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| **Policy / Procedure**: Housing First | SC-CHAP letters |
| **Procedure Number**: 304 |
| **Date Approved by SCCHAP**: 6/19/2014 |
| **Date of Last Revision/Review**: 5/27/2014 |

**Purpose:** SC-CHAP members are encouraged to implement “housing first” policies in their projects. SC-CHAP will provide guidance to program and policy design such that institutional protocol neither creates a barrier to nor precipitates the loss of security of housing for persons housed through grants managed by member agencies.

**Policy:**  SC-CHAP members are urged to embrace the housing first model to address the needs of the homeless to first obtain stable housing, while creating flexible support services that address any issues that may have led to the episode of homelessness when most appropriate for sustainable outcomes. This will allow participants to achieve maximum tenure at the address of their choice, rather than moving individuals through different "levels" of housing.

**Housing First Definition**: Housing First is based on the principle that housing needs can be and should be met immediately without regard to the participants readiness for independent living. Support services are flexible and are not tied to the housing the participant is offered. Participants are housed first, without regard to their readiness for independent housing or expectation that their housing change as their need for/use of support service changes. Issues that may affect the household’s ability to live independently can and should be addressed once housing is obtained.

**References:**

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness: Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness