

# HOUSING FIRST

## QUICK SCREEN

- ① Are applicants allowed to enter the program **without income**?
- ② Are applicants allowed to enter the program even if they **aren't clean and sober** or **treatment compliant**?
- ③ Are applicants allowed to enter the program even if they have **criminal justice system involvement**?
- ④ Are **service and treatment plans voluntary**, such that tenants cannot be evicted for not following through?



## HOUSING FIRST PRINCIPLES

Programs shouldn't reject clients due to **poor credit/financial history** or their **rental history** (or lack there of).

People with **disabilities** are offered clear opportunities to request reasonable accommodations within applications, screening processes, and during tenancy.

Programs that cannot serve someone work through the **coordinated entry process** to ensure that those individuals or families have access to housing and services elsewhere.

Housing and service goals and plans are highly **tenant-driven**.

Services are informed by a harm-reduction philosophy that recognizes that **drug and alcohol use** and addiction are a part of some tenants' lives. Tenants are offered education regarding how to avoid risky behaviors and engage in safer practices. Substance use in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not considered a reason for eviction.

Tenants are provided the opportunity to **transfer** from one housing situation to another if a tenancy is in jeopardy. Avoid eviction back into homelessness whenever possible.

