

HOUSING FIRST

“Housing First” is a model of housing designed to provide barrier-free housing for those individuals that have struggled the most and are the toughest to house. Instead of requiring homeless individuals to receive treatment before entering housing, Housing First addresses the housing needs first, thereby providing the individual with a safe, stable and supportive environment in which to address substance, mental health and other issues. Once persons are placed into housing they pay rent if they have an income, and participate in an individualized service plan created to increase their level of self-sufficiency and stabilize their situation within the community.

Support staff are available off-site 24 hours a day with daily on-site visits which provide crisis intervention, case management and stabilization services. By implementing a Housing First model, people do not have to fall into emergency shelter; rather, individuals are placed in safe, affordable, barrier-free housing thus creating higher levels of stability, economic savings and dignity for individuals.



Claremont House for Women



Father McCarthy's Place for
19 Chronically Homeless Male Veterans and other Men

Already, Quincy has achieved some success in implementing the Housing First model. Currently, there are 24 units of permanent housing for the chronically homeless in the city. In this past year, Neighborhood Housing Services of the South Shore and Father Bill's Place have created eight additional units specifically for those who are chronically homeless. These units were able to be created as a result of leveraged dollars through HOME funds, Neighborhood Reinvestment, Federal Home Loan Bank and the State's Center for Community Recovery Innovations program. To date, more than half a million dollars of non-

McKinney dollars has been raised for the creation of permanent housing.