

Memo

Date: 8/25/2023
To: Joint Office Executive Leadership
From: Multnomah County Supportive Housing Services Advisory Committee
Subject: Unanticipated and Carryover SHS Funding Recommendations

HIGHEST PRIORITY RECOMMENDATION

- Cash assistance for those enrolled in SHS services

ADD HOUSING FIRST PROJECTS TO THE JOINT OFFICE'S HOUSING PORTFOLIO

- Prioritize SHS services & housing for people whose camps are swept
- Increase investment in identity-related housing & retention services
- Add and increase housing programs for LGBTQIA2S+ people

EVICTION PREVENTION

- Increase investment in homelessness prevention
- While implementation ramps up, invest more in rent & utility assistance—our community needs money now.

IN-HOUSE PROGRAMMING & WRAP-AROUND SERVICES

- More investment in 24-hour security across our housing portfolio
- Car repair and maintenance for those awaiting housing
- Increase flexible client assistance
- Increase investment in workforce development for people exiting homelessness

REFERRAL SYSTEM

- Expansion of 211 capacity & modernize system infrastructure

SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE

- Increase technical support with contracting and overall contracting capacity at JOHS to support community-based organizations
- Peer support programming for people experiencing housing insecurity to regain long-term housing

Definition of Housing First

Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions or barriers such as sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Definition from PSU Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative [official website](#)