Housing First is a methodology whose main objective is to eradicate long-term homelessness situations. Its intervention is based on two essential elements, combining access to an individualized dwelling integrated in the community, with the provision of person-centered specialized, individualized and continued technical support.

**WHAT?**

Immediate access to individualized houses scattered throughout the city with the support of a specialized technical team.

**FOR WHOM?**

People in chronic homelessness situations; people with mental health disorders; people who use psychoactive substances; people with health problems; people in poverty; marginalized/socially isolated people; people subject to social stigma; people who experience complex trauma.

**HOW?**

1. Referral
2. Establishment of relationship on the street
3. Selection of housing by the tenant
4. Integration into housing
5. Formalization of the contract
6. Continued technical follow-up in the housing and community setting:
   - Housing First without intermediate answers
   - Immediate access to individualized houses scattered throughout the city with the support of a specialized technical team.

**WHAT IS HOUSING FIRST?**

**WHY?**

Persons without a home in the city of Lisbon

**THE PROBLEM?**

Persons without a home in the city of Lisbon

**HOUSING FIRST MODEL**

**HOUSING AS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT**

**PROJECT FINANCING**

Prizes:

**THE HOUSING FIRST METHODOLOGY**

Housing First is a methodology whose main objective is to eradicate long-term homelessness situations. Its intervention is based on two essential elements, combining access to an individualized dwelling integrated in the community, with the provision of person-centered specialized, individualized and continued technical support.

The first Housing First program was developed in New York in the 1990s, named Pathways Housing First. Currently, there are Housing First programs not only in different cities in the USA, but in Canada and in an increasing number of European countries.
**Proven Evidence - Context in Portugal**

Out of 10 persons, 8 do not return to homelessness.

The country's 1st Housing First response arose in 2009.

The model is already applied in 12 Portuguese cities.

**WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE?**

- Houses are scattered and integrated into the community
- Individualized intervention
- Having one’s own address
- Having a stable key
- Freedom to define one’s own rules
- Autonomization
- Having a participatory voice in the project
- Having the autonomy to customize the space
- Use of the community structures

**WHAT'S THE IMPACT?**

- 131 people integrated
- 75% men
- 26% women
- 51 years median age
- 14.4 years is the average time in years tenants spend in homelessness situations

**WHAT DO WE ADVOCATE FOR IN THE FUTURE?**

1. Effective prevention responses and better housing policies
2. Creation of specialized teams to give an emergency response to people who have just become homelessness situations
3. Long-term individualized housing responses (with and without the support of a specialized technical team);
4. Involvement of peers in designing intervention models and in the projects’ execution
5. Replication of evidence-based practices with proven results and a good cost-benefit ratio
6. Creation of employment projects for populations that experience situations of social vulnerability.

**2030**

The European Parliament’s goal is to eradicate homelessness situation in the European Union.

**Homelessness is considered one of the most severe forms of poverty and deprivation that needs to be abolished by targeted and integrated policies conducted in a sustainable manner.**