

Engagement Approaches

In the Collaborative Development of a First-of-its-Kind Training:

Housing First from the Participant's Perspective

Maria Zuluaga & Lori McDermott

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

Land Acknowledgement

Homeward Trust respectfully acknowledges our place here on Treaty 6 Territory, the traditional and ancestral lands of many First Nation, Métis and Inuit people. We acknowledge the diverse Indigenous Peoples of this land which include the Cree, Blackfoot, Dene, Iroquois, Anishinaabe/Saulteaux /Ojibwa, Nakota Sioux, Inuit, Métis and many others whose footsteps have marked this land for time immemorial. Those whose stories, languages and culture continue to thrive today. We acknowledge ourselves as visitors living and working in this Territory.



This presentation was collaboratively developed by the Participant Advisory Committee & Youth Advisory Group of Homeward Trust Edmonton and represents the work and perspectives of all its members.

Participant Advisory Committee & Youth Advisory Group



PAC & YAG are the two Lived Expertise Committees of Homeward Trust Edmonton

- Adults 25+
- Youth 16-24
- Lived Experts and Advocates on community concerns and priorities
- Identify system and community barriers to help improve programs

Objectives in this Presentation

- Audience will learn briefly about the Housing First Lived Expert-led Training
- Audience will learn the engagement approaches used to develop a Lived Expert-led Project: Housing First from the Participant's Perspective
- Audience will learn about the importance of Having Lived Expert-led Housing First Trainings

What is the Housing First Lived Expert-Led Training?

- Kawegehanowak/Together We Will House Them: Lived and Living Expertled Housing First Training
- Idea developed in 2022 by committee members based on the gaps we saw in the community
- This idea led to a unique, peer driven, community led and innovative training
- The training examines the Housing First Principles from our perspective

Engagement Approaches

Developing Content & Logistics

Capacity Building & Safety Planning

Learnings & Opportunities

Impact of the Training for Presenters

Developing the Content & Working out Logistics

Housing First

- Why Housing First
- Intended Audience
- Structure of the training itself

Exploring Viability

- Importance of staff expertise
- Safety planning
- Honoraria implications

Development Process

Impact of the training

Capacity Building & Safety Planning

Practice Sessions

- Iterative feedback cycle
- Build presentation skills amongst presenters
- Practice time with copresenters

Pilot Sessions

- Showcase training to internal Homeward Trust Staff
- Role of the Alternate
- Audience Feedback
 Surveys
- Iterative feedback cycle

Safety Planning

- Debrief Sessions before and after training
- Cultural supports
- Attendee guidelines

Impact of the Training for Presenters



- Empowering and Healing Experience
- Voice for the Community
- Training is a catalyst for change!

Learnings & Opportunities

Reducing Barriers

- Structure and Format
- Layout of Physical Space

Facilitator Pairings

 Importance of co-Facilitator relationship

Cultural Significance

- Significance and recognition of protocol with Eagle Feather
- Smudging



Key Takeaways

Thank You!

— Lori & Maria

Participant Advisory Committee & Homeward Trust

Lori.mcdermot@hopemission.com

mzuluaga@homewardtrust.ca

homewardtrust.ca | @homewardtrust









