



Aunt Leah's Place: Housing First & Serving Youth From Care

Introductions

- **Jason Preece**
 - Peer Specialist
- **Dana Rowland**
 - Outreach Worker
- **Drew Stewart**
 - Director of Development



Celebrating 30 years

Agenda

1. Introduction to Aunt Leah's Place & History of Link Housing First Program
2. Overview of McCreary Centre Society's year-long evaluation of Link Housing First (2018)
3. Aunt Leah's HF Model:
 1. Housing
 2. Peer Mentorship
 3. Case Management
4. Q & As

Vision:

Building a Brighter Future for Foster Kids

Mission:

Aunt Leah's Place helps prevent children in foster care from becoming homeless and mothers in need from losing custody of their children.

Success:

Create an environment where all children connected to the foster care system have equal opportunities akin to what parented children receive.



2018

YOUTH HOMELESS COUNT

IN METRO VANCOUVER

OCTOBER 2018

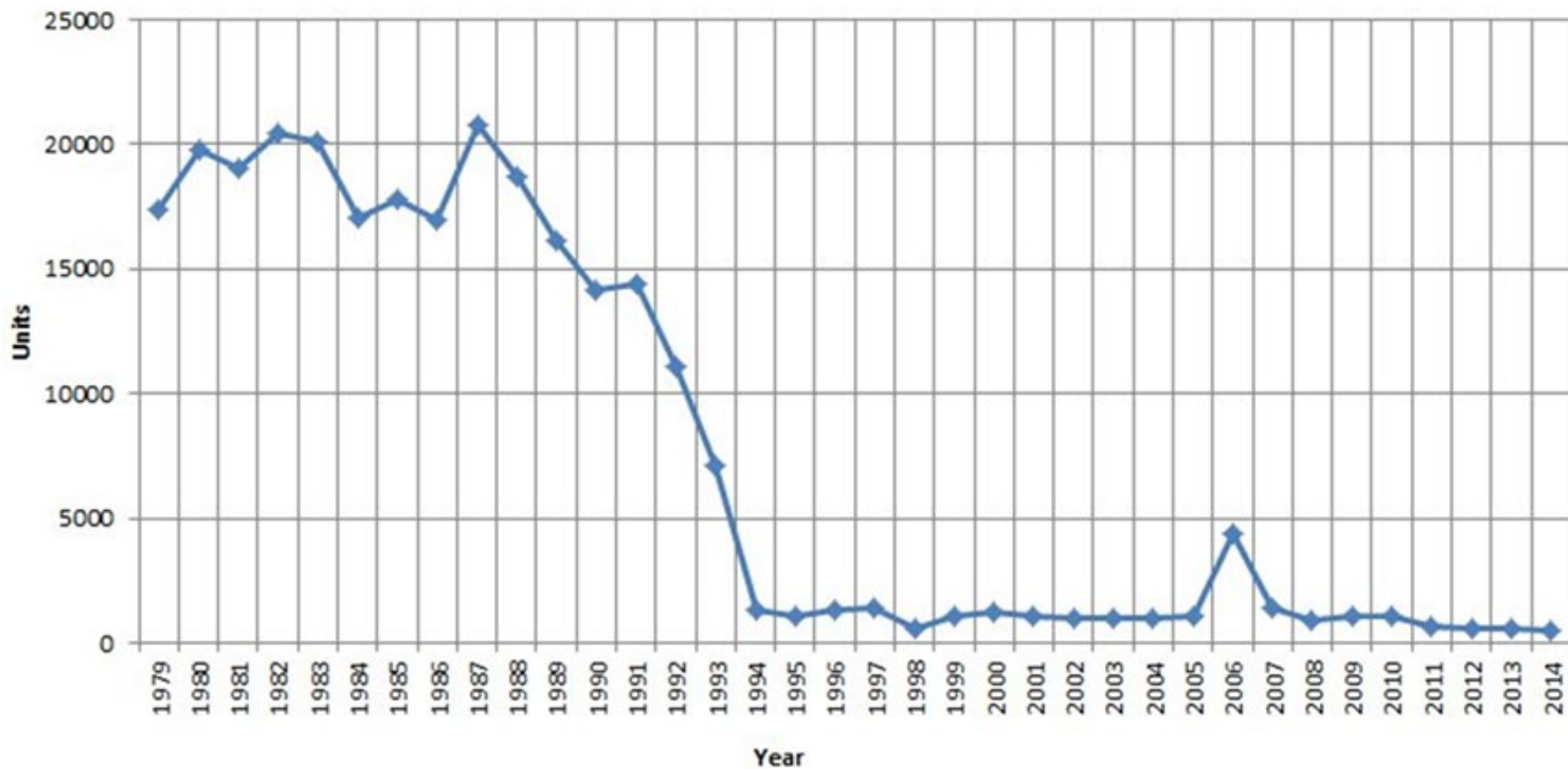
Prepared for the
Metro Vancouver Community Entity,
Homelessness Partnering Strategy

By BC Non-Profit Housing Association

2018 Youth Homeless Count

- **50%** indicated they were currently or had been previously in care
- **11%** indicated that 'aging out' of care was one of the main reasons they experienced homelessness *for the first time.*

Non-Profit and Co-operative housing units created per year in Canada, 1979-2014



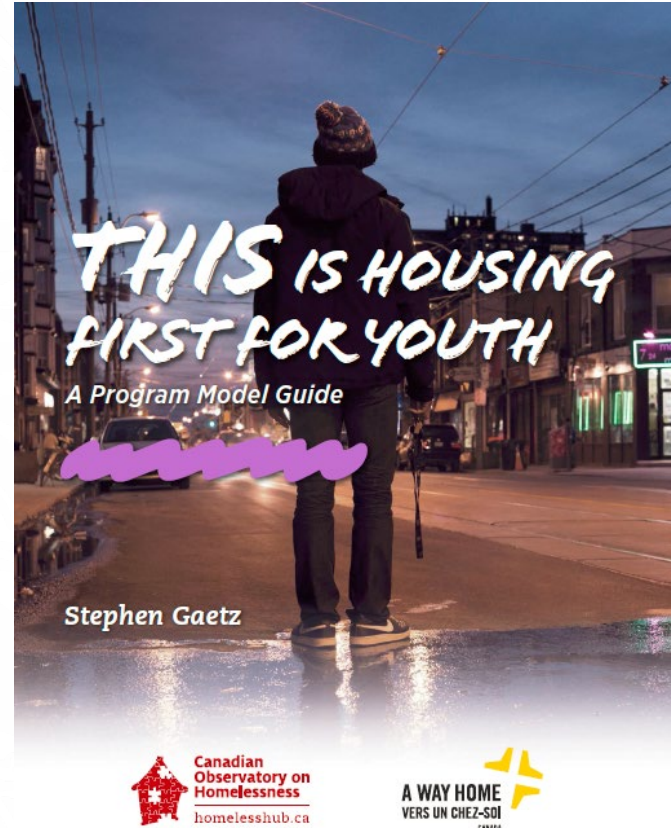
2014



The Link

Housing First

2017 HF4Y



Sam Tsemberis - 2014



Eligibility for Housing First

- **Chronically Homeless:** homeless for six months or more in the past year
- 6 months of homelessness for a 50 year-old (600 months) = **1%** of their life time
- 6 months of homelessness for a 19 year-old (228 months) = **2.6%** of their life time
- Who needs the help more? Someone who has spent 2.6% of their life homeless, or 1% of their life homeless?

Eligibility Directive - 2017

- Individuals exiting institutions (e.g. **child welfare system**) who have a history of chronic and episodic homelessness and cannot identify a fixed address upon their release
- **'bounced around' between foster homes** could now be considered to have a history of chronic/episodic homelessness



Housing

Youth Participants



Support
Link



Aunt Leah's
House



The Link
Housing First



Thresholds
House



Friendly
Landlord
Network



LALE House
& Supportive Suites



Housing,
Education,
Link Program,
Subsidy

Adult Participants

Fidelity



Building a Brighter Future for Foster Kids

38 Fidelity Points

- Housing Choice
- Housing Availability (Intake to Move-In)
- Housing Availability (Voucher/Subsidy Availability to Move-In)
- Permanent Housing Tenure
- Affordable Housing
- Integrated Housing (Urban Program)
- Integrated Housing (Rural Program)
- Privacy
- No Housing Readiness
- No Program Contingencies of Tenancy
- Standard Tenant Agreement
- Commitment to Re-House
- Services Continue Through Housing Loss
- Off-Site Services
- Mobile Services Service Choice
- No Requirements for Participation in Psychiatric Treatment
- No Requirements for Participation in Substance Use Treatment
- Harm Reduction Approach
- Motivational Interviewing
- Assertive Engagement
- Absence of Coercion
- Person-Centered Planning
- Interventions Target a Broad Range of Life Goals
- Participant Self-Determination and Independence
- Housing Support
- Psychiatric Services
- Substance Use Treatment
- Employment and Educational Services
- Nursing/Medical Services
- Social Integration
- 24-hour Coverage
- Involved in In-Patient Treatment
- Priority Enrollment for Individuals with Obstacles to Housing Stability
- Contact with Participants
- Low Participant/Staff Ratio
- Frequent Meetings
- Weekly Meeting/Case Review (Quality)
- Participant Representation in Program



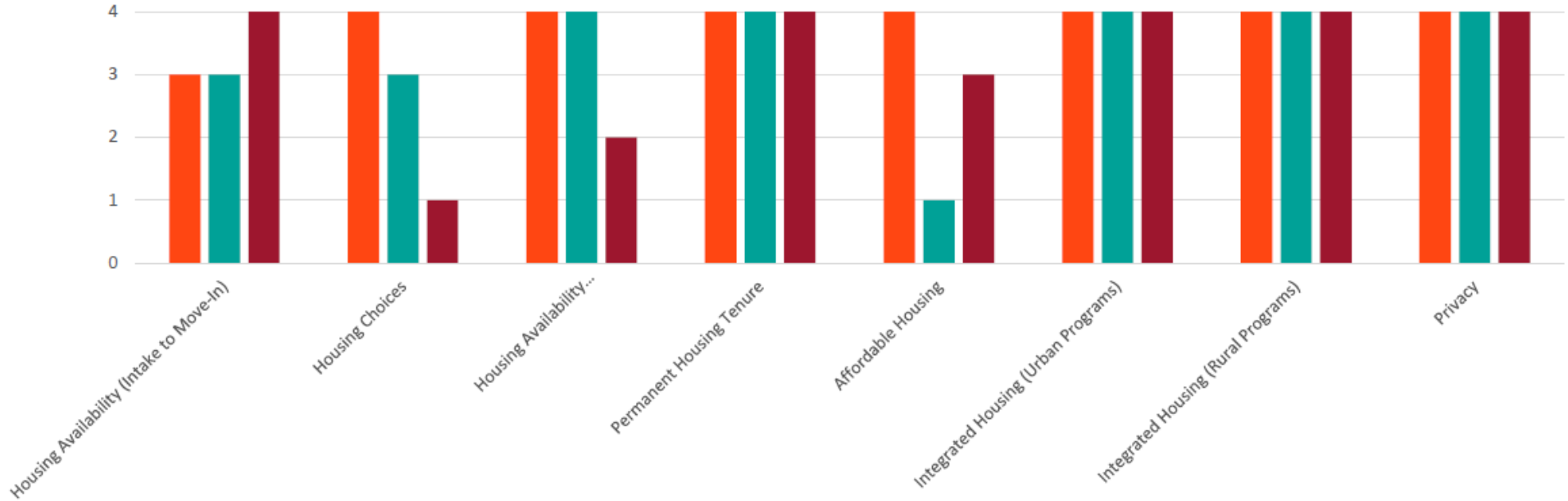
The Link: Housing First Self Assessment

**Fidelity Time Based Comparison
- September 2015 to September 2016 -**

Aunt Leah's Place
816 20th Street, New Westminster, BC V3M 4W6
604 525 1204 | auntleahs.org

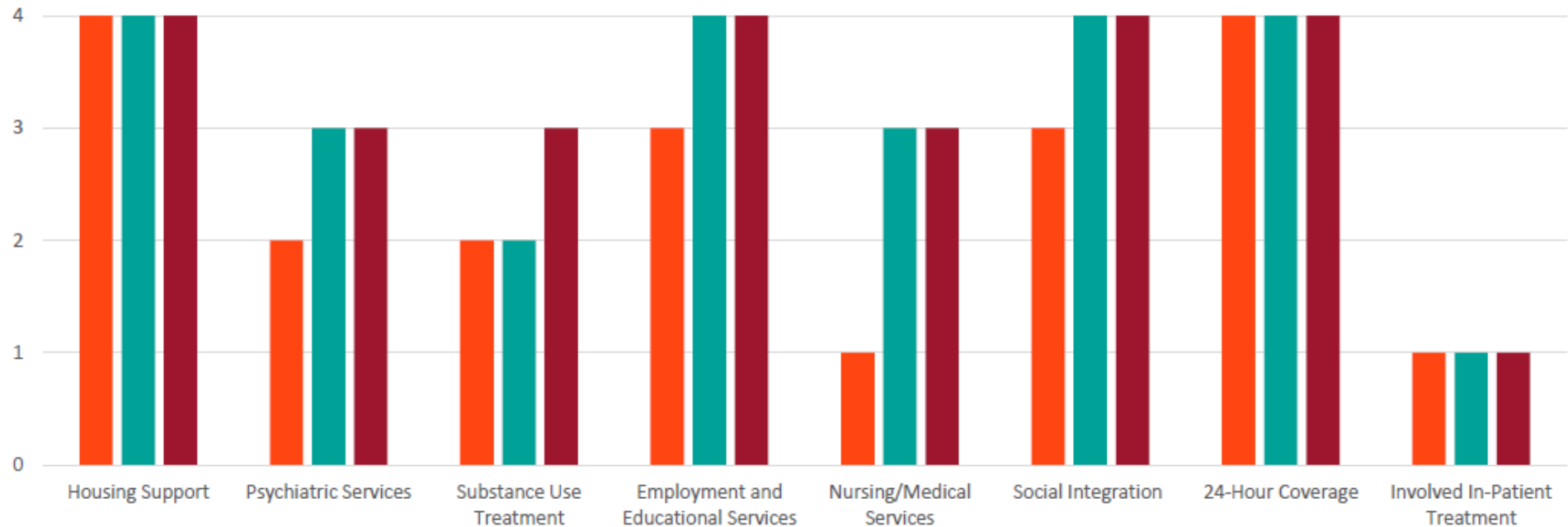
Housing Choice and Structure

2015-Sep 2016-Mar 2016-Sep

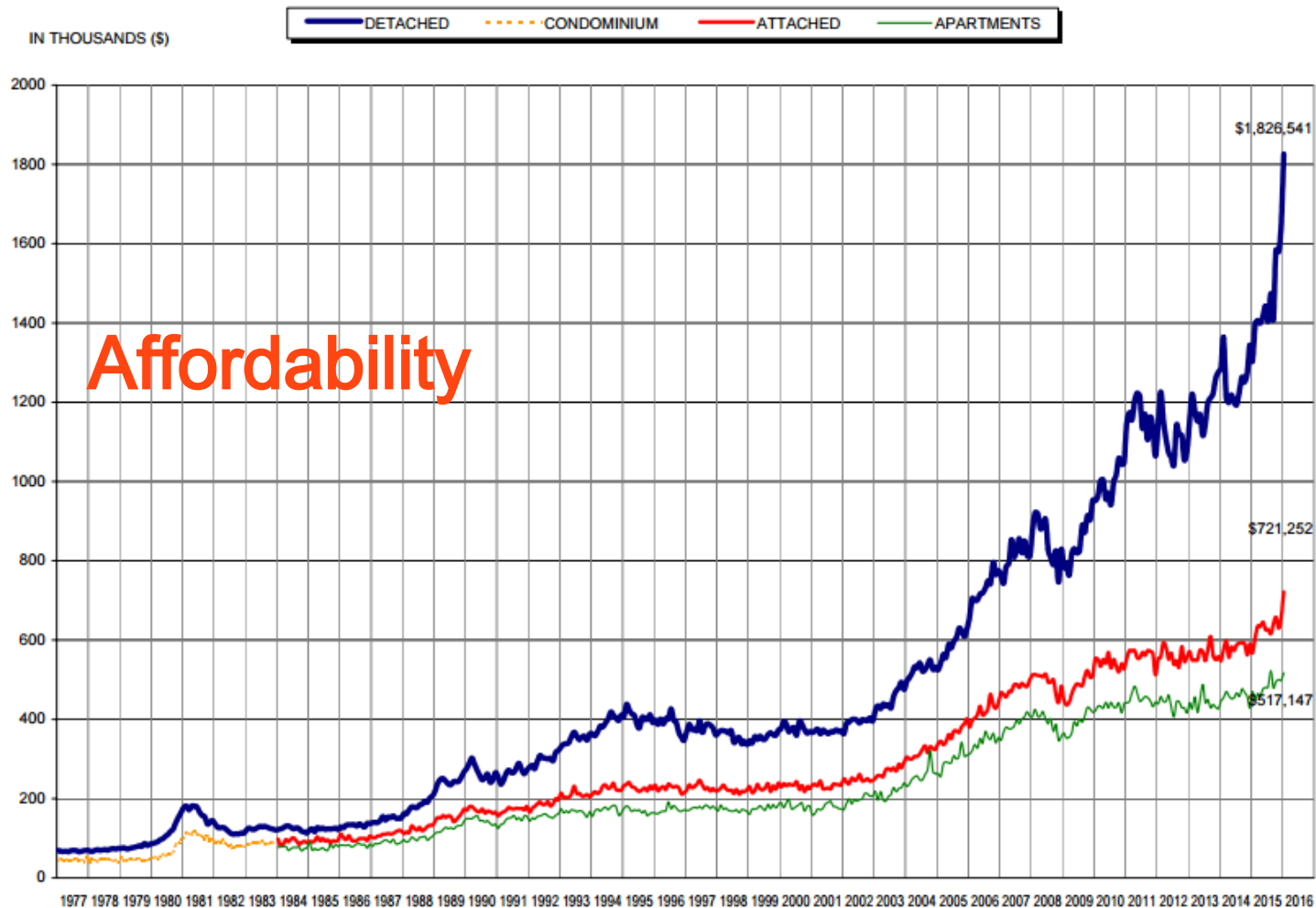


Service Array

2015-Sep 2016-Mar 2016-Sep



Residential Average Sale Prices - January 1977 to January 2016



Fidelity & 'Aging Out'

- Youth don't just 'age out' of housing, they also 'age out' of pediatric health services and other supports – that is, they 'age out' of fidelity
- Have to get in a new adult queue for these supports
- Often seen as not as chronic or as in-need – therefore, go to end of the line

BC Lagging Behind

- 2014 – BC lagging behind ON, AB & Washington State in extending supports into adulthood for former foster youth
- Therefore, build fidelity internally...

Education - 2014



SEFFY

AUNT LEAH'S *place*

Supporting Education for Foster Youth

Market Housing - 2015



Friendly Landlord Network
AUNT LEAH'S PLACE

Rent Subsidies - 2015



Mental Health & Addictions - 2015



Employment - 2016



Bootstraps

Employing Youth from Care

Health - 2016



AUNT LEAH'S *place*

Clinic

Social Housing - 2017





Evaluation Report for Aunt Leah's Link: Housing First Program



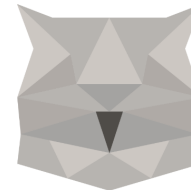
Evaluation by:
McCreary Centre Society
3552 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V5K 2A7
www.mcs.bc.ca
evaluation@mcs.bc.ca

Evaluation of Link: Housing First External evaluation



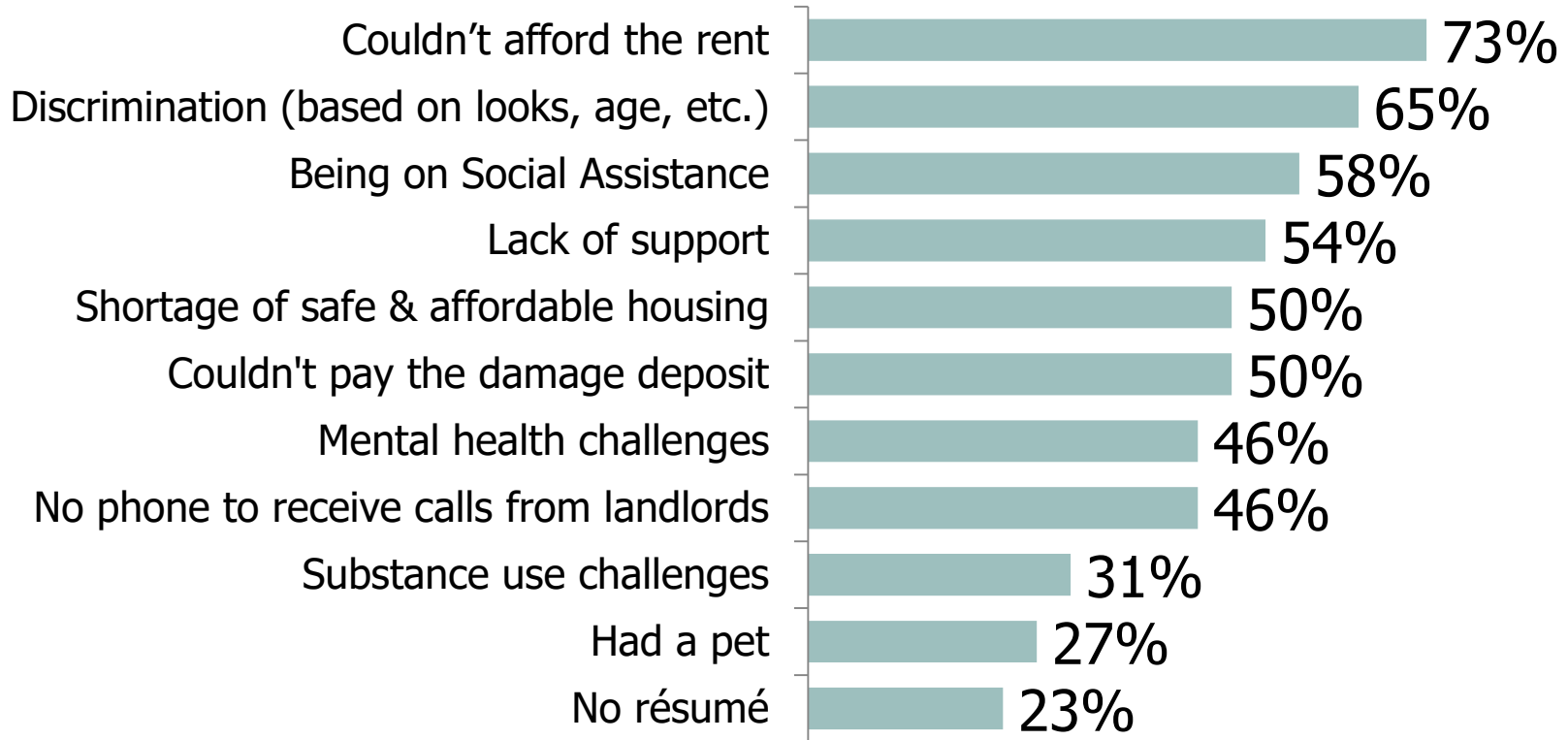
McCreary
Centre Society

Youth health • Youth research • Youth engagement



McCreary Centre Society's
Youth
Research
Academy

Most commonly reported challenges to finding housing



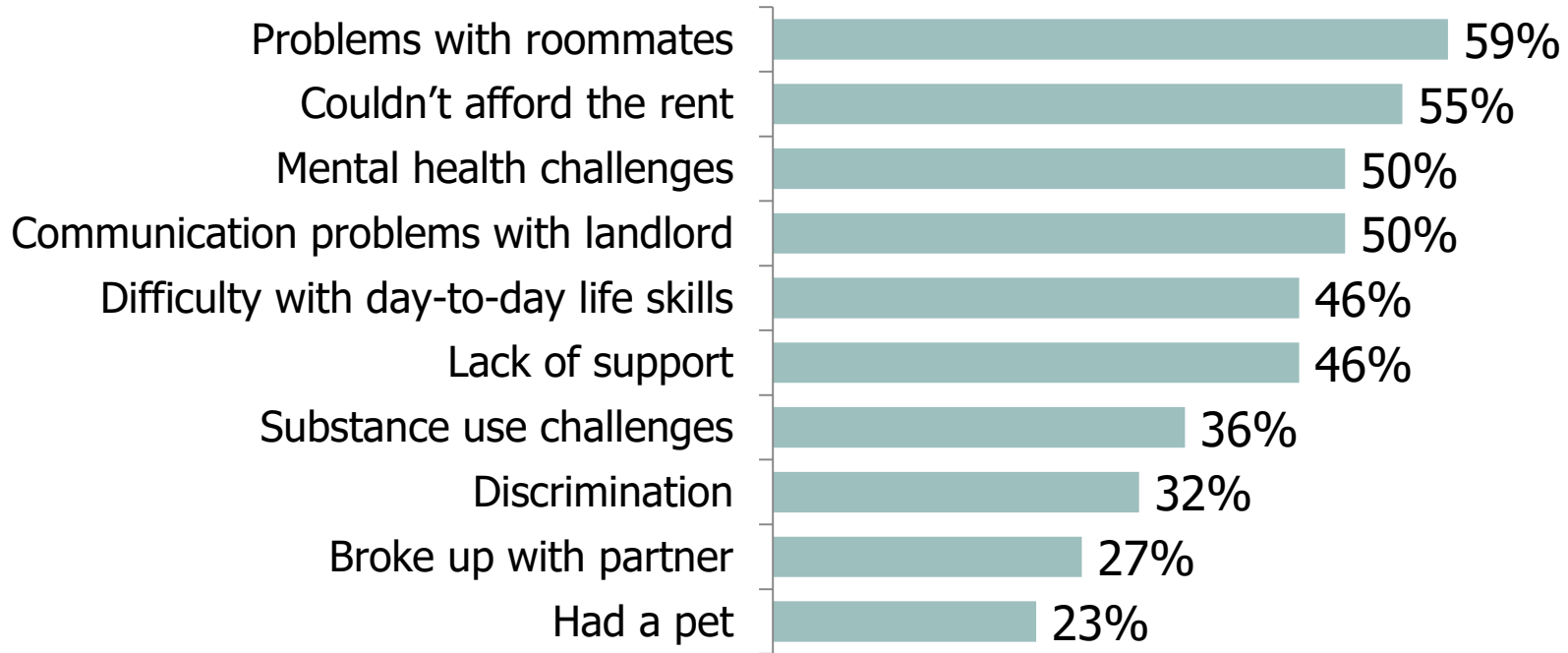
What participants have needed to help them find housing

Rent subsidy	75%
Access to a housing database (list of available housing)	67%
Support with getting references	67%
Good connections	67%
Supportive adult to accompany them to rental viewings	63%
Income (from a job, Income Assistance, etc.)	63%
Knowledge of tenancy rights and responsibilities	50%
Roommates to share costs	46%

Note. Respondents could mark all that applied.



Most commonly reported challenges to keeping housing



Note. Among those who had experienced challenges to keeping housing. Respondents could mark all that applied.



Supports that helped participants to keep their current housing

Rent subsidy	59%
Income (from a job, Income Assistance, etc.)	53%
Access to a safe and supportive worker	47%
Knowing their tenancy rights and responsibilities	41%

Note. Among those who indicated the question applied to them.
Respondents could mark all that applied.



Aunt Leah's adoption/adaptation of the HF model

Program has adopted many components of the HF model for adults and for youth (HF4Y; Gaetz, 2017) that have been deemed best practice

- Collaborations, wrap-around supports
- Supports beyond housing
- Trauma-informed
- Individualized, flexible approach
- Opportunities for social inclusion
- Supports with no time limits
- Developing partnerships with landlords



Aunt Leah's adoption/adaptation of the HF model

Lack of affordable housing in Greater Vancouver → barriers for:

- Immediate access to permanent housing
- Choice in type of housing

Supports for youth who are homeless AND 'aging out' youth at-risk of homelessness



Evaluation conclusion

Successful adaptation of the Housing First model to support youth from government care

Program has contributed to improvements in participants' lives (housing stability, life-skills, sense of connection, emotional well-being, education, employment)



Housing @ Aunt Leah's & Housing First

- **Friendly Landlord Network (FLN)**
- **Lale House** (Shared Accommodation)
- **Supportive Suites** ('aged out' into Housing First, from Support Link)
- **Thresholds** supportive communal housing for moms trying to maintain or regain custody of their children
- **Aunt Leah's Foundation:** 4 of 11 Units in mixed income apartment building



Housing

- **Education:** renting, rights & responsibilities, interview & application prep, preload the participant
- **Manage and Organize housing searches** (transport and support)
- **Non-Market Housing Options** (BC Housing, Community Living BC, Lu'ma Native Housing Society, Broadway Youth Resource Centre, Fraserside Community Services etc.)
- **Letters of Support:** supports for landlord too
- **Youth Homelessness Prevention** convening meeting
- **RentSmart Training & Guarantee Fund**
- **Shared Accommodation:** roommate mediation



Housing: Moving Expenses & Support

- **Moving** Arrangements and Expenses
 - Hiring movers or staff moving belongings
- **Storage** for belongings
 - e.g. Re-housing

Housing: Post Move Supports

- Housing **Set Ups**
- **Life Skills** one-to-one, workshops and training
 - e.g. Budgeting

Housing: Other

- **Landlord Engagement**

- help negotiate relationship between youth and landlord

- **Rent Subsidies:** BC Housing Homelessness Prevention Program

- **Emergency Housing Funds**

- **Aunt Leah's Urban Thrift & Warehouse** for furniture, clothes, etc.



urban
THRIFT

Case Management: Outreach, Community Integration and Cultural Opportunities

- Staff work to **strike a balance** between the traditional expectations of the social work relationship and the HP4Y principle of self-determination

- **Participant Centered**
 - home visits/check-ins, around what the participant wants to focus on and achieve
- **Community Integration**
 - connection to new locations, low-cost food sources, recreation opportunities, transit, etc.
- **Outreach Meetings**
 - in the community, goal-setting, eat together

Case Management: Outreach, Community Integration and Cultural Opportunities

- **ICMS with Ministry of Children & Family Development** *before they age out* to notify of available supports through the housing first program
- **Referral's** to other community organizations:
 - E.g. Quest low-cost food, etc.
- **Connection to cultural opportunities** (Canoe Journey, Sweats, etc.)

Case Management: Health, Food & Transportation

- **Nurse Practitioner:** on-site & low barrier mental/physical health and well-being, referrals, prescriptions
- **Mental Health Supports:** Dan's Legacy counselling & fitness
- **Addiction Supports:** relationships with community resources to access treatment or support quicker, simplify accessing and receiving services
- **Food Supports:** Access to twice weekly food donations, emergency food, 3 community meals per week (on site)
- **Transportation:** medical appointments, mental health, etc.

Case Management: Income, Education and Employment

- **Support and Advocacy for Income Assistance** and Disability Applications
- **Education Supports** (SEFFY program)
 - Post-Secondary, Trades Training, High School Completion, Tuition Waivers, Grants, etc.
- **Employment** (Bootstraps)
 - Training, Work BC, Other employment programs
- **Branches:** AYA Life Skills Program w/income supports of up to \$1250/month
 - **High Needs Fund:** covers cost of unexpected things like health, dental, etc.
- **Support to complete and file income taxes,** GST returns and Canada Child Benefit

Peer Mentorship (P2P)

- **Personal Experience:** Use this learning in P2P role
- **What Do Aunt Leah's Peer Mentors Do?**
- **Housing As a Right:**
 - What Parented Peers receive vs. CYIC
 - What it was like for me aging out w/o HF or supports?

Peer Mentorship (P2P)

- **Sister programs at Aunt Leah's using the P2P model:**



Celebrating 25 Years



PLATES OF POSSIBILITY



Branches

AYA Life Skills Program



AUNT LEAH'S *place*

Youth Advisory Committee



Bootstraps

Employing Youth from Care



Top Impact Charities

2018

CREATIVITY



Independence



LOVE

YOUTH

HEALTH



Resilience



Imagination

SUCCESS



SUPPORT

Inspiration













Now you can use any emoji as an icon!

And of course it resizes without losing quality and you can change the color. How? Follow Google instructions:

<https://twitter.com/googledocs/status/730087240156643328>

History of ALP in the Context of HF4Y

- As a rights-based, client-centred approach, Housing First for Youth (HF4Y) emphasizes youth choice in housing and supports.
- HF4Y programs continue to demonstrate fidelity to the model, values and core principles.
- Programs are also stretching themselves to work with distinct populations of young people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness and those examples are revealing how adaptable HF4Y can be.
- This session will focus on three programs that have taken HF4Y principles and applied them to serve youth leaving care, racialized youth and LGBTQ2S+ youth.