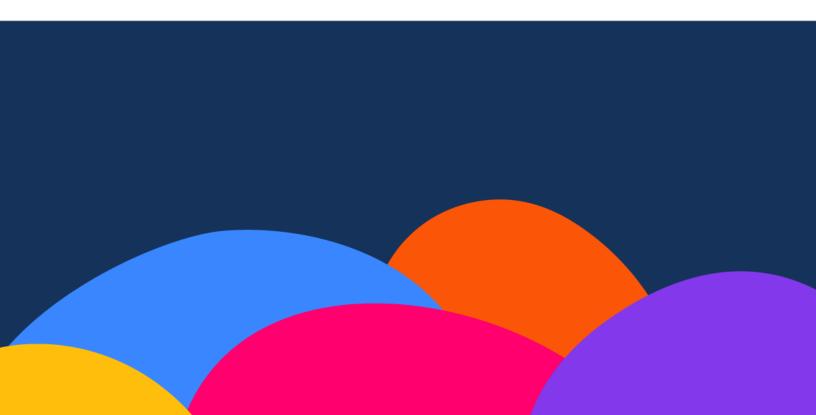# Community Readiness Assessment Worksheet

This template was developed to accompany
THIS is Housing First for Youth
Part 2 – Operations Manual.

Community Readiness Assessment Worksheet

Understanding of HF4Y

Assessing whether there is a common understanding of the Housing First for Youth program model and philosophy is important because many organizations and communities make claims to be "already providing Housing First for Youth," while their approach is inconsistent with the core principles of the program model. If there is little understanding of H4FY in your community, community partners will need to receive training and agree to the core principles before planning can proceed. Without this initial buy-in, it will be very difficult to carry out the change management required.

Key Questions	Little to no understanding	Some understanding	Strong understanding
To what degree do relevant decision-makers in my community understand HF4Y and how it's different from Housing First (for adults)?			
To what degree does the leadership within my organization understand HF4Y and how it's different from Housing First (for adults) (executive leadership, board members, managers, etc.)?			
To what degree does the frontline/program staff at my organization understand HF4Y and how it's different from Housing First (for adults)?			
To what degree do other youth-serving agencies understand HF4Y and how it's different from Housing First (for adults)?			

Alignment with HF4Y

There may be instances where local policies and procedures are at odds with HF4Y policies. In these cases, steps will need to be taken to reconcile these contradictions and ensure that local service organizations comply with program fidelity.

Key Questions	**No, we do not have** policies, practices and training to support this value/approach	Yes, policies, practices and training **are in development** to support this value/approach	Yes, policies, practices and training **are in place** to support this value/approach
Does your organization support and practice Harm Reduction?			
Does your organization's values align with HF4Y Core Principles? Employees or individuals that have values that align with the HF4Y Core Principles?			
Does your organization embrace the Family and Natural Supports philosophy and principles?			
Does your organization practice a positive youth development approach?			
Does your organization practice zero discharge into homelessness?			
Does your organization support a policy of having no timelines for youth's case management and financial support?			

Capacity for HF4Y

The next assessment area includes determining an organization's ability and resources to implement and meet the task demands of the HF4Y program model. This will help

identify where more time, training, and resources may need to be allocated to achieve success.

Key Questions	No	In progress/ development	Yes
Does your organization have a track record of working with vulnerable youth?			
Do your organization's policies and procedures support the HF4Y program model (e.g., providing on-call support, smaller caseloads, the ability to sign master leases for youth under the age of eighteen, etc.)?			
Does your organization have the knowledge, staff, and skills to positively support specific subpopulations such as Indigenous, LGBTQ2S, and racialized/minority youth?			
Does your organization have the backing from the Board of Directors and internal capacity to support staff in implementing HF4Y?			
Is there multi-year funding in place?			
Will that funding allow for the smaller case management caseloads required to deliver the program?			
Does the organization have capacity to properly supervise and support the program staff?			

Is the organization able to invest in HF4Y training for program managers and staff?			

Context and Collaboration for HF4Y

Local buy-in is required to effectively implement HF4Y, which includes building on the work and successes of community partners.

Key Questions	No	In progress/ development	Yes
Is there a desire to have HF4Y services offered to youth in your community?			
Does the program fill a gap or increase capacity within the homeless-serving system?			
Does the program align with broader community strategies or plans to address homelessness?			
Does the program model fit within your local homeless-serving system (in communities where there is one) and its existing tools, practices, approaches, and norms (e.g., Coordinated Access, Situation Tables, By-Name Lists, Data collection and management systems)?			
Is there broad support in your community for your organization to take the lead on implementing HF4Y?			
Are partnerships/relationships in place with the following providers in order to deliver services and supports?			
	Health and mental health care providers			
	Indigenous organizations that can support youth			

	Lawyers or those who can address legal and justice issues			
	Schools/Education Systems			
	Income assistance workers			
	Child Protective Services			
	Employment services			