

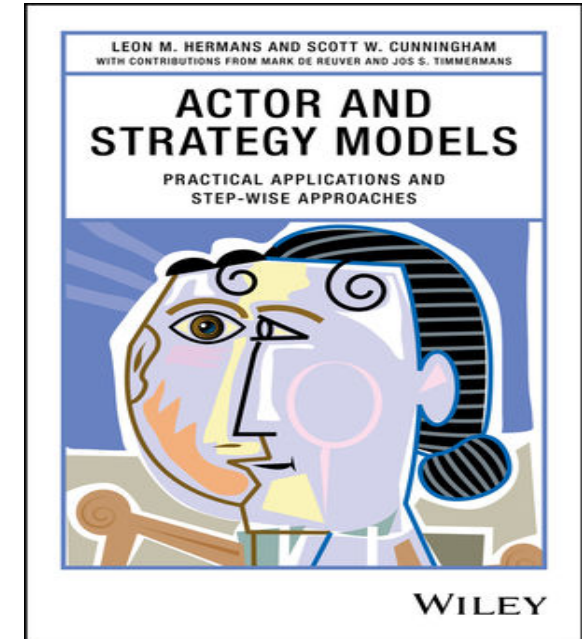
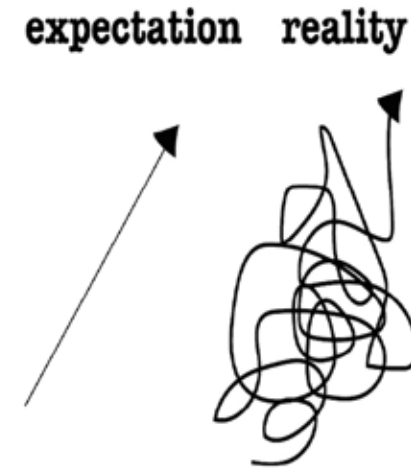


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Free 2 Be: Housing First for Youth Leaving Care

What Housing First for Youth (HF4Y) is Not!



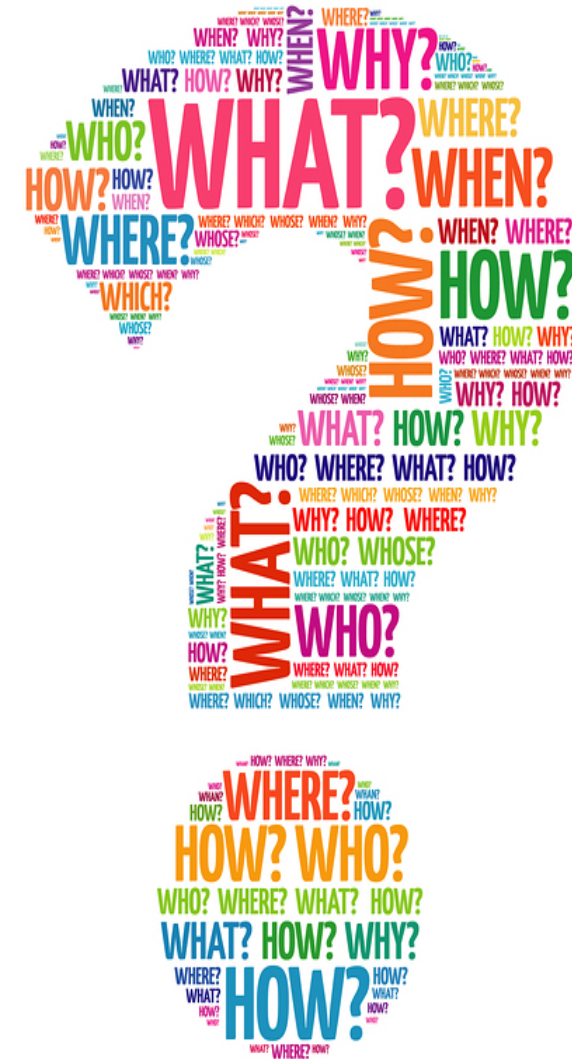
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If this is not HF4Y, then what is?

Some Guiding Questions...

- A) What is Housing First for Youth?
- B) How do we ensure that Housing First for Youth programs operate within the spirit and principles of the framework from which they are derived?
- B) To what extent are the old-guard ideologies or expectations of our sectors and the systems and material provisions at our disposal complicating our ability to demonstrate fidelity to Housing First for Youth in practice?

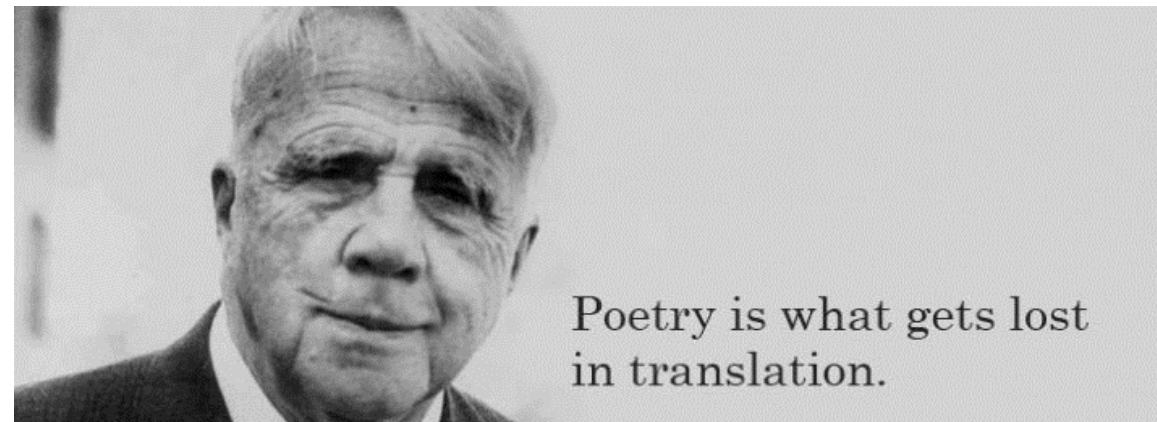
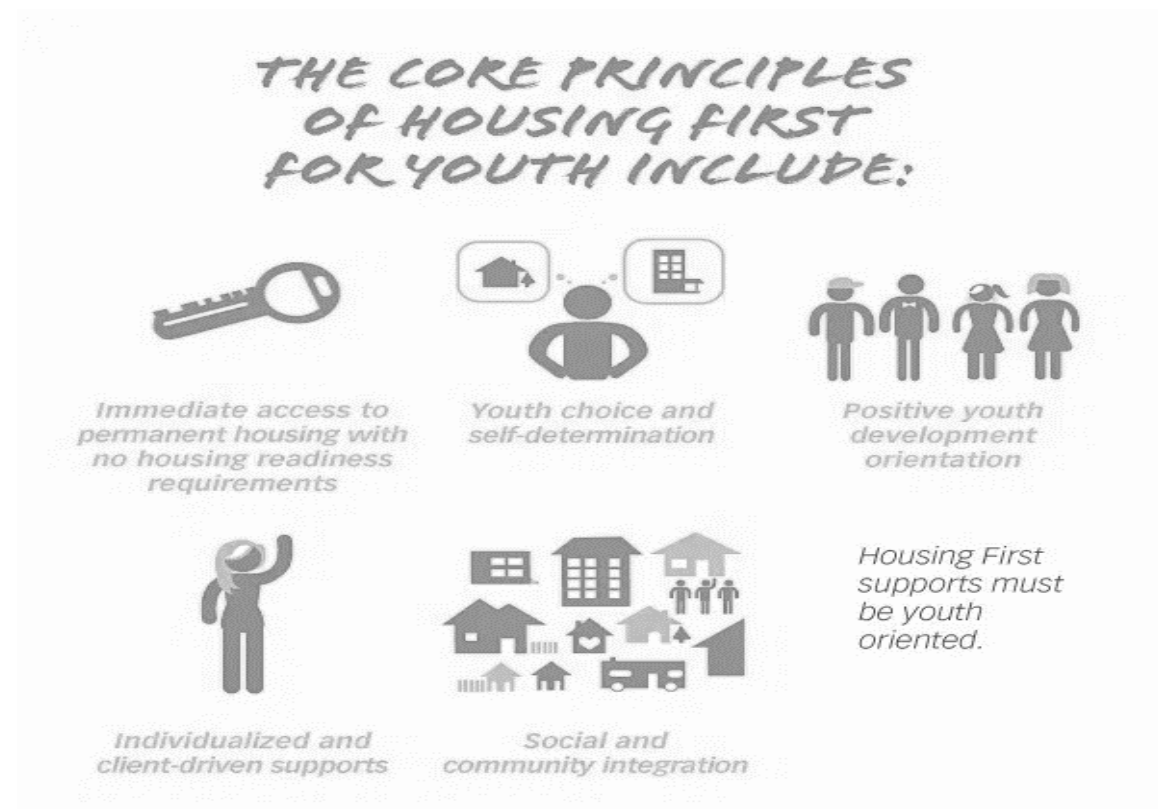


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The Core Pillars of Housing First for Youth:

1. The Right to Housing with no Preconditions
2. Youth Voice, Choice and Self-Determination
3. Positive Youth Development and Wellness Orientation
4. Individual Tailored Supports – No time Limits
5. Social Inclusion and Community Integration



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The Importance of HF4Y Language in Practice

HF4Y helps to consider the relationship between language and practice in ways that are grounded in the lived realities of young people and not the implicit expectations hidden within a sector-specific or academic lexicon.

When we fail to unpack our practices from the languages and systems that we are a part, we run the risk of treating youth coming through system in a transactional manner, failing to critically reflect on normative adolescent development, thrusting unreasonable and often untenable rules on youth that other young people of a similar demographic do not face, for instance, telling our young people that if they do not commit to a path such as employment or education as a transactional measure of programmatic accountability, at an age where traditionally, there would be more freedom to experiment, then programs may yank core funding, that can have catastrophic consequences in their lives.



Truth is Stranger than Fiction: Free 2 Be (Housing First for Youth Leaving Care)

700



Each year in Toronto—



Youth in-care often struggle to establish trusting and secure attachments. The loss of family, as well as friendships and community, is further compounded when placement relationships break down and youth are forced to move yet again.

57.8%



Homeless within six months of transitioning out of care (Kovarikova, 2016).

76%



Former youth-in-care were victims of a crime within 12 months after leaving care (stepstone youth).

44%



The average number of placement moves during their time in care was 2.4 to 9.5 times (Curry & Abrams, 2015).

46%



An American study on youth transitioning out of care showed that 42% of young men who had transitioned out of care had been arrested and 23% had been convicted of a crime (Courtney *et al.*, 2009).

52%



Less than 5% of youth in care are likely to gain work experience during their high school years, resulting in many young people leaving care with no prior work experience (Goodman, 2017).



In an American study of youth transitioning out of care, the rate of PTSD was as much as twice as prevalent for youth transitioning out of care compared to war veterans (Kovarikova, 2016).



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Free 2 Be as Housing First for Youth: Messy Means Fidelity

Dreaming/Vision/Imagination (Believe in a world that does not yet exist)

Testing/Experimentation/Learning reflexivity (Trying/failing without consequence)

Actioning/Personal reflection/Developing self-efficacy (Learning through trial/error)

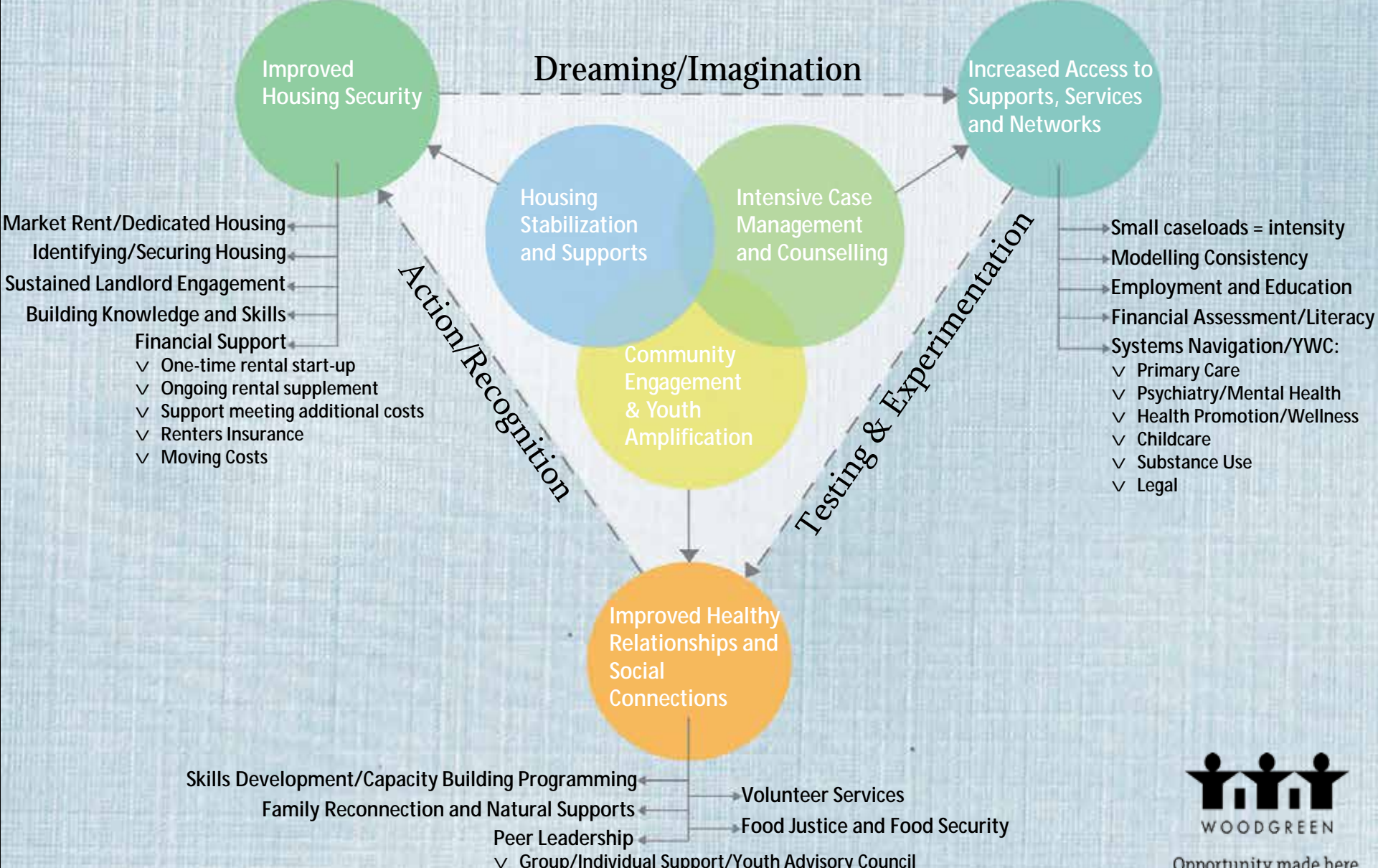
Recognition/Creating Occasion/Building positive self-concept (Identity through achievement)



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Free 2 Be (Housing First for Youth Leaving Care) A Conceptual Model



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Housing First for Youth vs. Traditional Models

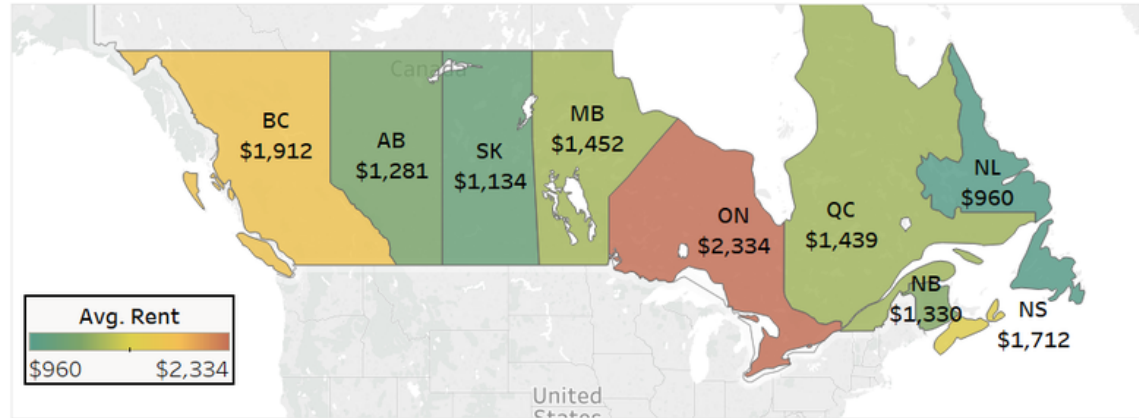


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Housing Crisis & Fidelity

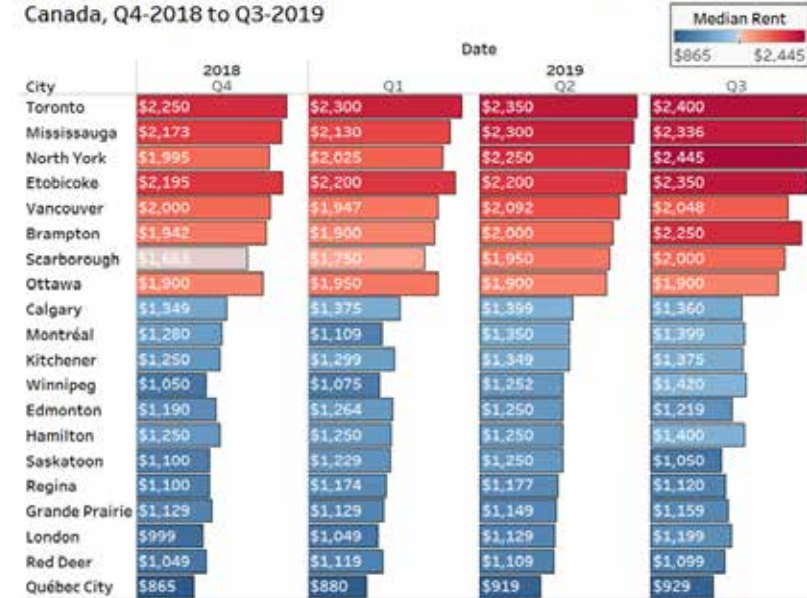
Average Monthly Asking Rents for All Property Types by Province, Canada, September 2019



Avg Rents by Bedroom Type, September 2019

Bedroom Type	AB	BC	MB	NB	NL	NS	ON	QC	SK	Avg
0 Bedroom	\$931	\$1,433	\$873		\$787		\$1,632	\$924	\$845	\$1,269
1 Bedroom	\$1,103	\$1,620	\$1,171	\$715	\$872	\$1,224	\$2,050	\$1,135	\$994	\$1,732
2 Bedroom	\$1,312	\$2,015	\$1,789	\$913	\$1,033	\$1,690	\$2,476	\$1,488	\$1,204	\$2,032
3 Bedroom	\$1,586	\$2,415	\$1,541	\$2,318	\$971	\$1,889	\$2,681	\$1,780	\$1,472	\$2,283
4 Bedroom	\$2,149	\$3,143	\$1,875			\$2,700	\$2,935	\$2,556	\$1,892	\$2,819
6 Bedroom	\$2,483						\$3,633	\$1,950	\$2,200	\$2,812
Avg	\$1,281	\$1,912	\$1,452	\$1,330	\$960	\$1,712	\$2,334	\$1,439	\$1,134	\$1,954

Median Rent For All Property Types by Quarter, Select Municipalities in Canada, Q4-2018 to Q3-2019



Toronto:
2nd largest housing bubble in the
world

Source:

- <https://rentals.ca/national-rent-report>
- <https://business.financialpost.com/real-estate/toronto-is-now-the-worlds-second-most-overvalued-property-market>



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How much it costs to live as a young person in Toronto in 2019

[Based on the current tax rate in Canada and Ontario](#), you'll need to be making at least \$51,270 before tax (\$40,097.28 after tax) to make ends meet in Toronto. If that's what you earn, you'll literally be living pay cheque to pay cheque because you'll have no money left over every month. Fun times.

To make things even more challenging, [experts recommend saving 20% of your net pay](#). So, using the above-example, **if you want to save 20% of your take-home income and still make enough to meet your monthly expenses, you'll actually need to net \$48,116.74 a year. That means you need to earn \$64,895 annually before tax.**

Free 2 Be's Response - Housing

Housing start up and rental subsidy

Landlord engagement

Community of realtors

Exploring

- headleasing
- congregate living with supportive roommate
- seeking community partners for dedicated beds

Creation of a foresight analysis or "playbook" that can be used across the country to inform the design of transitional housing built specifically for youth from care



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The CHALLENGES equation

Resourcing shortage + Time shortage (engagement + youth leadership) + Ambiguity = defensive stance



AKA status quo



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BIGGEST Challenge/Question: how to create conditions to cultivate a culture of collaboration?

Trust



Transparency &
Communication

Shared decision-
making



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To Close: what collaboration really means today

“This morning I have been pondering a nearly forgotten lesson I learned in high school music. Sometimes in band or choir, music requires players or singers to hold a note longer than they actually can hold a note. In those cases, we were taught to mindfully stagger when we took a breath so the sound appeared uninterrupted. Everyone got to breathe, and the music stayed strong and vibrant. So let’s remember the advice of music: Take a breath. The rest of the chorus will sing. The rest of the band will play. Rejoin so others can breathe. Together, we can sustain a very long, beautiful song for a very, very long time. You don’t have to do it all, but you must add your voice to the song.” — *Michael Moore*

