

The Housing First Philosophy Thursday, November 9th, 2023

Start: 12:00 PM ET **End:** 2:15 PM ET

Instructors: Andrew Spiers, LSW & Ryan Villagran, LSW

The Housing First model has been in use in the United States since the late 1980s, yet many still regard it as a radical and high-risk intervention. Common misconceptions of Housing First as an “anything goes” approach have prevented more widespread adoption of this proven successful innovation in addressing homelessness for those with psychiatric disabilities and substance use disorders. In this session, attendees will learn about the philosophy and guiding principles of the Housing First model and compare success rates of Housing First against those in traditional linear-residential treatment models. Attendees will explore the both benefits and challenges of working from a Housing First approach, and discuss the vital role of harm reduction in working with Housing First program participants.

Learning objectives:

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

- Identify the five key principles of the Housing First model
- Explain the benefits of Housing First vs. traditional recovery-based housing models
- Recognize barriers to housing stability for individuals with disabilities

Target Audience: Social service providers and helping professionals working in homeless services, governmental bodies, community groups, agency administrators, policy-makers, and 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 is appropriate for beginner, intermediate, and advanced BSW/ MSW learners.

Social Work Credit Hours Offered: 2 general CE credits*

Fees: \$25 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://go.housingfirstuniversity.org/HFP119>

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 and 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's conclusion. Attendees must complete a course evaluation within 48 hours via Google Forms to receive a certificate. Course evaluation links will be distributed during the session and via email immediately following the training. Individuals must attend the live webinar in order to receive a certificate of completion.

System requirements: Webinar participants must have access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone 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 trainings 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. Their 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	
11:45-12:00 PM	Virtual training room opens
12:00-12:10 PM	Welcome, introductions, & check-in activity
12:10-12:40 PM	The history of Housing First, 5 key principles
12:40-12:55 PM	Benefits and challenges
12:55-1:05 PM	Break
1:05-1:25 PM	Comparison to traditional housing models
1:25-1:55 PM	Overlap with harm reduction and other evidence-based practices
1:55-2:15 PM	Review, closing remarks, Q&A

For questions or concerns, please contact: Andrew Spiers, LSW
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(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 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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