

Housing First – Italy

Core Principles, Evaluation and Results

(2014-2016)

Fio.PSD onlus
National Secretariat
Research Office



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



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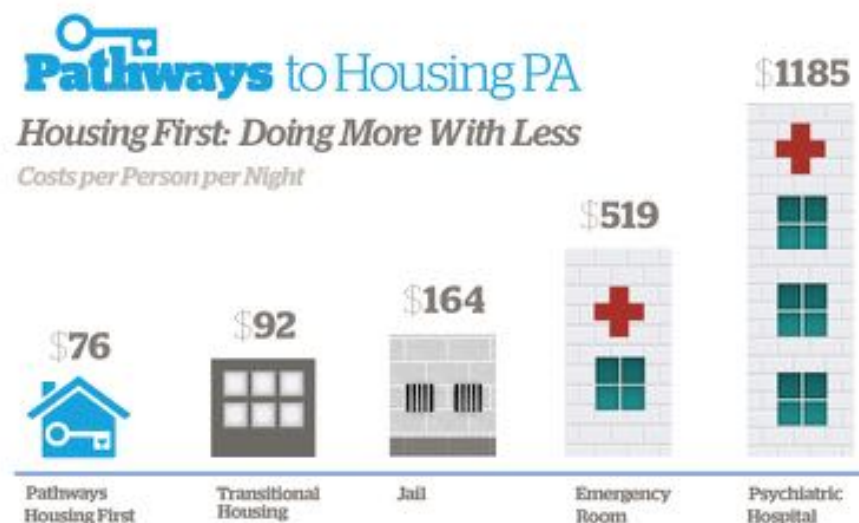
Core Principles of Housing First*

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

* Housing First Guide Europe (2017)

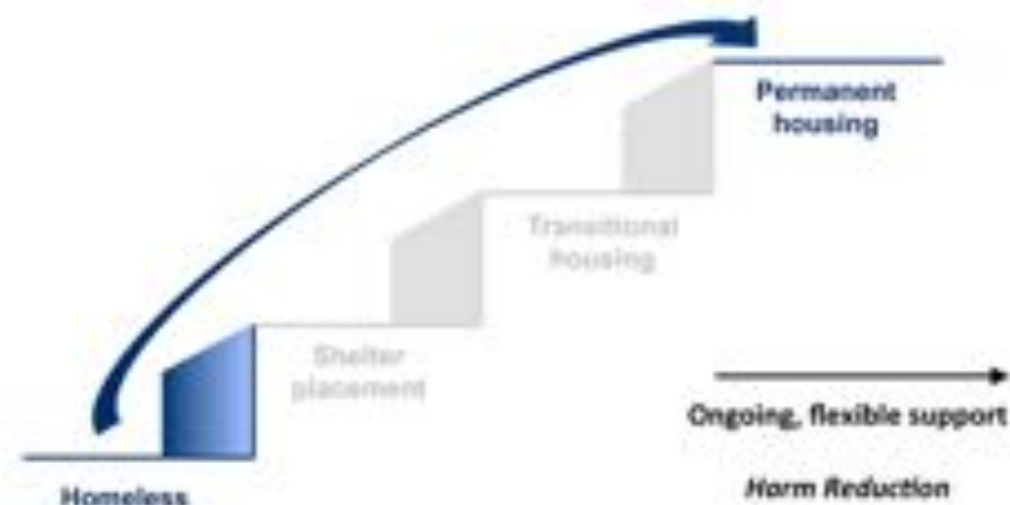


New York



Washington DC

Housing First approach



Canada



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



**Housing
First
Europe**

«...esistono molte differenze tra i sistemi di welfare e salute dei paesi europei ... ci sono in EU diversi modi di essere diversi dall'HF originale ... ma tutti i programmi rispettano la filosofia cardine» (Pleace 2016)



How was Housing First in Italy born?

→ *Bottom up* process promoted by fio.PSD* (2014-2016)

Main stages:

- National Conference on Housing First
- **National Program for Implementing Housing First** (training, supervision and evaluation of projects)
- Born of the **Network of Housing First – Italy** (54 organizations)
- Launch of **pilot projects** for implementing Housing First in Italy

** fio.PSD is the umbrella organization of public and private organizations providing services for homeless people*



Numbers of Experimentation (2014-2016)

- 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** Volunteers
- 10** Researchers
- 5** International Experts on HF
- 5** Universities

Fio.PSD as Coordinator of Experimentation

How was analyzed Housing first in Italy?

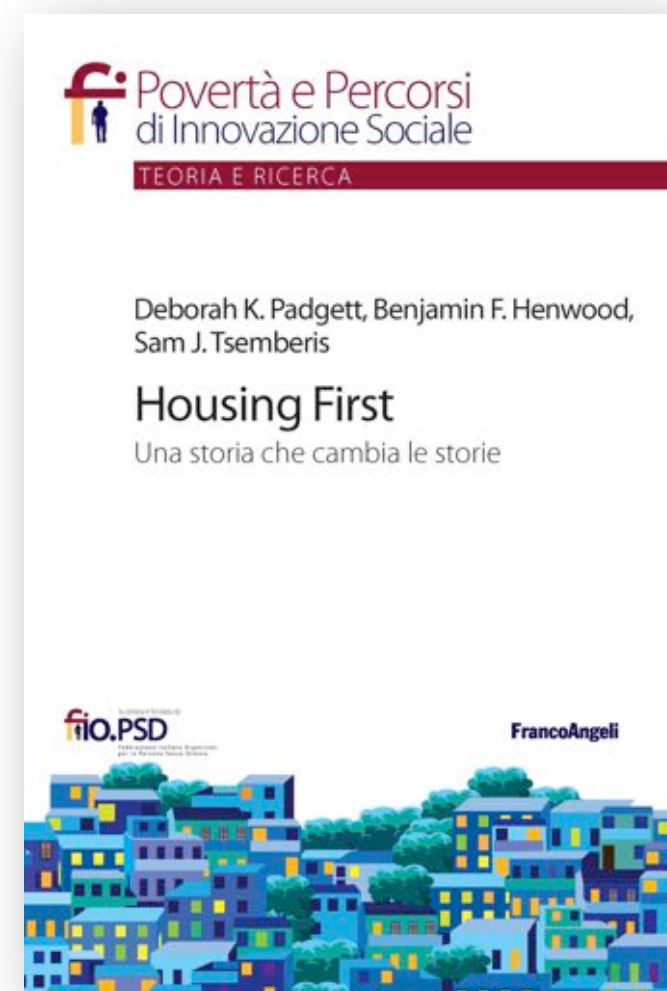
→ *By Scientific Committee**

- 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 on Housing First



Beneficiaries

688 HF users in two years (2014-2016)

456 adults (and 232 children)

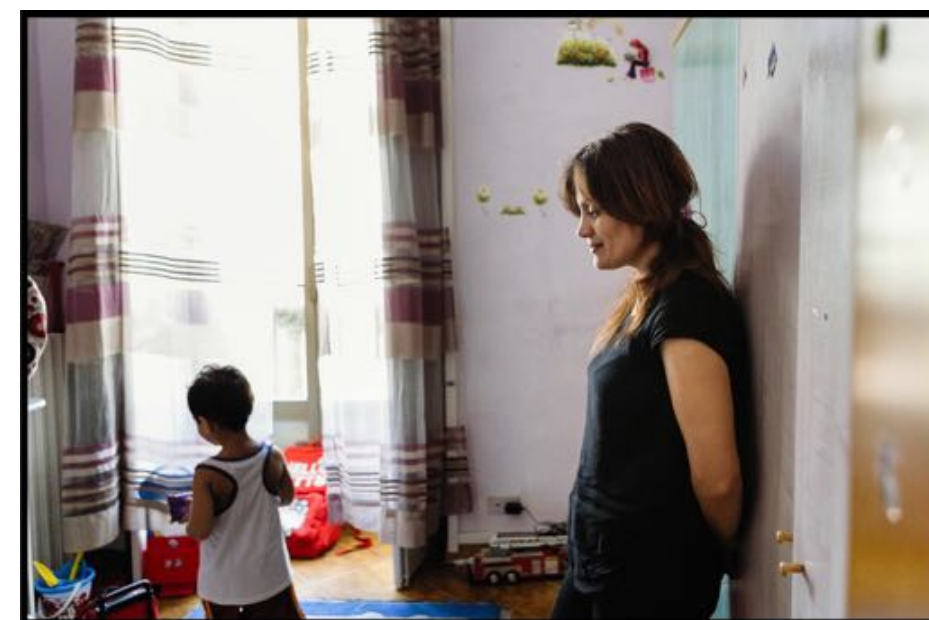
- Roofless: 37%
 - Houseless: 32%
 - People living in insecure housing: 25%
 - People living in inadequate housing: 6%
-
- 70% Man and 30% Woman
 - 51% Italians e 49% Migrants
 - 51 years old (average age)
-
- Low school level
 - Lack of Income, Job, Housing, Family relationship

Source: Molinari and Zenarolla 2018



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**Relevant Target Group:
Chronic Homeless People
and Family Homelessness**



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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 housing and job; family reunification; repatriation



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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



Results → Health, Social Integration, Satisfaction*

- 22% of HF users** declare improving 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 themselves 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



Design and Ethnographic Observation *

- Essential and functional furnitures into the apartments
- A lots of «personal objects» (crucifixes, bible/Quran, cards, pictures, abat-jour) and other "things" reflecting attitudes of the users
- High relevance on habits, preferences, feeling, interests of the users in the self-manage interior design

* Videotour in 14 «apartments» . Source: Campagnaro, Porcellana 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 (50 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

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