The Year 3 Housing First Evaluation Report showed that the program has creatively adapted the model to produce substantial benefits at the individual level, community level, and institutional levels.

This snapshot highlights the multilevel impacts of the City & County of Honolulu’s Housing First (HF) initiative in its first 3 years. Administered through the Institute for Human Services (IHS), the HF program is a community intervention that offers permanent, affordable housing as quickly as possible for individuals & families experiencing homelessness. HF services are unique because they do not require individuals to demonstrate that they are “housing ready” before placement. This snapshot summarizes client demographic information & outcomes identified through ongoing evaluation and pertain to the first 3 years of the program, highlighting the third year.

Housing & Client Retention

- 86% of all 239 clients (n=206) have not returned to homelessness.
- Retention is slightly higher than the national average of 85%.
- 74% of clients remain in the program & have been housed for an average of 2.4 years.

Only 4 clients have exited the program voluntarily, suggesting clients do not want to return to the streets.
The majority of clients reported low to moderate stress and stated that they are hopeful for the future on most days. Over half of clients reported not drinking alcohol and 73% reported not using any illegal drugs.

- 81% increase in the number of times clients participated in an AA or support group meeting.

Clients who participated in the HF Community Group (CG) consistently stated that the group was important to their personal recovery. The group’s purpose is to provide social support & life skills training.

Participants reported increased engagement in community activities (e.g., yoga & Tai Chi) and volunteer activities (e.g., volunteering at the Humane Society).

- 52% decline in the average number of days incarcerated
- 61% decline in the total number of arrests
- 65% decline in ER use
- 40% decline in inpatient hospital stays

Participation in Housing First has resulted in high housing and program retention. The Year 3 Evaluation showed satisfactory impacts at multiple levels, including individual outcomes (e.g. reduced stress levels and drug use, and increased support group participation) and outcomes on the community and institutional levels (e.g. increased community involvement, and decreased rate of arrest, incarceration, and ER use).