

## Housing First: How & Why It Works

**Tuesday, March 7th, 2023**

**Start: 2:00 PM ET**

**End: 4:45 PM ET**

**Instructors: Andrew Spiers, LSW & Ryan Villagran, LSW**

Housing First is an evidence-based program model defined by adherence to 38 distinct fidelity measures. However, most "Housing First" programs in operation today are actually using a less stringent low-barrier approach to housing. In fact, criticisms of the Housing First model are largely rooted in confusion between the two. As one might guess, programs straying from fidelity to the evidenced-based model cannot anticipate achieving comparable success rates, such as 85-90% housing retention after five years. In this session, presenters will assist attendees with examining the intricacies of how a high fidelity Housing First program actually operates. Presenters will invite attendees to assess their agency's current fidelity to the model, explore common deviations from fidelity among low-barrier housing programs, and identify ways to improve service outcomes through aligning service provision more closely with evidence-based practice. Attendees will explore the importance of participant self-determination, interdisciplinary staff, community inclusion, supported employment, and integrated care all as parts of the Housing First model. Ample time will be allotted for Q&A.

### **Learning objectives:**

When attendees return to the workplace, they will be able to:

- Differentiate between a high-fidelity Housing First model and a low-barrier approach to housing
- Explain the distinct but collaborative roles of clinical and housing department staff
- Identify the importance of community inclusion, supported employment, and integrated care in the Housing First model

**Target Audience:** Social service providers and helping professionals working with individuals experiencing homelessness, policy-makers, government workers, agency administrators, CoC leads, or anyone invested in ending homelessness in their community.

**Course Delivery Format:** Live webinar

**Interactivity:** This course will offer real-time polling, group discussion prompts, and 15 minutes of Q&A time.

**Social Work Practice Level:** This course covers intermediate level material

**Credit hours offered:** 2.5 CE credits\*

**Fees:** \$30 general registration; additional \$5 for registration with social work CE credit

*Registration includes access to the live event and recording, PDF of slides, and relevant training tip sheets/resources.*

**To register, please submit payment to: <https://bit.ly/3HXHgMx>**

Upon receipt of payment, attendees will receive a receipt via email with the link to finalize their course registration with Zoom. Information for accessing the live webinar will then be sent directly from Zoom.

**Registration deadline:** Individuals may register up until the start time of the event.

*\*Housing First University, a program of Pathways to Housing PA, can provide continuing education credits to licensed social workers in 48 of the 50 U.S. states and 10 Canadian provinces. Due to current regulations, CE credits cannot be offered to social workers in the states of New Jersey or New York. If you are not a Licensed Social Worker, please check with your board of accreditation to ensure this training meets your licensing needs.*

**Course completion requirements:** Attendees must attend the entirety of the virtual session with system video/audio enabled to participate, and respond to all poll questions and activities. Certificates will be distributed to participants via email within two weeks of the course date. Attendees must complete a course evaluation via Google Forms within 48 hours of the course's conclusion in order to receive a certificate and any continuing education credit. Course evaluation links will be distributed during the session via chat and immediately following the training via email. Individuals must attend the live webinar in order to receive a certificate of completion and any continuing education credit.

**System requirements:** Webinar participants must have access to a computer, tablet, or smart phone with high speed Internet, microphone, speakers, webcam, and a (free) Zoom video conferencing account.

**Session Facilitators:**



**Andrew Spiers, LSW (he/him)** is the Director of Training and Technical Assistance for Pathways to Housing PA's Housing First University. Andrew joined Pathways in early 2018 and served as an Assistant Team Leader and Team Leader before launching Housing First University in October 2019. Andrew holds a Master of Social Service from Bryn Mawr College's Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, where he concentrated in Community Practice, Policy, & Advocacy. He has taught Human Services and Sociology courses as an adjunct professor at Harcum College and conducted training and workshops all over the country on Housing First, harm reduction, and affirming care for LGBTQ+ communities.



**Ryan Villagran, LSW (they/them)** joined Housing First University in June 2021 as a Training Specialist. Ryan holds a Master of Social Work from Temple University with a concentration in Communities & Policy. His clinical background includes delivering psychiatric rehabilitation services in the mental health recovery model at a Community Integrated Recovery Center. Ryan also developed and coordinated a training program in a university setting for social workers serving transitional-aged youth and later taught a Human Behavior in the Social Environment course for graduate social work students. Ryan is involved in organizing efforts around ending mass incarceration and believes in the power of our collective imagination to dream of a better future centered around the most vulnerable members of our community.

Schedule	
1:45-2:00 PM	Virtual training room opens
2:00-2:10 PM	Welcome & introductions
2:10-2:35 PM	Housing First vs low-barrier approach; 5 key principles & fidelity measures
2:35-2:55 PM	Housing Choice and Structure
2:55-3:15 PM	Separation of Housing and Services
3:15-3:25 PM	Break
3:25-3:45 PM	Service Philosophy
3:45-4:05 PM	Service Array
3:50-4:05 PM	Program Structure
4:20-4:30 PM	"The Pathway"
4:30-4:45 PM	Q&A

**For questions or concerns, contact:**  
 Andrew Spiers, LSW  
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 Housing First University  
 aspiers@pthpa.org  
 (215) 390-1500, ext. 1708

**To request an accessibility accommodation, please email:**  
 training@pthpa.org



**ACE approval statement:** Housing First University: a program of Pathways to Housing PA, provider #1759, is approved as an ACE provider to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. ACE provider approval period: 01/12/2022 – 01/12/2025. Social workers completing this course receive 2.5 general continuing education credits.

**Accreditation information:** <https://bit.ly/3RqW360>

**Grievance policy:** <https://bit.ly/3ewu4U5>

**Security policy:** <https://bit.ly/3x4qiro>

**Cancellation & refund policy:** <https://bit.ly/3Ui7QFM>



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