SB 1380 Requirements

“By July 1, 2019, agencies and departments administering state programs . . . shall collaborate with the coordinating council to revise or adopt guidelines and regulations that incorporate the core components of Housing First, if the existing guidelines and regulations do not already incorporate the core components of Housing First.”

Requirements apply to any program providing housing or housing-based services to people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, whether the program was designed to address homelessness or not.
Key Areas:

- Tenant Screening
- Housing-Based Services Individualized to Meet Tenant’s Needs
- Services Are Voluntary
- Housing Permanency
Tenant Screening

Tenant selection practices accept applicants regardless of—

- Sobriety/use of alcohol/drugs
- Completion of/participation in treatment or services
- Poor credit/evictions
- Behaviors indicating “lack of readiness”
- Criminal justice involvement
- Housing providers must accept referrals from—

- Coordinated entry systems
- County social services systems
- Shelters or street outreach
- Homeless services providers
Services Tailored to Needs of Tenants

Services Individualized to Meet the Specific Needs of the Beneficiary/Tenant, Rather than to Require the Tenant to Meet Programmatic Compliance

Emphasis on tenant-driven services plans, not predetermined goals.

Providers are required to offer services emphasizing problem-solving, rather than services designed to meet set therapeutic goals.

Providers educate beneficiaries/tenants on avoiding risky behaviors, and connect tenants to evidence-based treatment.

Services providers use evidence-based practices, offer whatever the tenant needs to obtain & sustain housing stability, such as—

- Engagement practices
- Harm reduction
- Trauma-informed
- Services Promoting Housing Stability
Providers Must Offer Services, Tenants/Beneficiaries Participate Voluntarily

Services Cannot Condition Tenancy/Residency on Participation in Services or Program Compliance

Housing providers accept most vulnerable, eligible beneficiaries/tenants, regardless of willingness to participate in services.
Housing Permanency

Tenants Have Lease Protections and Rights & Responsibilities of Tenancy

- Not time-limited
  (except some housing for homeless youth)

- Use of alcohol or drugs without lease violations is not basis for eviction

- Time-limited homeless youth programs: documents efforts to avoid evictions, help tenants access permanent housing
# Housing First Checklist

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<th>State Programs</th>
<th>Providers Must Accept Tenants Regardless of Sobriety/Completion of Treatment</th>
<th>Providers Do Not Reject Applicants for Poor Credit/Financial History, Criminal Background</th>
<th>Providers May Not Impose a “Housing Readiness” Requirement on Applicants for Housing</th>
<th>Providers Receive Referrals to Housing from Homeless Response System</th>
<th>Program Offers Funding Incentives to Providers to Accept Referrals from Coordinated Entry/Assessment Systems</th>
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<td><strong>ABC Program</strong></td>
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<td><strong>DEF Program</strong></td>
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<td><strong>JKL Program</strong></td>
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**Recommendations:** The following language could be added to the program regulations and/or guidelines in order to meet bill requirements to reduce tenant screening barriers that are indicated above:

- The ABC Program does not include any references to Housing First approaches and it is recommended that the Program regulations incorporate Housing First language in the ABC Program NOFA.
- The ABC program should ensure that Tenant Screening Housing First language and principles are included in the Standard Agreement (contract) with grantees for XYZ-related grants.

- As outlined in the NOFA, State DEF funds are increasingly targeted to programs and crisis response services that provide low barrier access, and **emphasize Housing First approaches**.
- The definitions are outlined in the State Regulations, Section §1204 – Core Principles. It is recommended that this Section be updated to include the Housing First definitions for core components outlined in SB1380.
- The DEF Program currently provides points in its application rating process to programs that engage in Housing First practices, using the scoring criteria (100 points). It is recommended that this scoring criteria include more detailed definitions of Housing First, including the specific details outlined in SB1380.
- It is recommended that the DEF assessment of an applicant’s capacity is amended to include an assessment of ability to implement a Housing First approach in DEF-funded activities, at Section 1354(a)(1).

- The JKL Program does not include any references to Housing First approaches and it is recommended that the JKL Program incorporate Housing First language in JKL NOFAs and loan or grant agreements.
Options

- Housing First Learning Collaborative
- Peer to Peer groups
- CSH training to support State Agencies/Departments and Staff:
  - In person
  - Online
- Customized One-on-One TA to address technical issues
- Reporting
- Clear Timeline and Schedule
  (July 1, 2019 implementation deadline)
Recommendations

- Adopt the checklist as a tool
- Provide guidance as to how State Agencies/Departments can adopt the tool
- Conduct an initial checklist review
- Assess Needs (at State Agency/Department level)
- Identify areas for resource leverage
- Offer technical assistance to support implementation
- Establish a schedule to evaluate State Agency/Department programs
THANK YOU!