

# HOUSING FIRST FACT SHEET

*Housing First ends homelessness. It's that simple.*

**Housing First is an evidence-based, permanent supportive housing program that supports individuals to maintain independent housing and lead meaningful lives in their community.**

The program immediately ends homelessness by supporting individuals and families to locate independent apartments in the community. Housing First clients are provided long-term, multidisciplinary community supports, including service coordination, drug & alcohol counseling, employment support, psychiatry, nursing care and representative payee services.

## ENDING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Housing First is recognized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as the most effective intervention for addressing chronic homelessness.

- Since 2010, the Housing First program has ended the cycle of chronic homelessness for **over 200 Vermonters**.
- The Housing First program maintains an **85% Housing Retention Rate**.

## SERVING THE UNDER-SERVED

The program targets the most vulnerable individuals, especially those who have “fallen through the cracks” of the system of care.

- The population served by Pathways’ Housing First program have experienced long histories of homelessness, involvement with corrections, frequent contact with emergency services and long periods of institutionalization.
- The program has supported 100+ individuals with long stays in hospitals, prisons and other institutional settings to successfully transition into the community.
- The average daily “cost” of homelessness for this population is approximately **\$91.51**.

## FY18 FUNDING

The Housing First program is funded primarily by contracts with the Department of Mental Health & Department of Corrections.

VT Department of Mental Health Community Rehabilitation and Treatment	\$856,215
VT Department of Mental Health Medicaid Fee For Services	\$967,426
VT Department of Corrections	\$1,039,663
United Way of Windham County, United Way of Addison County, Foundation Support	\$29,370
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,892,674.00</b>

## FAST FACTS:

**\$43**

AVERAGE DAILY COST  
OF HOUSING FIRST  
PROGRAM

**242+**

CYCLES OF CHRONIC  
HOMELESSNESS  
ENDED

**164+**

INDIVIDUALS  
SUPPORTED TO  
TRANSITION INTO THE  
COMMUNITY



# HOUSING FIRST CORRECTIONS PROJECT

## SUPPORTING COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

In partnership with the Department of Corrections, Pathways has adapted the Housing First model to serve individuals with long correctional histories to transition back into the community.

- Since 2010, the DOC project has supported over **164 individuals** re-enter the community.
- **66 persons** who were being held for lack of residence transitioned out of incarceration into the community.
- **84%** of program participants have not returned to long term incarceration.

## COST EFFECTIVE SOLUTION

By supporting individuals under the custody of corrections to transition back into community, Pathways' program reduces rate of incarceration and saves the state money. By providing individuals with acceptable housing and follow-up support, the program breaks the cycle of incarceration.

Pathways' approach is cost-effective in comparison to other re-entry programs, without compromising quality and quantity of care and long-term outcomes.



## Client Testimonial



"My mother had started a non-profit organization and I worked there 32 years full time, I had a night job and went to school full time ... whoever would have thought, after 32 years of having my own place, [I'd be homeless]. They say you're one paycheck, two paychecks from being homeless ... sometimes I was staying with friends, sometimes in my car, sometimes in hotels and that's where I met John [from Pathways]. I had a good feeling about him ... Pathways was really good to me and they never made me feel small and John would say, 'It's just a new start.' I never felt so lost and afraid of the future and they told me that I could get training and get work part time ... I'm really grateful to them because I was so depressed with all the loss. When I finally got housing, it was much better. They helped me build a bridge back to my mother too and I can say the last few years of her life we were in a much better place. Every single person I've met from Pathways, they all have the same kindness, professional boundaries. They double check and worry about things and make sure things get accomplished. They are very good about keeping after things, so I believe that if I get through these next six months I'll have a second wind ..." - Mary from Westminster

## A DIRECT COMPARISON OF 129 INDIVIDUALS

The graphic to the right illustrates a direct comparison of the combined estimated service costs expended by 129 clients 6 months prior to entering the Housing First program and 6 months after entering the Housing First program.

Service cost estimates were derived using information from relevant agency reports.

