**NY-505 New Project Housing First Attestation**

**All projects funded by the NY-505 Continuum of Care are required to operate under the Housing First model. Please sign and attach this form to your agency’s CoC project application, confirming your commitment to using the Housing First model.**

**Housing First:** A model of housing assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and

stability in permanent housing in which admission does not have preconditions (such as

sobriety or a minimum income threshold) and in which housing assistance is not conditioned upon participation in services.

By signing the following, the project agrees that[[1]](#footnote-1):

* Access to programs is not contingent on sobriety, minimum income requirements, lack of a criminal record, completion of treatment, participation in services, or other unnecessary conditions.
* Project will do everything possible not to reject an individual or family on the basis of poor credit or financial history, poor or lack of rental history, minor criminal convictions, or behaviors that are interpreted as indicating a lack of “housing readiness.”
* People with disabilities are offered clear opportunities to request reasonable accommodations within applications and screening processes and during tenancy, and building and apartment units include special physical features that accommodate disabilities.
* Project will accept all referrals from the Coordinated Entry System.
* Housing and service goals and plans are highly tenant-driven.
* Supportive services emphasize engagement and problem-solving over therapeutic goals.
* Participation in services or compliance with service plans are not conditions of tenancy but are reviewed with tenants and regularly offered as a resource to tenants.
* Services are informed by a harm-reduction philosophy that recognizes that drug and alcohol use and addiction are a part of some tenants’ lives. Tenants are engaged in non-judgmental communication regarding drug and alcohol use and are offered education regarding how to avoid risky behaviors and engage in safer practices.
* Substance use in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not considered a reason for eviction.
* Tenants in supportive housing are given reasonable flexibility in paying their share of rent on time and offered special payment arrangements for rent arrears and/or assistance with financial management, including representative payee arrangements.
* Every effort is made to provide a tenant the opportunity to transfer from one housing situation, program, or project to another if a tenancy is in jeopardy. Whenever possible, eviction back into homelessness is avoided.

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 Agency Name

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 Printed Name

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 Signature

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 Title

1. This list was adapted from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)