

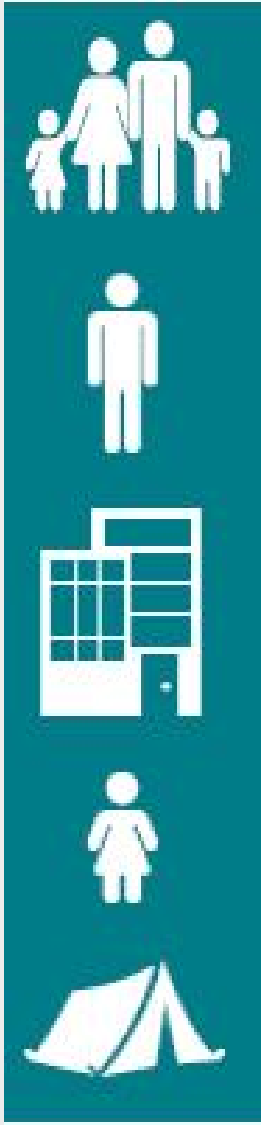
EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESSNESS IN FLORIDA



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THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION





HOMELESSNESS IN FLORIDA: DEFINITIONS & DATA

POINT IN TIME COUNTS: A SINGLE DAY

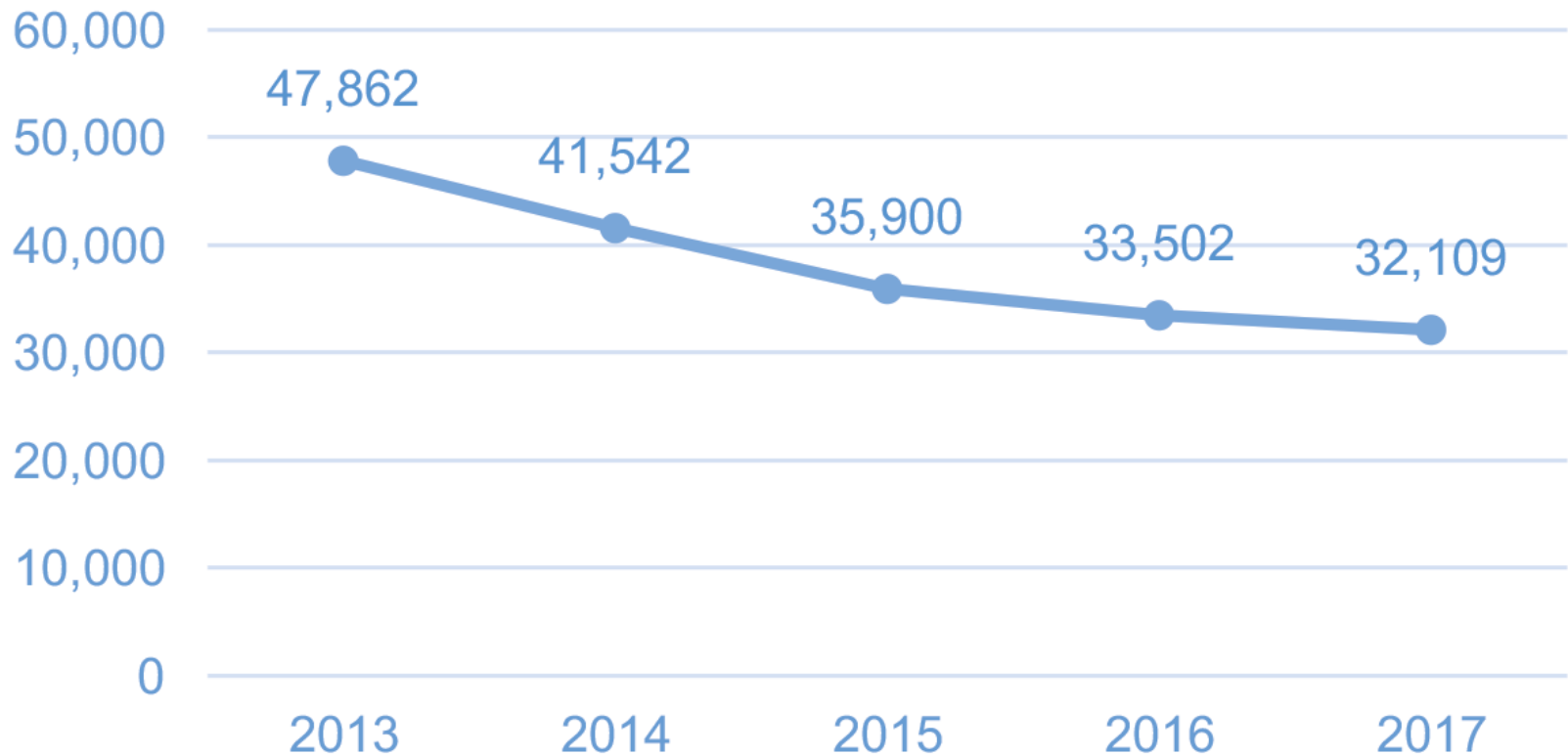
Includes people:

- In shelters
- In transitional programs
- In encampments
- On streets, in cars, in parks, etc.

Does not include people:

- Who are “doubled up” or “couch surfing”
- In institutional settings, in most cases
- In substandard housing

TOTAL HOMELESSNESS IN FLORIDA: POINT IN TIME (PIT) COUNTS





PAUSE FOR APPLAUSE

SPECIAL CATEGORIES: CHRONIC AND VETERAN

PIT: Chronic* Homelessness



PIT: Veteran Homelessness



*Chronic = Long-term homelessness + Disability

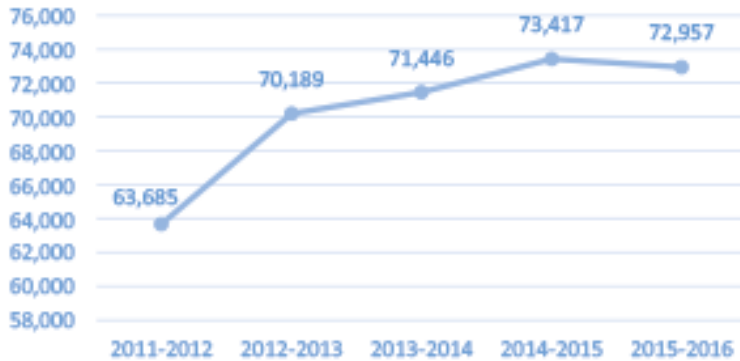
Note: Chronic are 16% of PIT; Veterans 9%

Point in Time: Family and Child Homelessness



FAMILY AND CHILD HOMELESSNESS: A TALE OF TWO COUNTS

Department of Education: Homeless Students



Point in Time: Family and Child Homelessness

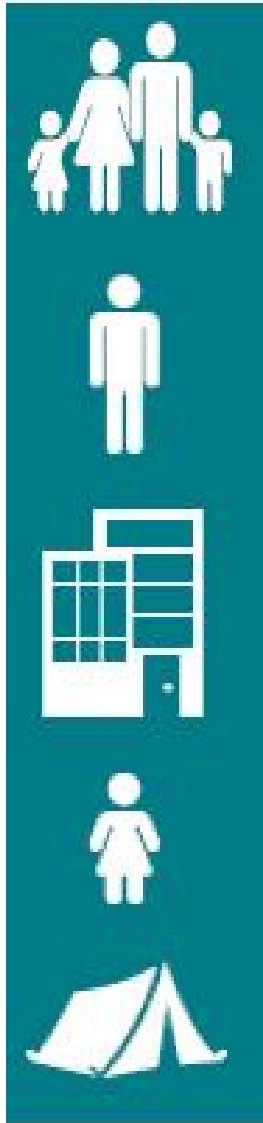


FAMILY AND CHILD HOMELESSNESS: A TALE OF TWO COUNTS

WAIT . . . WHAT?

The DOE numbers include families with children who are not “literally” homeless. They are:

- doubled-up or couch-surfing with family or friends for reasons other than that’s their first choice (e.g., financial)
- paying to live in motels
- living in other situations in “unstable” housing



WHY IS HOMELESSNESS DECREASING?

1

The
economy
improved

2

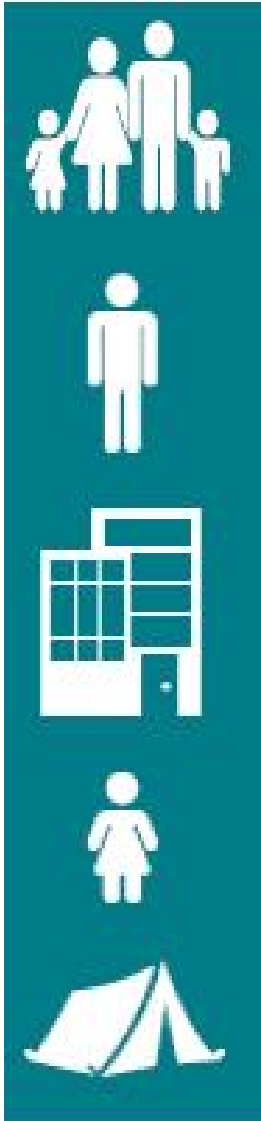
Florida
legislature
increased
appropriations
for affordable
housing & ending
homelessness

3

Florida is
embracing “best
practices” and
housing-focused
systems

OBSERVATIONS

- Homelessness in Florida is not unique – it looks the same as homelessness nationally
- Best practices and solutions to homelessness in Florida are not different from solutions nationally
- There is no evidence that having a good homeless system draws homeless people to a community
- Homelessness is primarily driven by the mismatch between household income and housing costs



LET'S TALK ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

THE PROBLEM OF HOMELESSNESS (MISCONCEPTIONS)

POOR DEPRESSION MENTAL
STREET ABUSE
BAD
DRUGS
ILL SICK
JUNKIE
CYCLE ADDICTS
CHOICES
HOMELESS
ADDICTION

MYTH BUSTING

Myths: People are homeless because they

- have substance abuse problems
- have mental health disorders
- don't work
- burned all their bridges
- are not responsible
- are felons, sex offenders, etc.
- like freedom and reject societal norms

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Truth: Some people who are homeless have some of those characteristics.

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Also Truth: Some people who are housed have some of those characteristics.

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Truth: Some people who are homeless have some of those characteristics.

Also Truth: Some people who are housed have some of those characteristics.

Also Truth: Some people who are homeless – and some people who are housed – don't have those characteristics.

MYTH BUSTING

Myth: People are homeless **BECAUSE??** they

- have substance abuse problems
- have mental health disorders
- don't work
- burned all their bridges
- are not responsible
- are felons, sex offenders, etc.
- like freedom and reject societal norms

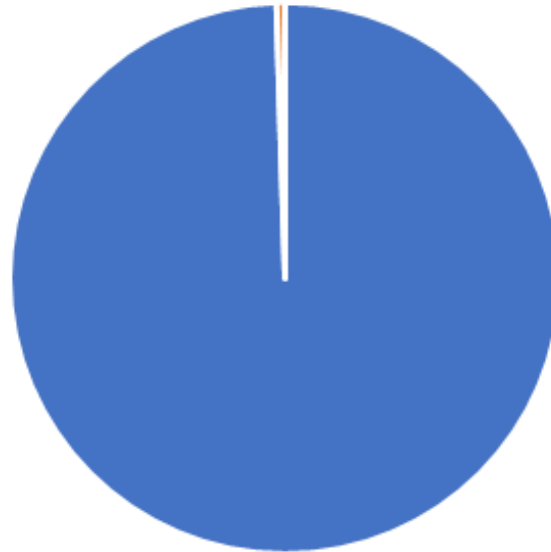
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EXAMPLE DATA POINT

People with Serious Mental Illness in Florida



- People in Florida with serious mental illness
- People in Florida identified as homeless with serious mental illness in January 2017

THE PROBLEM OF HOMELESSNESS (MISCONCEPTIONS)

POOR DEPRESSION MENTAL
STREET ABUSE
BAD
DRUGS
ILL SICK
JUNKIE
CYCLE ADDICTS
CHOICES
HOMELESS
ADDICTION

**THE PROBLEM
OF
HOMELESSNESS
(TRUTH)**

**A person who
lacks housing**

**THE SOLUTION
TO
HOMELESSNESS
(TRUTH)**

**Help people move
into housing.***

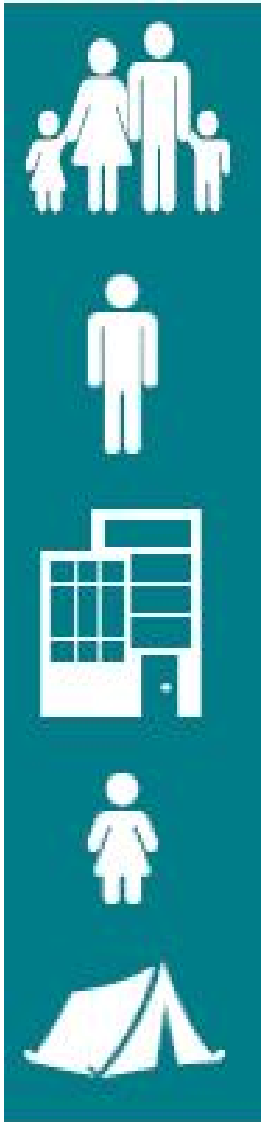
**Help them remain
stably housed.**

*Housing IS permanent stable place to live

*Housing is NOT shelter, transitional program, etc.

SIMPLE . . .
BUT NOT





THE CONNECTION: HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

THE PROBLEM
OF
HOMELESSNESS



THE PROBLEM OF
LACK OF ACCESS
TO AFFORDABLE
APPROPRIATE
HOUSING

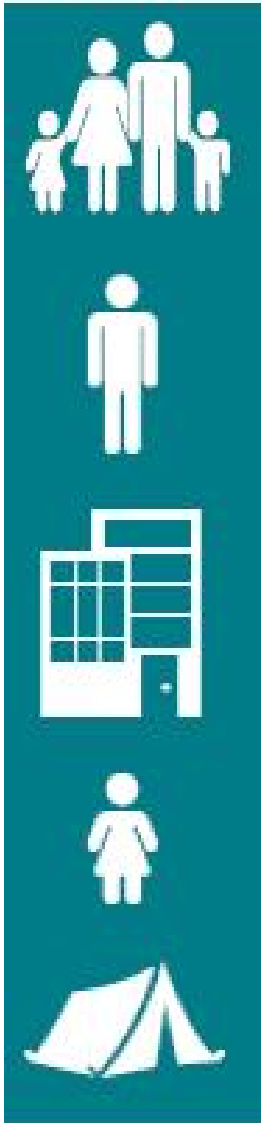
**Almost 1 million
Florida households
are severely “housing
cost-burdened,”
paying more than
50% of their income
for housing**

[2017 Home Matters Report,](#)
[Florida Housing Coalition](#)



THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION





SIMPLE BUT NOT EASY: HOMELESSNESS AND BEST PRACTICES

GOAL –

HOMELESSNESS SHOULD BE:

Rare

Brief

Non-recurring

CONTINUUM OF CARE

1. Planning to prevent and end homelessness
2. Fund housing programs and services working to prevent and end homelessness
3. Coordinate local collaborative efforts

COMPONENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE HOUSING CRISIS Response System





THE SYSTEM: FOUNDATION

Strong community leadership and collaboration

Professional CoC lead agency with sufficient capacity to lead system

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) with reliable data

Agreed upon performance metrics

Housing focused approach for entire system

COMPONENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE HOUSING CRISIS Response System



Outreach &
Coordinated
Entry



Prevention
& Diversion



EFFECTIVELY
ENDING
Homelessness



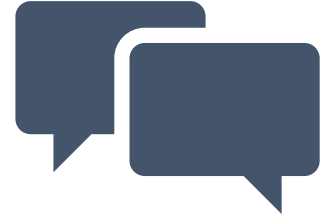
Permanent
Supportive
Housing



Emergency
Shelter



Rapid
ReHousing



THE SYSTEM:

OUTREACH AND COORDINATED ENTRY

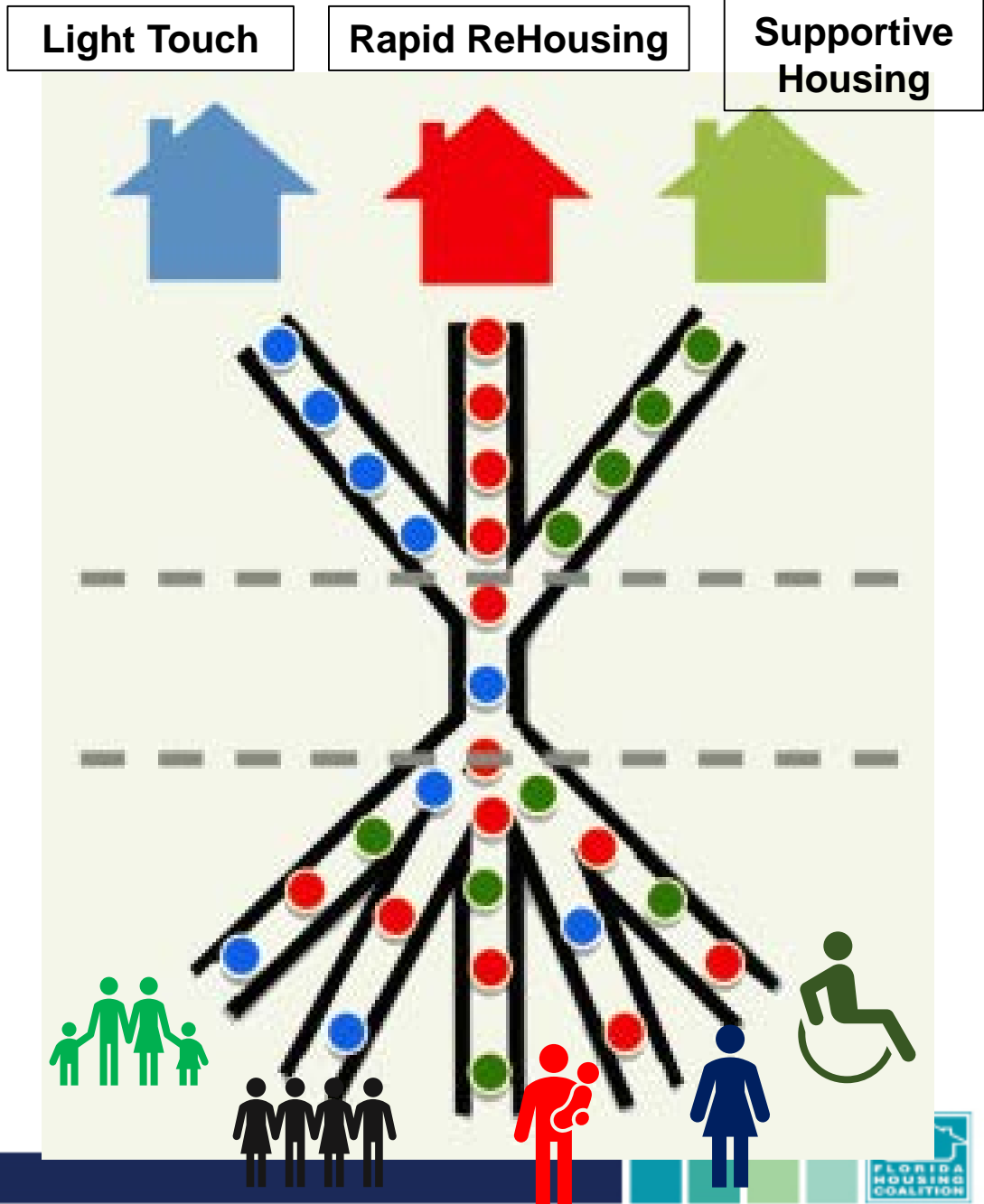
Outreach – Meeting people where they are and engaging them in the system

Coordinated Entry - A consistent, streamlined process for accessing the resources available in the system

COORDINATED ENTRY

a consistent, streamlined process for accessing the resources available in the homeless system

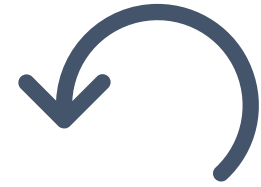
Image: LA CES



COMPONENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE HOUSING CRISIS Response System



THE SYSTEM: PREVENTION AND DIVERSION



Prevention – assistance to prevent someone from becoming homeless. The assistance is targeted to keep people in their current housing situation.

Diversion - a strategy that prevents homelessness for people at the point when they are seeking shelter by identifying immediate alternate housing arrangements.

COMPONENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE HOUSING CRISIS Response System



Outreach &
Coordinated
Entry



Prevention
& Diversion



EFFECTIVELY
ENDING
Homelessness



Permanent
Supportive
Housing



Emergency
Shelter



Rapid
ReHousing

THE SYSTEM: EMERGENCY SHELTER



Temporary shelter.

Effective emergency shelters:

- do not have barriers to entry (e.g., sobriety requirement)
- are not focused on providing extensive services prior to housing
- are focused on connecting people with permanent housing options

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HOUSING CRISIS
Response System



THE SYSTEM: RAPID RE-HOUSING (RRH)

A housing intervention designed to move a household into a rental unit as quickly as possible with short-term or moderate-term assistance.

Rapid Re-Housing typically provides

- (1) help identifying appropriate housing,
- (2) Housing deposits and rental assistance for 1-24 months, and
- (3) support services for as long as needed and desired, up to a certain limit.



COMPONENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE HOUSING CRISIS Response System

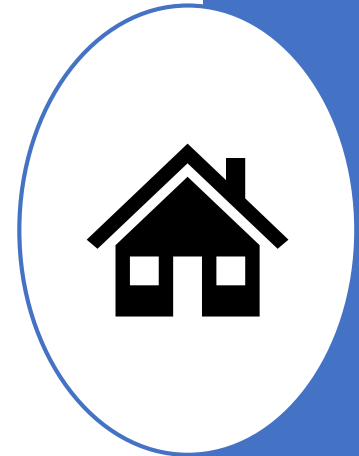


THE SYSTEM: PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH)

A housing intervention designed for people with disabling conditions who need long-term assistance to remain stably housed.

PSH typically provides

- (1) help identifying appropriate housing,
- (2) long-term rent assistance, and
- (3) support services for as long as needed and desired, with no limit.



THE SYSTEM: PSH (CON'T)



PSH:

- provides the tenant with legal tenancy housing rights
- tenancy is not contingent upon factors other than standard lease requirements
- should prioritize people who are chronically homeless with the longest terms of homelessness and the highest level of vulnerability/acuity in terms of health and services needs.

COMPONENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE HOUSING CRISIS Response System



The “Systems Approach” is critical

Overemphasizing and overfunding only selected pieces of the system yields worse results

Focus on “flow” - there must be entry doors AND exit doors

HOUSING FIRST SYSTEM WORK BEST

Housing	Provides safety
Housing	Provides a platform for recovery and wellness
Housing	Provides connection with community
Housing	Saves the community in emergency services

Housing First IS

- Helping people get into an apartment with a lease as quickly as possible
- Tenant required to pay rent as they are able
- Includes housing stability services the person needs once housed
- Proven to work based on decades of experience
- A full system orientation for all activities

Housing First is NOT

- Shelter, transitional program, motel rooms, tent city
- Dependent on program compliance
- Housing only
- A “free house”
- Flavor of the day
- Just for chronically homeless
- A single program

COMPONENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE
HOUSING CRISIS
Response System



The Florida Housing Coalition, Inc., is a nonprofit, statewide membership organization whose mission is to **bring together housing advocates and resources so that all Floridians have a quality affordable home and suitable living environment.**



WE'RE PROUD TO OFFER PROFESSIONAL
CONSULTING SERVICES

In the areas of affordable housing, fair housing, ending homelessness, & related issues

