

Housing First for the Homeless: the development of a Tiny Home Community

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The only solution to homelessness is a Home, and since the 1990s, the evidence for Housing First as an alternative to residential treatment has been growing. The support for Housing First has been growing as well, albeit at a slower rate. Community organizations including Person Centered Housing Options, Inc. have been using Housing First. The results for the clients continue to be impressive with decreased incarceration, substance use, acute care medical use, improvement in psychiatric symptoms and overall health, and overall decreased cost to taxpayers and hospitals. However, the rate of affordable housing development in Rochester is not increasing with the increasing need for these options, making housing lists long and keeping people in unsafe situations. In partnership with PCHO, we have worked on developing a Tiny Home community to address this problem. Tiny Homes cost less to develop than the cost of refurbishing an apartment complex for affordable housing and have been used successfully across the country for Housing First programs and general low income housing projects. This project is in the early stages of development.