



## **Additional Definitions**

**Housing First Theory** is a whole-system orientation, and not a "program," that offers permanent, affordable housing as quickly as possible for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and then provides the supportive services and connections to the community-based supports people need to keep their housing and avoid returning to homelessness. The approach begins with an immediate focus on helping individuals and families get housing. Income, sobriety and/or participation in treatment or other services are not required as a condition for getting housing. All services are voluntary and are not a condition for retaining housing. Housing provides people with a foundation from which they can pursue other goals. Tenants are assisted in developing or improving skills for independent living while they live in permanent housing instead of requiring them to complete a transitional residential program first.

Source: USICH

The **Housing First Model**, is an evidence based best practice designed to end homelessness and support recovery by housing individuals as quickly as possible and then wrapping services around them as needed. This housing model has proven effective in housing a wide variety of homeless population subsets including chronically homeless households and families and the general homeless population. Within this model, housing is not contingent upon participation in services or eligibility screening and services provided are designed to promote housing stability.

Source: USICH

### **Systems of Care:**

Public residential facilities or programs that may exit people into homelessness.

The following prior residence categories are considered systems of care:

- Foster care home or foster care group home
- Hospital or other residential medical facility
- Jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility
- Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility
- Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center

Source: WA Department of Commerce CHG Guidelines

**Outputs** are the direct and measurable products of a program's activities or services, often expressed in terms of units (hours, number of people or completed actions). Outputs refer to the activities you will conduct and the people you hope to reach. Note: More than one OUTPUT is necessary to produce a final OUTCOME

Examples from Housing Program

- Number of case management hours
- Number of clients served
- Number of referrals provided
- Number of households housed
- Number of people who access mental health services

Source: National Community Action Partnership

**Outcomes** are the results or impact of these activities or services, often expressed in terms of an increase in understanding, and improvements in desired behaviors or attitudes of participants.

Note: A single OUTCOME is often the result of multiple OUTPUTS.

Outcome Examples from Housing Programs

- Number of households with an increased income
- Percent of households stably housed three months after exit.
- Reduced system re-users
- Length of time homeless.

Source: National Community Action Partnership