Housing First

The Fourth International Housing First Conference:
Knowledge Mobilization of Evidence-Based
Housing First Practices
October 5-7th, 2021

Summary Bulletin

Toronto Supportive Housing Growth Plan

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Highlighting objectives

The presentation provides the context and findings of the Toronto Supportive Housing Growth Plan

Research or practice-based evidence

The project involved an asset mapping process that looked at the land value and development potential of supportive housing assets in Toronto. A literature review, key informant interviews and data analysis were conducted to identify needs, client characteristics . A funding analysis was completed to identify opportunities to leverage and advocate for municipal, provincial and federal funding.

Implications for practice

The plan identifies opportunities to grow housing stock and continue to implement Housing First in Toronto. However a waitlist that has grown from 700 in 2009 to over 21,000 now shows the need to invest in more supportive housing and evidence based support services. A target of 18,000 units over 10 years is proposed along with strategies to grow stock, improve flow, develop capacity to better manage opioid use, improve access for racialized and indigenous community members.

Areas of needed policy change

Coordination and increased funding by all three levels of government. A one window approach is suggested. Development and tracking of funding and housing stock investment targets is recommended.

Related resources

See the slide deck presented for the conference.

EEnet

The conference is hosted by the Ontario Housing First Regional Network Community of Interest (OHRFN-CoI). The OHFRN-CoI is supported by Evidence Exchange Network (EENet) at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. The OHFRN-CoI assists communities across Ontario to develop, evaluate, and improve Housing First programs based on the Pathways model tested, adapted, and shown to be effective in the At Home / Chez Soi Demonstration Project.
For more information, visit www.eenet.ca/housing-first.

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