

# Eviction Prevention & Housing First in Austria

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Vienna, 29 November 2023

## WOHNSCHIRM – a program to prevent evictions

- **June 2020: Expiration of pandemic-related eviction ban**
  - To prevent an increase in evictions, the Federal Government launched WOHNSCHIRM.
- **Costs of prevention are significantly lower than costs of evictions and homelessness.**
- **Budget of 164 Mio. Euro** for the years 2021 to 2026

## How does the **WOHNSCHIRM** program work?

- **29 counseling centres** in all federal provinces provide social work counselling and support with the application process
- Two types of financial support:
  - **Assumption of rent arrears** that enables tenants to maintain their housing or
  - **Lump-sum support payment** that enables tenants **to move into an affordable dwelling**
- On behalf of the Ministry of Social Affairs, a NGO checks the applications and initiates the payment of benefits (“Abwicklungsstelle”).
- Since January 2023: additional support in case of problems with energy costs

## WOHNSCHIRM: facts & figures

- **6.657 households/ 15.140 persons** have received financial support
  - 5.943 apartments secured
  - 714 support for change of residence
- More than **21 Mio. Euro** in benefits paid out.
- **54%** of all supported adults are **women**.

## Housing First Austria - arriving home („zu Hause ankommen“)

- The project, funded by the Ministry of Social Affairs,
  - **connects social service organizations with the limited-profit housing sector.**
  - arranges **permanent and affordable housing** for people experiencing homelessness or are at imminent risk thereof.
  - operates according to **Housing First principles.**
- **Tenants' up-front costs and moving costs** are **covered** by the project budget.
- **Social assistance** is **needs-based** and without coercion.

## Housing First Austria: facts & figures

- Implementation in 2 iterations:
  - „arriving home“: April 2021 – April 2023 (5.2 Mio. EUR)
  - **housing first austria**: May 2023 – September 2024 (6.6 Mio. EUR)
- **566 homes** have been **allocated** and **1.146 people** live in a **new apartment**.
- **63%** of adult tenants are **women** and **40%** of beneficiaries are **minors**.
- Until September 2024, **another 1.000 new Housing First** units will be provided to people experiencing homelessness.

# Thank you for your attention!



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