

housing for the homeless | facts

There are various types of housing models in existence designed to assist homeless individuals and families get off the streets or out of places not meant for habitation. Below are some terms and descriptions of various housing models

Housing First, Housing Plus

The *Housing First* approach to ending homelessness centers on providing homeless people with housing as quickly as possible—and then providing services as needed. This approach has the benefit of being consistent with what most people experiencing homelessness want and seek help to achieve. The concept is based on the notion that housing is a right and not a privilege, and should not be maintained by adhering to rules or subject to time limits. *Housing Plus*, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition (www.nlihc.org) refers to permanent affordable housing that incorporates various levels of services provided by trained staff responsible for services—not property management.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH at www.naeh.org), Housing First programs share the following critical elements:



- A focus on helping individuals and families access and sustain permanent rental housing as quickly as possible without time limits
- A variety of services delivered to promote housing stability and individual well-being on an as-needed basis
- A standard lease agreement—as opposed to mandated therapy or services compliance.

Shelters

Multi-individual or multi-family short-term housing options, shelters are designed to get people off the streets or out of other areas not fit for human habitation. They are emergency housing. Generally shelters have a limit on the amount of time an individual or family can stay, often thirty days or less. People living in shelters are counted as homeless.

Safe Havens

According to Housing and Urban Development (HUD at www.hud.gov), a Safe Haven is a form of supportive transitional or permanent housing that serves hard-to-reach people with severe mental illness, often on the streets, who have been unwilling or unable to participate in supportive services.

Transitional Housing

Just like it sounds, transitional housing is a model designed to “transition” a person or family from one housing model to another... usually from a shelter to more permanent housing. Transitional housing, defined by HUD, may only last up to two years.

An interesting development in transitional housing is “**Transition in Place.**” Here, a resident moves into permanent housing and receives support services, which transition out of the residence over time, rather than the resident. This leaves the resident in place and not forced to find other housing in 24 months or less.

Permanent supportive housing

Permanent supportive housing is housing coupled with supportive services. Research and experience have shown that stable housing is often an essential

component to being successful at rehabilitation, therapy, and other areas.

What's more, this intervention is cost-effective. Most people who experience chronic homelessness draw services from many federal, state, and local systems, including hospitals, corrections systems, and the like. Permanent supportive housing curbs use of these systems and reduces public costs.

This type of housing is far and away the most effective for dealing with that segment of the homeless population suffering from the most serious barriers to success

Halfway House

Sometimes called a Sober House or a Recovery House, these housing situations are usually aimed at substance abusers. A halfway house has an active substance abuse treatment program, where the residents receive intensive individual and group counseling for their substance abuse issues while they establish a sober support network, secure new employment, and find new housing. Residents stay for one to six months, and are only asked to remain sober and comply with a minimal recovery program. Residents pay for their own stay.

Group Home

A residence model designed or converted to serve usually between 3 and 16 people who share a common issue or barrier to success, usually individuals with difficulties living alone or without proper supervision. People who live in such a group homes may be developmentally disabled, recovering from substance abuse problems, abused or neglected youths, youths with behavioral or emotional problems, and/or youths with criminal issues. A group home differs from a halfway house in that it is not restricted to recovering addicts or ex-offenders, and also in that residents usually are encouraged or required to take an active role in the maintenance of the household, such as by performing chores or helping to manage a budget.

SRO (Single Room Occupancy)

A multi-tenant housing model where one or two people share a single room as a permanent residence, sometimes with kitchen and bath, sometimes sharing a kitchen and bath with the rest of the building. Often these are converted hotels or dormitories.



The best intervention is prevention

Housing is important, but not having to provide it in the first place is even better.

Study results from around the country suggest that keeping a family from becoming homeless can save tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars per year per family in service and shelter related costs.

Contact CHIP at (317) 630-0853 to find out more about how you can help end homelessness in Indianapolis.