

The Development of a Canadian Housing First Toolkit

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Introduction

- Context: *At Home/Chez Soi*: federally funded, mixed methods RCT evaluating *Housing First* in five Canadian cities
- Aim: The purpose of this project is to create a Canadian Housing First Toolkit that can be used for the knowledge transfer of the Housing First approach across Canada.

Methods

- **Rapid literature review and incorporation of At Home/Chez Soi research reports**
- **Consultation session with At Home/Chez Soi Senior Leadership Team**
- **Consultation sessions with each of the At Home/Chez Soi Site Operations Teams**
- **Consultation session with At Home/Chez Soi Consumer Group**
- **Consultation with potential toolkit users**
- **Case studies of other Canadian Housing First programs (e.g. Calgary, Hamilton)**
- **Incorporation of material from other Housing First toolkits (SAMHSA, 2010; Tsemberis, 2010)**

Toolkit Modules

- **Introduction: Who Should Use This Toolkit and How It Should Be Used**
- **Module #1: The Housing First Model: Principles, Programs, and Research**
- **Module #2: Getting Started – Conception of a Housing First Program**
- **Module #3: Planning – Creation of a Housing First Program**
- **Module #4: Building and Stabilizing – Early (first year) and Later Implementation of a Housing First Program**
- **Module #5: Keeping It Going: Sustaining the Housing First Program**
- **Module #6: How to Evaluate a Housing First Program**

Conclusions

- There is a need for knowledge translation of research on evidence-based practices like Housing First
- The toolkit is being designed in an accessible, user-friendly, interactive format
- It will be used in a new project designed to transfer knowledge about and promote the uptake of Housing First across Canada
- The toolkit will be available on the homeless hub and the Mental Health Commission