**Housing First in Italy
Core Principles, Evaluation and Results**

European Parliament
Bruxelles 16th October 2019

What is Housing First?

The Housing First (HF) approach originated in the United States
during the 1990s is based on gaining immediate access to
independent apartments with support from a team
of health workers for chronically homeless people
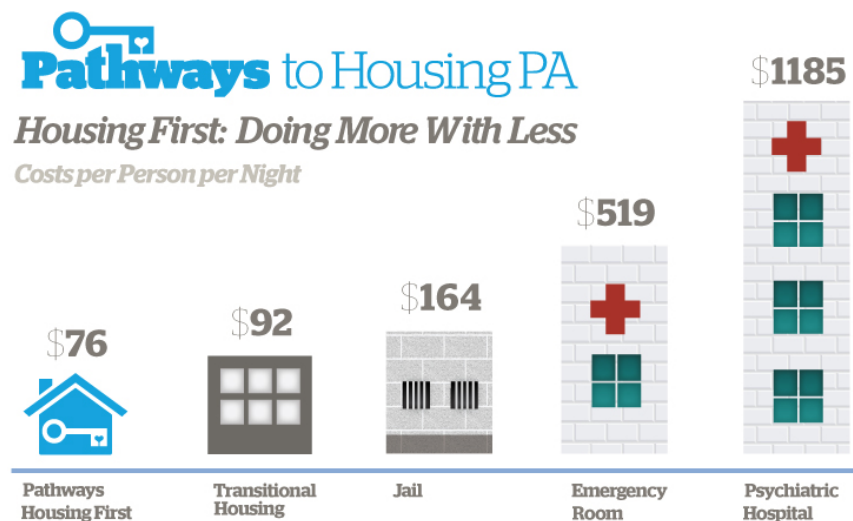and groups assessed
as at risk of homelessness

Core Principles of Housing First*

1. Housing is a Human Right

2. Choice and Control for Service Users

3. Separation of Housing and Treatment

4. Recovery Orientation

5. Harm Reduction

6. Active Engagement without Coercion

7. Person Centred Planning

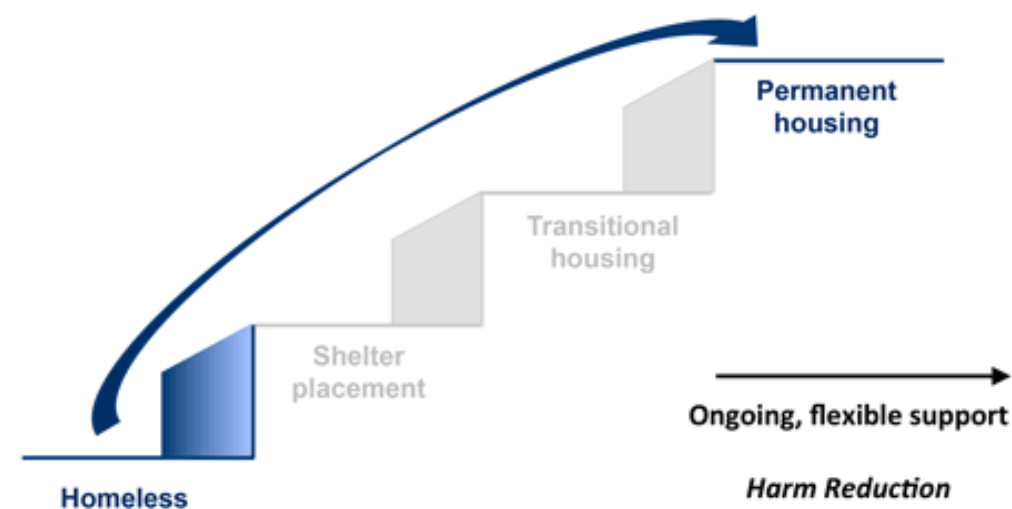8. Flexible Support for as long as is requested

New York

Pathways to Housing PA

Housing First: Doing More With Less

Costs per Person per Night

- $76 — Pathways Housing First
- $92 — Transitional Housing
- $164 — Jail
- $519 — Emergency Room
- $1185 — Psychiatric Hospital

Washington DC

Housing First approach

Homeless → Shelter placement → Transitional housing → Permanent housing

Ongoing, flexible support

Harm Reduction

Canada

HF Housing First = Permanent Housing + Support

Housing First supports people who are homeless and living with mental illness by combining the immediate provision of permanent housing with wrap-around supports.

Housing First Network

27   Medium and big sized Italian cities (Turin, Milan, Boulogne, Pisa, Padua, Ragusa, Siracusa, Cosenza, Pordenone, etc…)

54   Public and private organizations working with homeless people

120 Social workers

50   Volounteers

10   Researchers

5   International Experts on HF

5   Universities
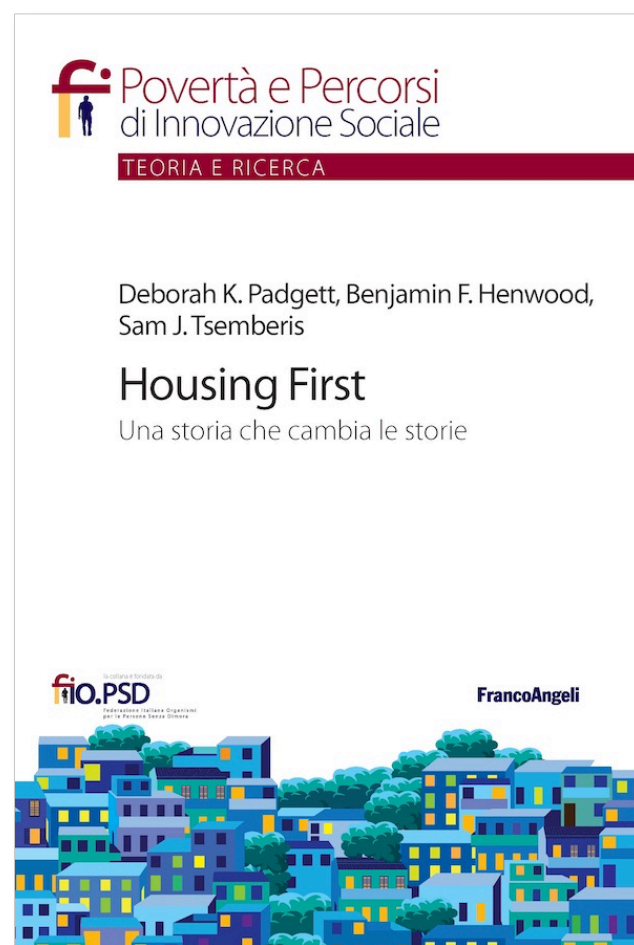
How was analyzed Housing first in Italy?

→   *By Scientific Committee**

- Team of 10 expert, researchers, professors and senior evaluators
- Multi-disciplinary approaches
- Mixed methods
- Involvement of providers, social workers and beneficiaries in the evaluation design

- Monitoring Plan
- Evaluation Plan

** Univ. Torino, Politecnico di Torino, IRES-FVG, Univ. Padova, Univ. di Catania, Univ. della Calabria

Three books about Housing First

Beneficiaries

688 HF users in two years

456 adults (and 232 children)

➢ Roofless: 37%
➢ Houseless: 32%
➢ People living in insecure housing: 25%
➢ People living in inadequate housing: 6%

➢ 70% Man and 30% Woman
➢ 51% Italians e 49% Migrants
➢ 51 years old (average age)

➢ Low school level
➢ Lack of Income, Job, Housing, Family relationship

Source: Molinari and Zenarolla 2018

Relevant Target Group:
Chronic Homeless People
and
Family Homelessness

Results → Beneficiaries

456 adults

(356 housed* + 98 out of program)

✓ 61 adults get in **autonomy****
✓ 31 people have **abandoned** program
✓ 6 get off for health or other problems

* "Housed" means: people maintaining the house
 after two years (31-12-2016)

** "Autonomy" means: people getting independent
h o u s i n g   a n d   j o b ;   f a m i l y   r e u n i f i c a t i o n ;
repatriation

Vita, 32 anni
2 anni in comunità con la famiglia
ora in casa, Palermo

[Play](#)

Source: Molinari and Zenarolla 2018

Provided Housing

190 apartments

- ➢ 70% private rental market
- ➢ 14% social/public rental sector
- ➢ 16% religious property

- ➢ 29% single apartments
- ➢ 40% apartments for family
- ➢ 31% co-housing

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Results → Health, Social Integration, Satisfaction*

- ➢ 22% of HF users** declare improvening in physical health and 10% worsening**

- ➢ 56% declare stable level of mental health

- ➢ 80% meet friends outside of home and enjoy of the neighbourhoods

- ➢ 68% make new friends

- ➢ 78% feel «at home»

- ➢ 37% know neighbors

- ➢ High score (4/5) of the Quality of the Support and Housing Delivering

** SF-12 AUDIT; DAST 10; Community Integration Scale; Quality Service Scale. ** Telephone Interviews were realized after 6 months for 55 HF users - Source: Santinello et al. 2018*

** People start to take care of themeselves and to recognize ills or minor disabilities

Housing First Costs*

- Average monthly cost for adult: 572,00 euros

- Average monthly cost for household: 626,00 euros

- Average daily cost for adult: 20,89 euros

* OSVALDO – web based software, by University of Catania and Caritas of Siracusa
* «costs» include: Personal cost; Housing sustainment; Additional Services (lawyer, doctors, psychologist, counsellor or coach)
* Sample of 7 pilot projects (Northern; Centre; Southern Italy)

Source: Mazzeo Rinaldi et al. 2018

Current policy statement of Housing First in Italy

- New deal of the Network Housing First – Italy "From the Project to the System" (2017-2019)

- Housing First is recognized as strategic way for tackling Homelessness in to the National Anti-Poverty Plan and in Guideline by Ministry of Labor and Social Policy

- Large scale funding (100 milion of euros – ESF and FEAD) from the Nationale Government to Municipalities and Regional governments to renovate territorial services also by Housing First Approach

How does mean Housing First in Italy for the future?

➢Hope and Dignity for the people

➢Alternative approach for tackling homelessness

➢Wind of change

➢ Increasing new housing solutions

➢Cultural and Service Delivering Challenges

➢ Political change

Thanks