

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DEKALB COUNTY,  
GEORGIA, TO ESTABLISH A PLAN FOR ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS AND TO  
SUPPORT THE HOUSING FIRST MODEL**

- WHEREAS,** DeKalb County is currently developing a Housing Plan to address challenges related to the creation and retention of quality, safe, affordable housing in DeKalb County; and
- WHEREAS,** homelessness remains a critical issue in DeKalb County, impacting the health, safety, and well-being of individuals and families within our community; and
- WHEREAS,** the Housing First model is a flexible and responsive evidence-based approach to addressing homelessness that prioritizes providing stable housing as the first step in supporting individuals and families; and
- WHEREAS,** research indicates that the Housing First model effectively reduces short-term homelessness, is more successful and cost-effective at reducing chronic and repetitive homelessness, improves health outcomes, and enhances the overall quality of life for participants; and
- WHEREAS,** the Housing First approach emphasizes the importance of permanent, supportive housing as a foundational element for recovery and stability, allowing individuals to address underlying issues such as mental health, substance abuse, and unemployment in a stable environment; and
- WHEREAS,** implementing the Housing First model aligns with our county's commitment to social equity, public health, fiscal responsibility, and community well-being; and
- WHEREAS,** collaboration among local government, service providers, and community stakeholders is essential for the successful implementation of Housing First initiatives in DeKalb County; and
- WHEREAS,** investing in Housing First programs has been shown to reduce costs associated with emergency services, healthcare, and the criminal justice system.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DEKALB COUNTY GOVERNING AUTHORITY AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The DeKalb County Board of Commissioners is committed to collaborating with the DeKalb Behavioral Health Coalition to establish a plan to address homelessness, to be completed by June 30, 2025.
2. The plan shall be drafted for incorporation into the DeKalb Comprehensive plan as a supplement to the DeKalb County Housing Plan.
3. The DeKalb County Board of Commissioners expresses support for the Housing First model as a critical strategy to address homelessness, prioritizing its inclusion in the plan's recommendations.

4. The DeKalb County Board of Commissioners commits to promoting policies and practices that facilitate the development and sustainability of Housing First programs, including increasing access to affordable housing and supportive services.
5. The DeKalb County Board of Commissioners call upon local stakeholders, non-profits, and governmental agencies to collaborate in implementing Housing First initiatives that prioritize the needs of our unhoused and most vulnerable populations.
6. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to relevant agencies and organizations in our community to promote awareness and support for the Housing First model.

Resolved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

**ADOPTED** by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024

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**Mereda Davis Johnson**  
Presiding Officer  
Board of Commissioners  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**APPROVED** by the Chief Executive Officer, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

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**Michael Thurmond**  
Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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BARBARA SANDERS  
County Clerk  
Board of Commissioners and  
Chief Executive Officer

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Viviane Ernstes  
County Attorney  
DeKalb County, Georgia