



Balance of State Continuum of Care

Policy Regarding Adoption of Housing First and Low Barriers Approaches within the BoS CoC

The Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care has adopted a priority for Low Barrier and Housing First for all programs regardless of funding source.

Housing first is being defined by the Missouri Balance of State as:

A model of housing assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing that does not have service participation requirements or preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold). Transitional housing and supportive service only projects can be considered to be using a Housing First model for the purposes of this NOFA if they operate with low-barriers, work to quickly move people into permanent housing, do not require participation in supportive services, and, for transitional housing projects, do not require any preconditions for moving into the transitional housing (e.g., sobriety or minimum income thresholds).

This includes but is not limited to screening program participants out due to:

- Having too little or no income
- Active or history of substance use
- Having a criminal record with exceptions for state-mandated restrictions
- History of Victimization

And that clients will not be terminated from programs for reasons similar to the following:

- Failure to participate in supportive services
- Failure to make progress on a service plan
- Loss of income or failure to improve income
- Any other activity not covered in a lease agreement typically found for unassisted persons in the projects geographic area