measures:

- Alternative Approaches to Sheltering
- Shelter Preparedness Checklist
- Creative Staffing Solutions (See Appendix 1)
- COVID Informational Flyers
- Vaccine Messaging Toolkit
- Eligible ESG Program Costs for Infectious Disease Preparedness

CDC and NHCHC Guidance:

- Strategies for Proactive Universal Testing
- Guidance for Service Providers to Respond to COVID

ESG Resource Links

ESG Regulations - (update published April 2017)

ESG-CV Notice

General ESG Information

- HUD ESG Landing Page
- ESG Program Overview
- ESG Program HMIS Manual
- ESG Minimum Habitability Standards ES and Permanent Housing

ESG Standards and Inspections

Habitability Example Checklist

TA Resources:

- Disease Risks and Homelessness - landing page for resources on a wide range of topics
- ESG-CV Notice Summary
- Flexibilities/Waivers Granted by the CARES Act + Mega Waiver and Guidance - applicable Waivers on pages 11-14
- Strategies to Design and Implement a Successful ESG-CV Program
- IDIS Fact Sheet for ESG and ESG-CV Funds Setup
- ESG-CV Quarterly Reporting Calendar
- National Alliance RRH Toolkit

Questions?

Contact Us...

- If you have any further questions, please contact us:
  - Annual ESG – Please reach out to your ESG Representative or ESG@hcd.ca.gov
  - ESG-CV – Please reach out to your Grant Administrator

Understanding and Implementing Housing First

- Mindy Mitchell
- Jean Field

Housing First

HUD Definition

Housing First *is an approach where homeless persons are provided* ***immediate access*** *to housing and then* ***offered the supportive services*** *that may be needed to foster long-term stability and prevent a return to homelessness. This approach removes unnecessary barriers and assumes that supportive services are more effective in addressing needs when the individual or family is housed – when the daily stress of being homeless is taken out of the equation.*

Ann Marie Oliva
Director, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs
August 21, 2016

A Systemwide Housing First Approach

All programs lower barriers – shelter, services, and housing

Most vulnerable – **including those with complex service needs, disabilities, mental health and active substance use issues** – prioritized for and admitted to shelter and housing programs

Housing-focused services and engagement begin immediately – on the street and in shelters

Increase supportive services to help gain and maintain housing

Services are **client-focused and voluntary**

Programs engage in evidence-based practices: harm-reduction, trauma-informed care, motivational interviewing, and other evidence-based approaches

Client choice and voice are engaged and respected

Housing First

Four Overarching Principles:

- Homelessness is a housing problem and should be treated as such
- Persons should be stabilized in permanent housing as soon as possible – and then connected to resources to sustain that housing
- Underlying issues that may have contributed to a person's homelessness are best addressed after that person is in a stable housing environment
- All persons experiencing homelessness are "housing ready"

Housing First Myths and Reality

HOUSING FIRST IS NOT	HOUSING FIRST IS
Just one type of program (not just PSH)	A system-wide philosophical approach to many types of homeless assistance interventions
One-size fits all	A philosophy that values flexibility, individualized supports, client choice, and autonomy
Housing only	Supportive services that people choose for themselves are a critical part of a Housing First approach
Setting people up for failure	The provision of a foundation of stability and health through permanent housing
A way to prioritize one population over another	A way to provide a housing intervention for everyone regardless of the severity of their needs

Housing First

Housing First is mandated or encouraged across the CA system of care:

- Housing First Prioritization

COC WRITTEN STANDARDS

Housing, shelter, prevention, outreach, other CoC programs or those with reference in grant agreement

STATE-FUNDED HOUSING PROGRAMS

Permanent supportive housing, Rapid Re-Housing, No Place Like Home, CESH, HEAP, HHAP, ESG and ESG-CV, CalWORKS HSP, CDSS programs, new state funding (CA Welfare and Institutions Code Section 8255)

CA ESG ESG-CV

Shelters, outreach, prevention, Rapid Re-Housing (25 CCR 8409)

Core Components of Housing First

Under California state law, the "core components" of Housing First include:

1. Tenant screening and selection practices that promote **accepting applicants** regardless of their **sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, or participation in services**

2. Applicants are **not rejected** based on **poor credit or financial history, poor or lack of rental history, criminal convictions** unrelated to tenancy, or behaviors that indicate a **lack of "housing readiness"**

3. **Acceptance of referrals** directly from shelters, street outreach, drop-in centers, and other parts of **crisis response systems frequented by vulnerable people** experiencing homelessness

Citation: Section 8255(b) of the California Welfare & Institutions Code (emphasis added)

Core Components of Housing First

Under California state law, the "core components" of Housing First include:

4. Supportive services that **emphasize engagement and problem solving** over therapeutic goals and service plans that are **highly tenant-driven** without predetermined goals

5. **Participation in services** is **not a condition** of permanent housing tenancy

6. Tenants have a **lease** and **all the rights and responsibilities** of tenancy, as outlined in California's Civil, Health and Safety, and Government codes

7. The **use of alcohol or drugs** in and of itself, without other lease violations, is **not a reason for eviction**

Citation: Section 8255(b) of the California Welfare & Institutions Code (emphasis added)

Core Components of Housing First

Under California state law, the "core components" of Housing First include:

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In communities with **coordinated assessment and entry systems**, incentives for funding promote tenant selection plans for supportive housing that **prioritize eligible tenants based on criteria other than "first-come-first-serve,"** including, but not limited to, the **duration or chronicity of homelessness**, **vulnerability to early mortality**, or **high utilization of crisis services** and prioritization may include triage tools, developed through local data, to identify high-cost, high-need homeless residents

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Case managers and service coordinators who are **trained in and actively employ evidence-based practices for client engagement**, including, but not limited to, motivational interviewing and client-centered counseling

Citation: Section 8255(b) of the California Welfare & Institutions Code (emphasis added)

Core Components of Housing First

Under California state law, the "core components" of Housing First include:

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Services are informed by a **harm-reduction philosophy** that recognizes drug and alcohol use and addiction as a part of tenants' lives, where tenants are engaged in nonjudgmental communication regarding drug and alcohol use, and where tenants are offered education regarding how to avoid risky behaviors and engage in safer practices, as well as connected to evidence-based treatment if the tenant so chooses

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The project and specific apartment may include **special physical features** that accommodate disabilities, reduce harm, and promote health and community and independence among tenants

Citation: Section 8255(b) of the California Welfare & Institutions Code (emphasis added)

CA ESG Regulations

1. Ensuring low-barrier, easily accessible assistance to all people, including, but not limited to, people with no income or income history, and people with active substance abuse or mental health issues
2. Helping participants quickly identify and resolve barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing
3. Seeking to quickly resolve the housing crisis before focusing on other non-housing related services
4. Allowing participants to choose the services and housing that meets their needs, within practical and funding limitations
5. Connecting participants to appropriate support and services available in the community that foster long-term housing stability
6. [When] offering financial assistance and supportive services,… the type, duration, and amount of assistance offered shall be based on an individual assessment of the household, and the availability of other resources … to resolve their housing crisis and stabilize them in housing

COMMON CHALLENGES

- **Myths about requirements**: Housing First does not equal no rules - but rules must be based on behavior, not status (ie, behavior like threats to staff vs. positive drug test)
- **Community misperceptions**: Housing First means introducing crime into their neighborhood
- **Not one-size-fits-all:** Housing First looks different in different places - congregate shelter vs. permanent housing, for example; property managers might have a different lens than street outreach workers
- **Need for supportive services:** Many communities struggle to provide the supportive services to enable success in gaining housing (ie alignment with behavioral health services, robust housing navigation, credit/criminal background cleanups, ongoing support)
- **Landlord reluctance:** Landlord dependence on requiring criminal background and credit checks and imposing lease restrictions targeted to people on subsidies
- **Fear of failure:** Past experience leaves case managers/housing providers worried that housing most vulnerable won't be successful

Discussion: Finding Success

- What has worked in your community?
- What questions do you have for others?
- Other challenges not discussed so far?

Brown Bag Discussion

Understanding and Implementing Housing First

- Mindy Mitchell
- Jean Field