



Utcáról  
Lakásba  
Egyesület

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**From Streets to Homes Association Budapest**

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# From Streets to Homes Association

Overview: <https://utcarollakasba.hu/>

From Huts to Homes	<a href="#"><u>Based on Housing First approach</u></a>
Housing Now!	<a href="#"><u>Social Housing Agency and SZÁD</u></a>
Give Work and community social work	<a href="#"><u>Weekly support groups for various target groups incl. women, refugees and jobseekers</u></a>
Solidarity Accommodation	<a href="#"><u>Helping ukrainian refugees to find short term accommodation</u></a>
Advocacy, and communication	<a href="#"><u>Changing the way how society and decision makers see and act on housing poverty</u></a>







## Some background

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We

- are an NGO
  - do not receive any government funding as service provider
- are 11 years old - started by 4 people around a kitchen table, serving 450 clients today
- are 25 staff + 2 “full time” volunteer + trainees + volunteers
- 450+ clients in 3 housing programs
- strong roots in housing activism





# Housing policies in Hungary

- poorly designed, politically excluded
- 11 000 homeless, and more other shelter places
- 100 000 social Flats with no directive to prioritize homeless people
- most Hungarian families live in own homes, small and expensive rental market
- no official ways out from homeless and family shelters
- no central housing benefits/ allowances available based on financial needs
- buying and rental prices both skyrocketing
- Housing crisis is not only affecting the poorest households, but more and more people

-> <https://lakhatasimimum.hu/>





# Mihez kezd a következő kormány a lakhatási válsággal?

[www.lakhatasiminimum.hu](http://www.lakhatasiminimum.hu)



**AVM**







# Impact and difference: From Huts to Homes program

- Our oldest program, based on Housing First approach
- 100+ volunteers each year (except for the covid times)
- Mostly elderly clients
- Partnership with 3 district municipalities in Budapest
- We renovate the flats, with the help of the tenants and volunteers.
- We provide social work for the clients
  - We cannot provide other social services, or healthcare services.
  - We need to cooperative with others.





# Principles in action

Housing is a Human Right	we recognize it and advocate for it
Choice and control for clients	we implement it with referrals to outer services
Separation of Housing and services/ treatment	we implement it as the referred services are not a condition to tenancy
Recovery orientation	we recognize it yet poor services and discrimination in service provision makes implementation challenged
<b>Harm reduction</b>	<b>We are trying to strengthen it</b>
<b>Active engagement without coercion</b>	<b>we implement it as we use community social work as a key tool to strengthen individual engagement without coercion</b>
<b>Person-centered planning</b>	<b>we implement it with each client having individual case manager social worker with individual plan for care goals</b>

## Cooperation with other organizations and services

- Accomodation:
  - District Municipalities – Tenant acceptance, local benefits
  - District Municipality Trustees – managing the flats
- Social and health services:
  - Street social workers (outreach) – in this case: Hungarian Red Cross
  - District Municipality Social Services – social catering, home care work
  - Other Foundations – addiction, mental health
  - Clients local (or choosen) general health practitioner
  - Hospitals – healthcare and hospital social work
- Aid and volunteering
  - Budapest Municipality/Shelter Foundation – Casual financial aid
  - Volunteers helping with renovation
  - Volunteer mental health advocate
  - Streetlawyer Association







## Lessons learned: Housing First, but what is next?

- Advocacy is a must, especially in less developed service environment, and hostile political environment
  - strict ban on street homelessness
  - no local funding for HF or social innovations
- Learning by doing
  - Introducing a new service is a constant experimenting process
  - we strongly build on the colleagues opinions and ideas, and try to improve our ability to build on clients' feedbacks as well
- Independence and female leadership
- Building a strong community







## Discussion

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**How are you using your Housing First/field experiences to advocate for housing policies' improvement? Tibor**

lessons learn

**How do you do evaluation and iteration in your work? How do you build on lessons learned during your work? Melinda**

Participation and leadership

**How do you/ or can you build on the opinions and feedback of colleagues and service users? Annamária and Rubina**

**Do you have a special focus on female leadership, and weather yes, or no, what impact on your work it should have? Vera**



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