

A ROADMAP

For the Prevention of Youth Homelessness in Canada

Stephen Gaetz

Canadian Observatory on Homelessness

Melanie Redman

A Way Home Canada

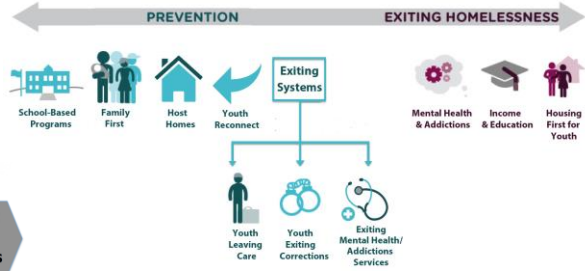
Kaitlin Schwan

Canadian Observatory on Homelessness



Part 1

The CONTEXT



Youth homelessness
Prevention Framework

PREVENTION!



Boys and
Girls Clubs of
Calgary



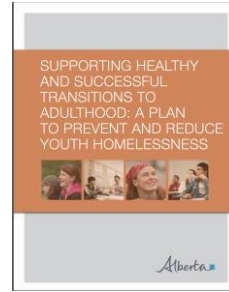
Coming of
Age report



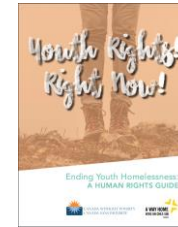
National Learning Community
on Youth Homelessness



Alberta
strategy



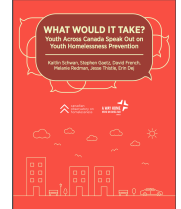
Without a
Home



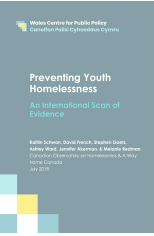
Youth Rights
Right Now!



Prevention
Framework



What would
it take?



Wales report



MAKING
THE SHIFT

A WAY HOME
VERS UN CHEZ-SOI
CANADA



ROAD
to
PREVENTION

2009

2011

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

Reaching Home

Canada's Homelessness Strategy



Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
Adam Vaughan, Parliamentary Secretary – Housing and Urban Affairs

Announcement of **REACHING HOME** – Canada's new homelessness strategy
June 11, 2018

Canada

Part 2

The Groundwork

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE?

Youth Across Canada Speak Out on
Youth Homelessness Prevention

Kaitlin Schwan, Stephen Gaetz, David French,
Melanie Redman, Jesse Thistle, Erin Dej



WHAT WOULD IT TAKE?

*Youth Across Canada Speak Out on
Youth Homelessness Prevention*

114

*Youth
Participants*

17 *focus groups*

12 *communities*

7 *provinces & territories*

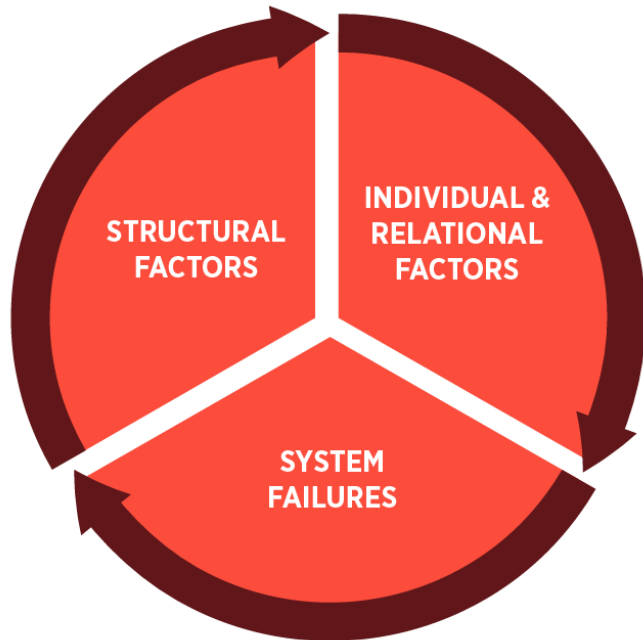
Focus Group Questions

- What would have prevented you from experiencing homelessness?
- What kinds of programs or services would help prevent homelessness for young people who are at risk?
- Who should be involved in preventing homelessness for young people?
- What do you want to tell the Canadian government about preventing youth homelessness?



KEY FINDINGS

Youth's Perspectives on Prevention



- + We are waiting too long to intervene
- + Causes and consequences of youth homelessness are mutually reinforcing, trapping youth
- + Inequity, discrimination, and colonialism
- + Staff behaviours and attitudes
- + Systems failures are key drivers of homelessness for youth, and where prevention could be most effective

We're waiting too long

“To access BC housing or any youth rent subsidies, you have to be homeless for a minimum of six months before they’ll even look at you. Six months is a long time. And there’s no need for any youth to go through that just to get a house. Cause some of them can make it through that time period, but some can’t.”

VANCOUVER YOUTH

Structures & systems trapping youth



“If you don’t have ID, you can’t sometimes get work, and you can’t make money to buy an ID, to get work, and to get a home.”

EDMONTON YOUTH

Inequity, discrimination, & colonialism



“Colonization, like if that didn’t happen I feel like I would be so good.”

VANCOUVER YOUTH

Staff behaviours & attitudes

“Everybody thought I was lying. I was in an abusive home and everyone thought I was fine every day. My life was terrible for all these years ... And the Ministry should take care of all these kids because my life was ruined. The Ministry wouldn’t help.”

VANCOUVER YOUTH



Systems failures as key drivers of homelessness

“They build these incentive programs for you where they will give you ... MONEY if you complete these goals. But unless you’re homeless, you can’t use it. Well, I’m like, I can barely feed my fucking kid right now, because I have no money, but I have a roof over his head. So, my goal for me is to feed my kid. Is that enough? Am I homeless? No. I’ll go find another program I can’t get into because I’m too well off. I might be well off, but I’m not doing good.”

CALGARY YOUTH

International Scan of Evidence



Wales Centre for Public Policy
Canolfan Polisi Cyhoeddus Cymru

Preventing Youth Homelessness

An International Scan of Evidence

Kaitlin Schwan, David French, Stephen Gaetz,
Ashley Ward, Jennifer Akerman, & Melanie Redman
Canadian Observatory on Homelessness & A Way
Home Canada
July 2018

Part 3

The ***CHANGE***
we need!

Responding to youth homelessness in Canada



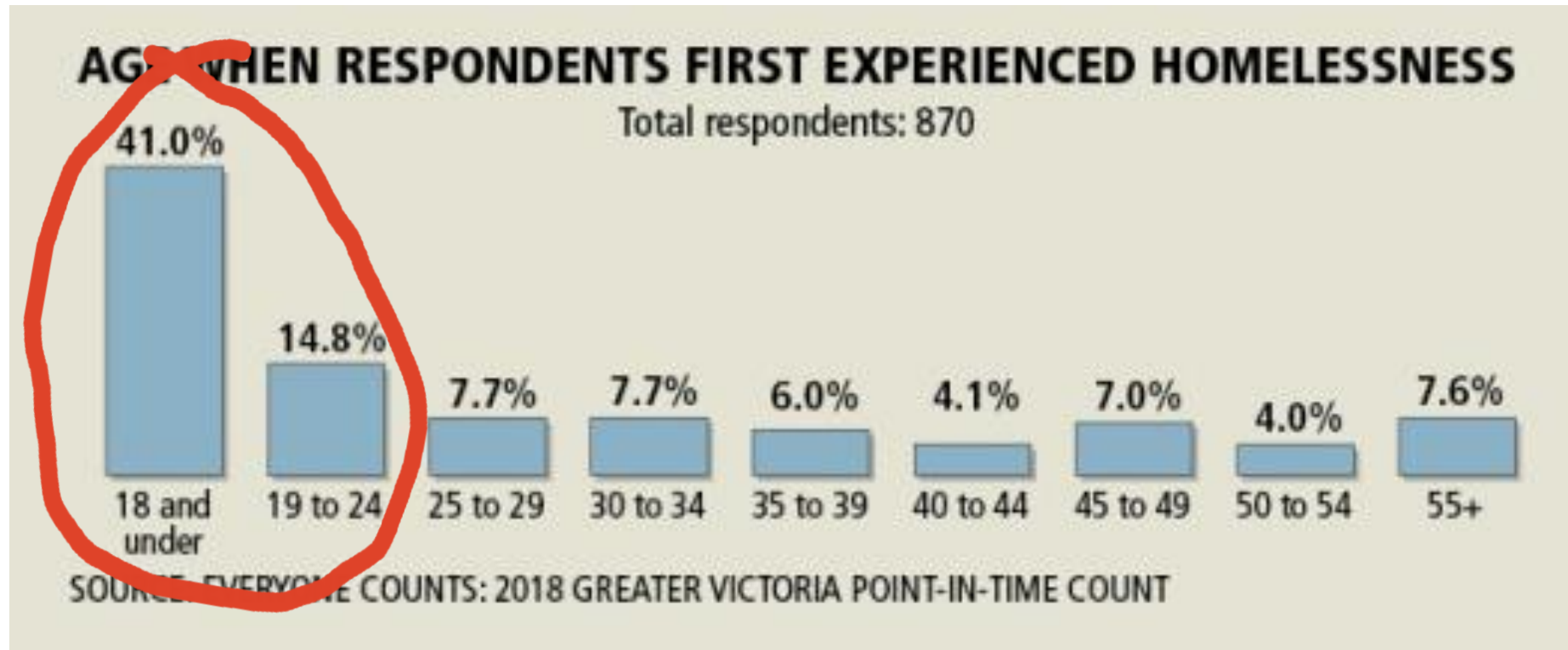
Where we want to get to ...



Victoria

TIMES COLONIST

July 24, 2018



Part 4

The *PREVENTION* of Youth Homelessness

Defining Youth Homelessness Prevention

Youth homelessness prevention refers to policies, practices, and interventions that either (1) reduce the likelihood that a young person will experience homelessness, or (2) provide youth experiencing homelessness with the necessary supports to stabilize their housing, improve their wellbeing, reintegrate into community, and avoid re-entry into homelessness. Youth homelessness prevention thus necessitates the immediate provision of housing and supports for youth experiencing homelessness, or the immediate protection of housing, with supports, for youth at risk of homelessness. Youth homelessness prevention must be applied using a rights-based approach and address the unique needs of developing adolescents and young adults.

What it is *NOT*!

Prevention as a Fusion Policy issue

If higher levels of government provide a legislative and policy framework, as well as funding to support homelessness prevention, the homelessness sector and other community-based services will still have a key role in supporting marginalized and socially excluded populations.



Typology of Youth Homelessness Prevention

1. STRUCTURAL PREVENTION

2. SYSTEMS PREVENTION

3. EARLY INTERVENTION

4. EVICTION PREVENTION

5. HOUSING STABILITY

Duty
to Assist

ENDING
YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS

PRIMARY

SECONDARY

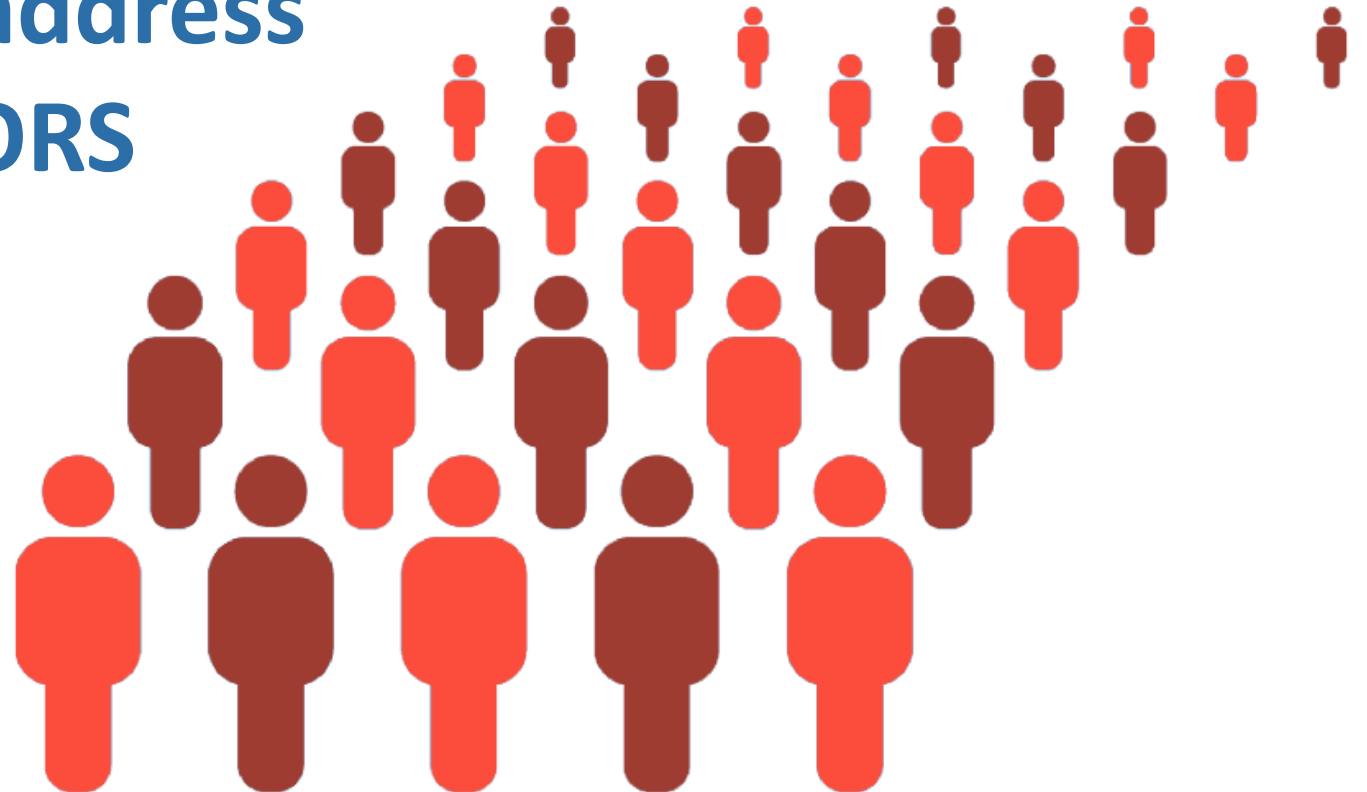
TERTIARY

Structural Prevention:

*Working Upstream to
Address Underlying Causes
of Youth Homelessness*




**Work upstream to address
STRUCTURAL FACTORS**





Structural Prevention

1. Poverty Reduction
2. Increasing the Availability of Affordable Housing
3. Addressing Inequity and Discrimination
4. Structural Prevention of Homelessness for Indigenous Youth
5. Breaking the Link between Youth Homelessness, Migration, and Displacement
6. Preventing and Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences
7. Promoting Social Inclusion for All Youth
8. Youth Homelessness Prevention Legislation & Policy

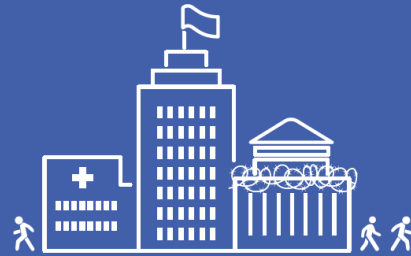


Structural prevention is not the sole responsibility of the homelessness sector, and government investments in community-based homelessness initiatives should not be used to address structural issues that create risk of homelessness. Rather, structural prevention requires public sector innovation and transformation, bold political leadership, and substantial investments in Canada's social safety net.

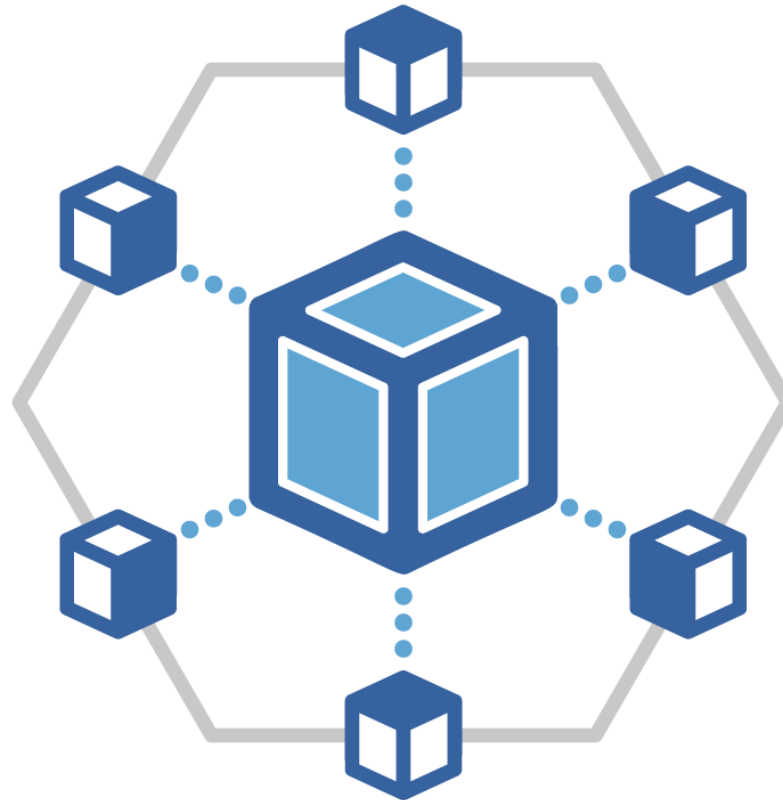
Systems Prevention:



*How Public Systems Can
be Reformed to Prevent
Youth Homelessness*



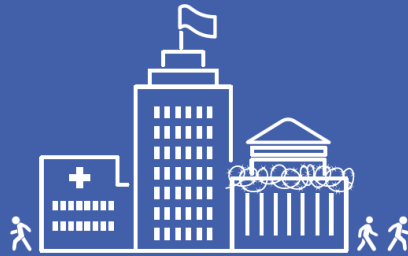
How Public Systems Can be Reformed to Prevent Youth Homelessness



Systems Prevention:



*How Public Systems Can
be Reformed to Prevent
Youth Homelessness*

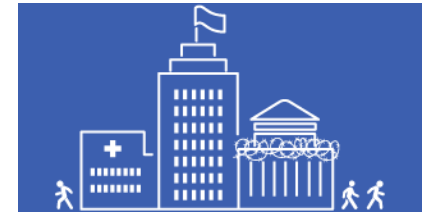


How Public Systems Can be Reformed to Prevent Youth Homelessness

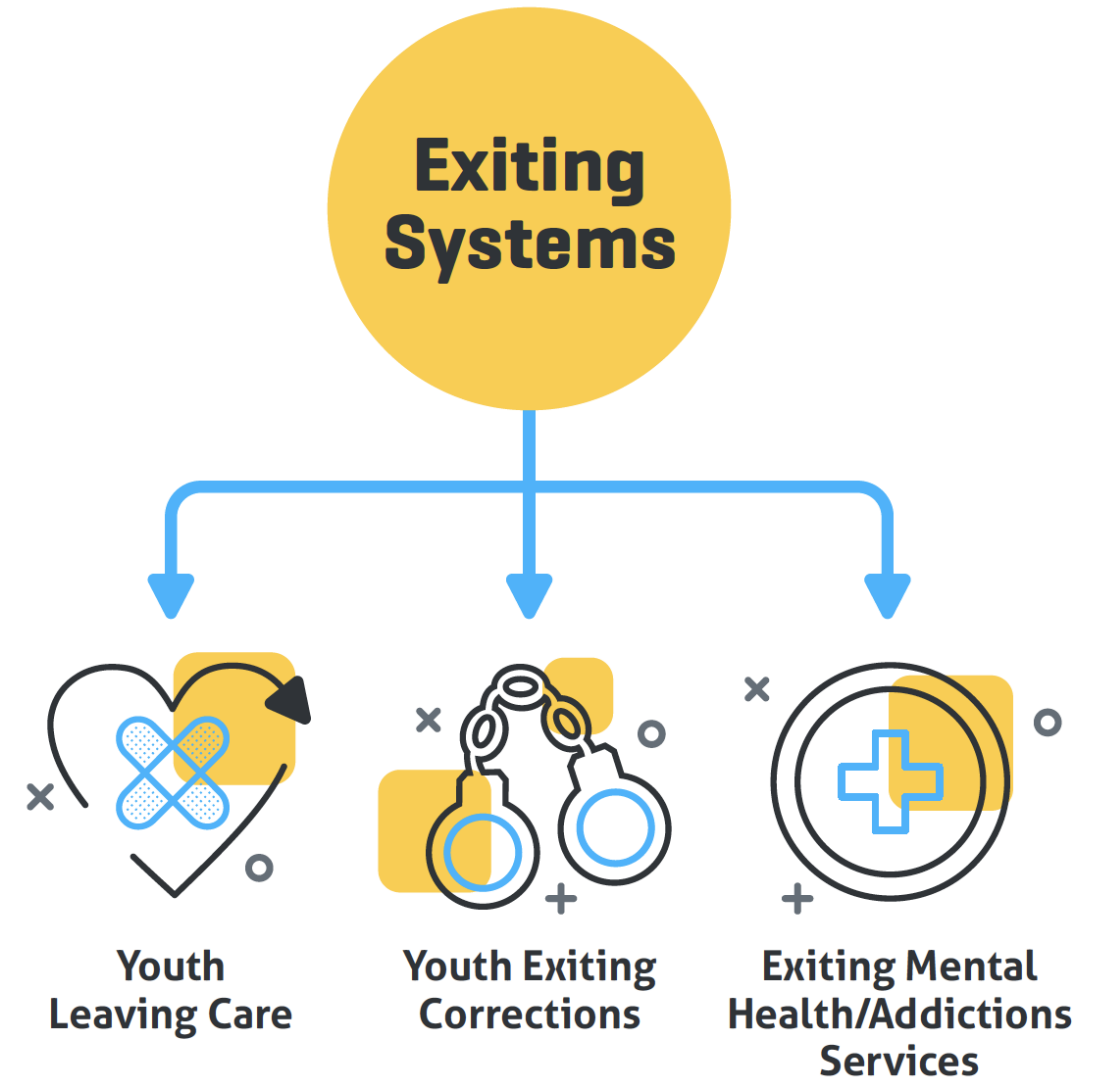
Systems prevention of youth homelessness involves identifying and addressing policies, programs, and practices within public systems that create barriers to young people's access to supports, and which expose young people to the risk of homelessness.

1. Reintegration Supports for Youth: Facilitating Effective Transitions from Public Institutions and Systems
2. Enhancing Youths' Ability to Equitably Access and Benefit from Public Systems, Supports, and Entitlements
3. Improving Youths' Experiences & Outcomes in Public Systems

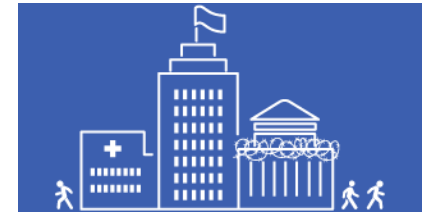
a. SYSTEMS PREVENTION



**Reintegration Supports for Youth:
Facilitating Effective Transitions from
Public Institutions and Systems**



b. SYSTEMS PREVENTION



Enhancing Youths' Ability to Equitably Access and Benefit from Public Systems, Supports, and Entitlements



c. SYSTEMS PREVENTION



Improving Youths' Experiences & Outcomes in Public Systems

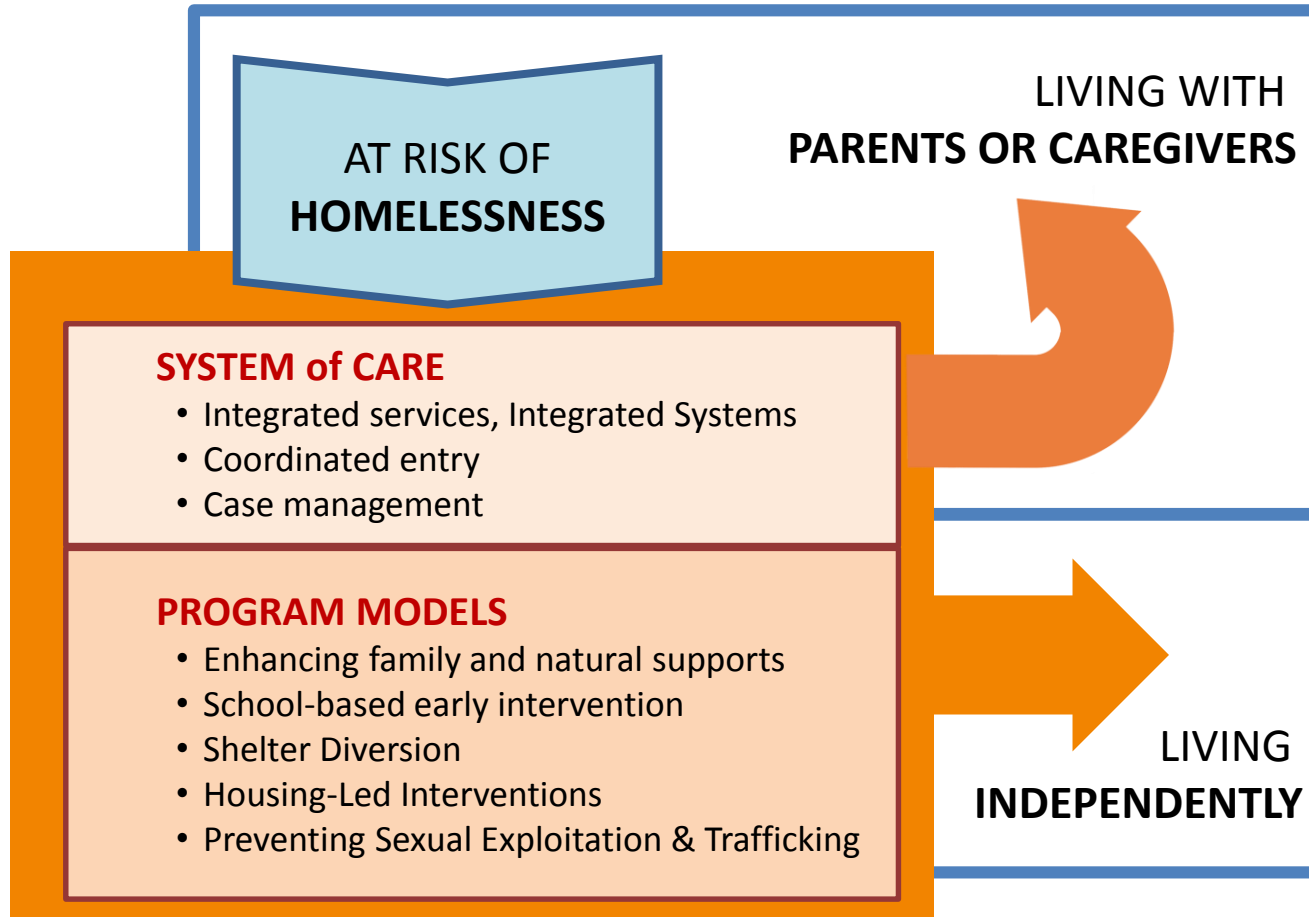


- Tackling discrimination and inequity in public systems;
- Embedding youth choice, youth voice, and self-determination in public systems;
- Effectively preventing and responding to abuse and neglect in public systems, and;
- Addressing silos and gaps within and between government-funded departments and systems, and also within non-profit sectors.

Early Intervention:



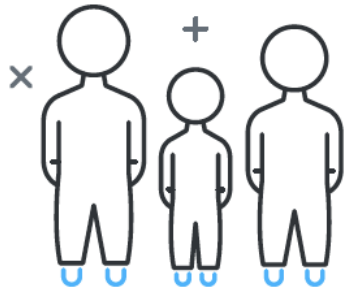
*Targeted Supports for
Young People At Risk
of Homelessness*



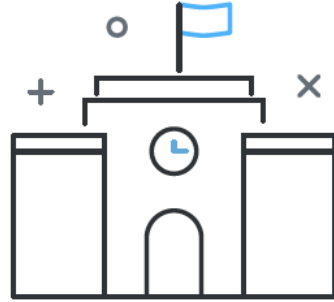


Key early intervention program areas described in the Roadmap include:

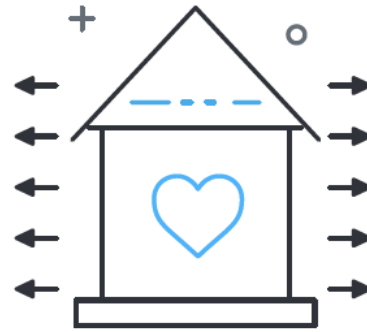
Enhancing **Family**
and **Natural Supports**



School-based
Early Intervention



Shelter Diversion



Housing-led Supports



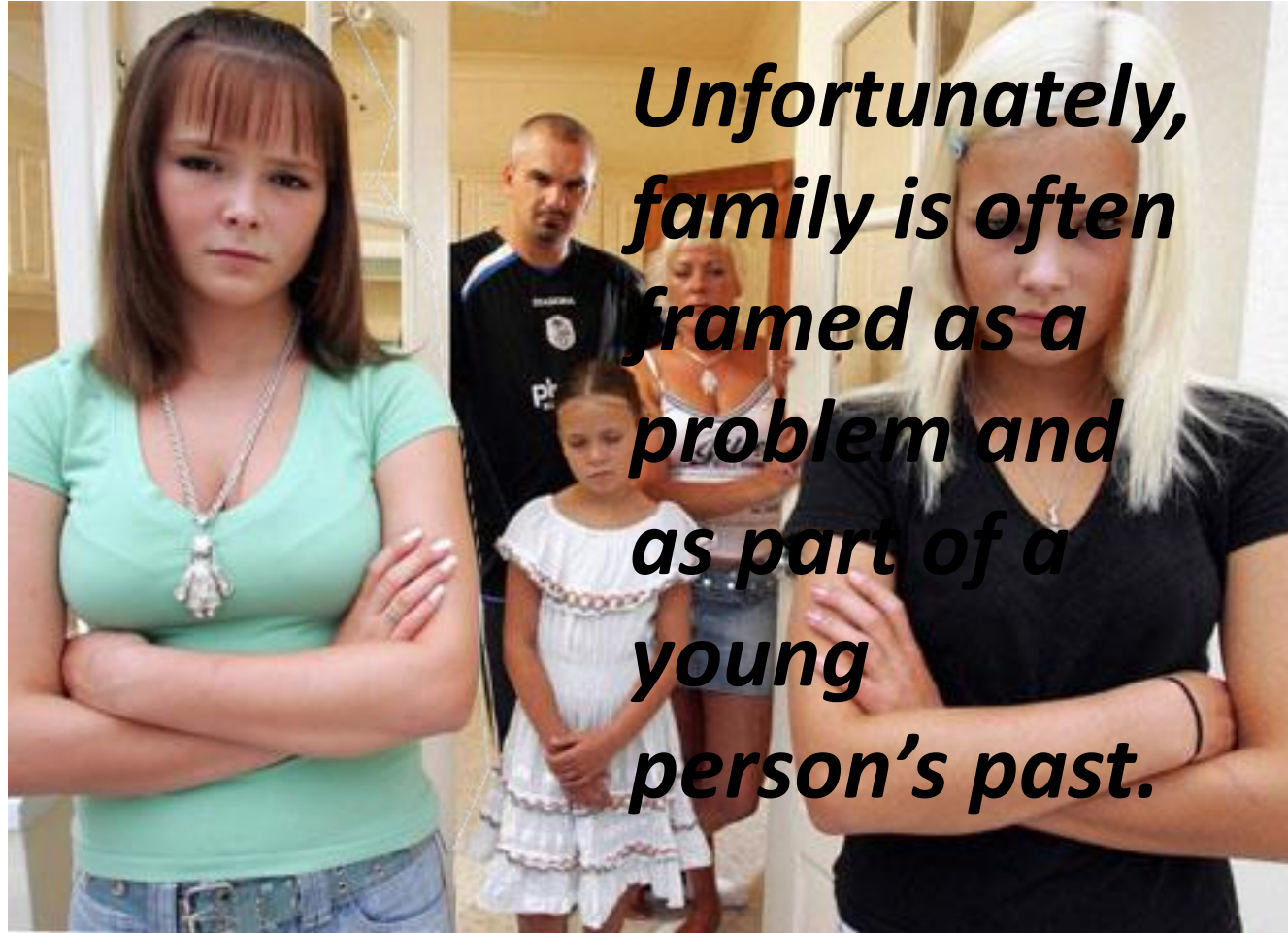
Sex Trafficking



1

Enhancing Family and Natural Supports





What's Involved?



Early intervention

- Case management
- Individual counselling
- Family counselling and mediation

Casework and Counseling

- Case management
- Individual counselling
- Family counselling and mediation

Assessment

- Mental Health
- Learning Disability

Group work

2

SCHOOL-BASED Early Intervention



Why do **SCHOOLS** matter?





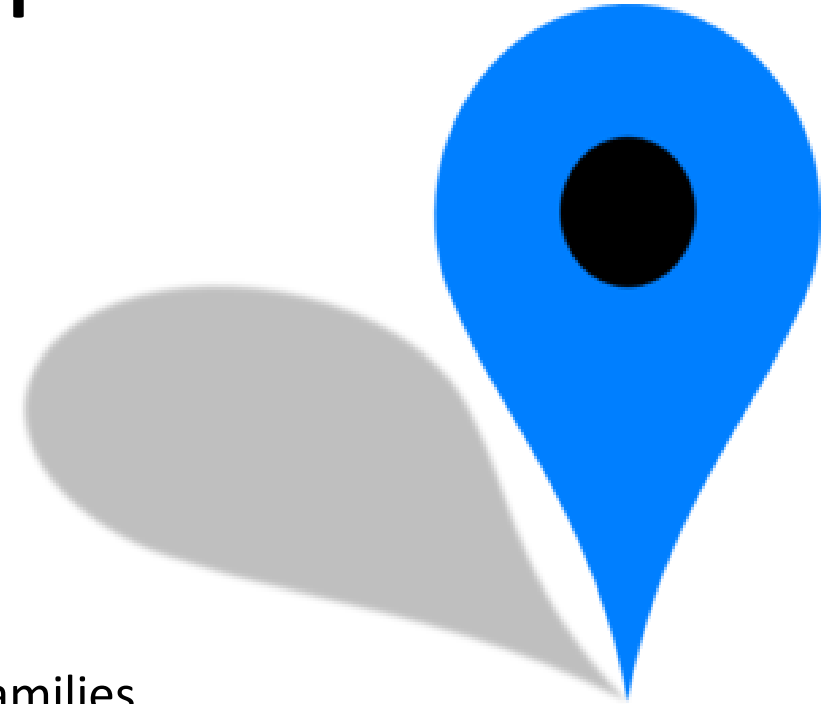
Youth Reconnect - Keeping young people in place

Reconnect is an Early Intervention Program

- School / Community partnerships
- Students, teachers and families engaged
- At risk youth identified

Program goals

- Keeping young people 'in place'
- Stabilizing living situation
- Supporting young people AND their families
- School engagement

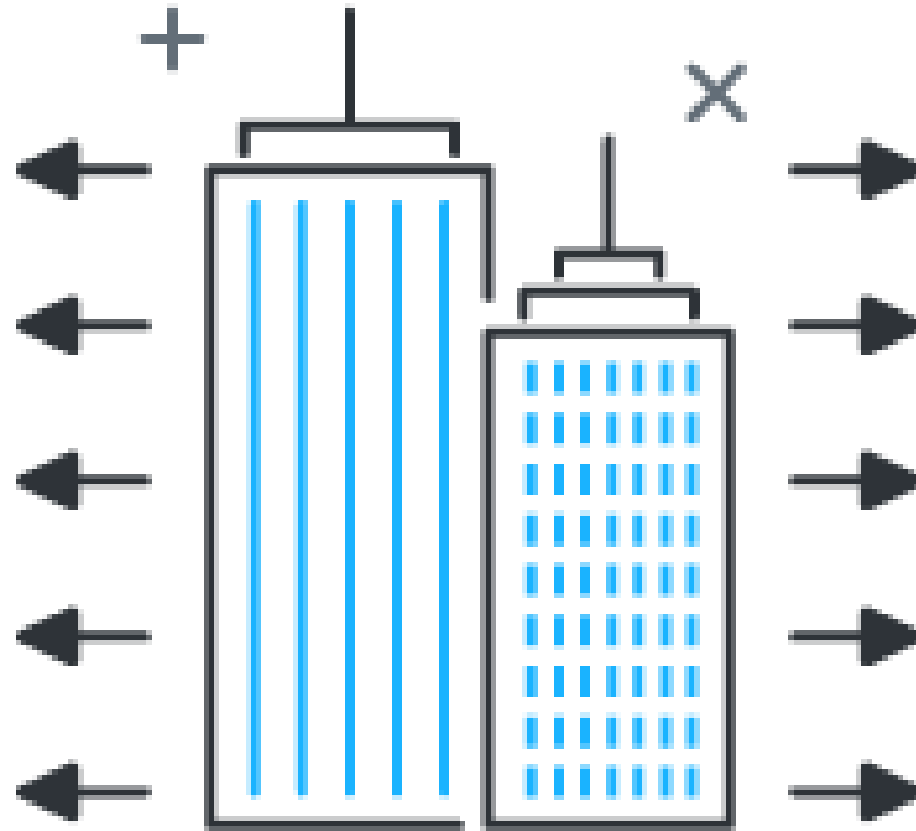


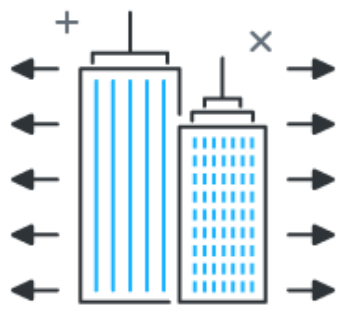


THE UPSTREAM PROJECT

3

Shelter Diversion





Shelter Diversion

Shelter diversion refers to efforts that support young people and their families in order to reduce the likelihood that youth will need to stay in emergency shelters. This means redefining the very role of such shelters.

- Ensure that all people who come into contact with the homelessness sector are assessed and provided with supports to either return home or move into housing with appropriate supports as quickly as possible;
- Adopt a client-centered case management approach for individuals and families that enter the system, and ensure they are tracked as they navigate their way out of the system;
- Fund and reward service providers for focusing on prevention and rapid rehousing as a service priority, and make the goal of emergency services a shorter experience of homelessness, and;
- Ensure systems of care are in place so shelter providers are able to implement successful diversion programs.

4 Housing-Led supports



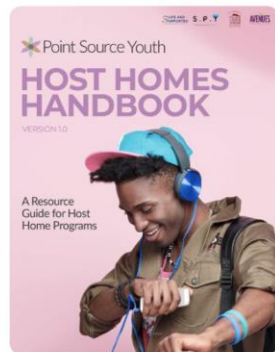


Housing-Led supports



Host Homes

Point Source Youth recently released its [Host Homes Handbook](#), an excellent and extensive resource that includes information on how to set a program up, the host and youth application process, training, and a budget template.



RAPID RE-HOUSING

RRRH

5

Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking



IV Evictions Prevention



"I know years ago when I was looking for, like, market housing... As soon as I said I had income assistance they were like, 'No.' There's such a stigma around it."

Vancouver Youth



Youth-specific approaches to eviction prevention are needed, *in addition* to broader interventions that aim to prevent eviction and foreclosure for families with children and youth (including youth-led families).

IV Evictions Prevention



There are five forms of eviction prevention that should be part of any youth homelessness prevention strategy:

- 1) Strengthening Laws and Legislation Protecting Tenants
- 2) Provision of Information and Advice for Youth and Their Families
- 3) Provision of Financial Supports for Tenants
- 4) Access to Legal Supports, Advice, and Representation
- 5) Targeted and Timely Crisis Intervention

IV

Housing Stabilization

*for Youth Who Have
Exited Homelessness*





“We suggest considering modifications of "Housing First" to maintain fidelity to core principles while better meeting the needs of youth”.

Kozloff et al., (2016) **At Home / Chez Soi**

Development of the **HF4Y** framework and program model guide



The core principles of HF4Y include:

1. A right to housing with no preconditions
2. Youth choice, youth voice and self-determination
3. Positive youth development and wellness orientation
4. Individualized, client-driven supports with no time limits
5. Social inclusion and community integration

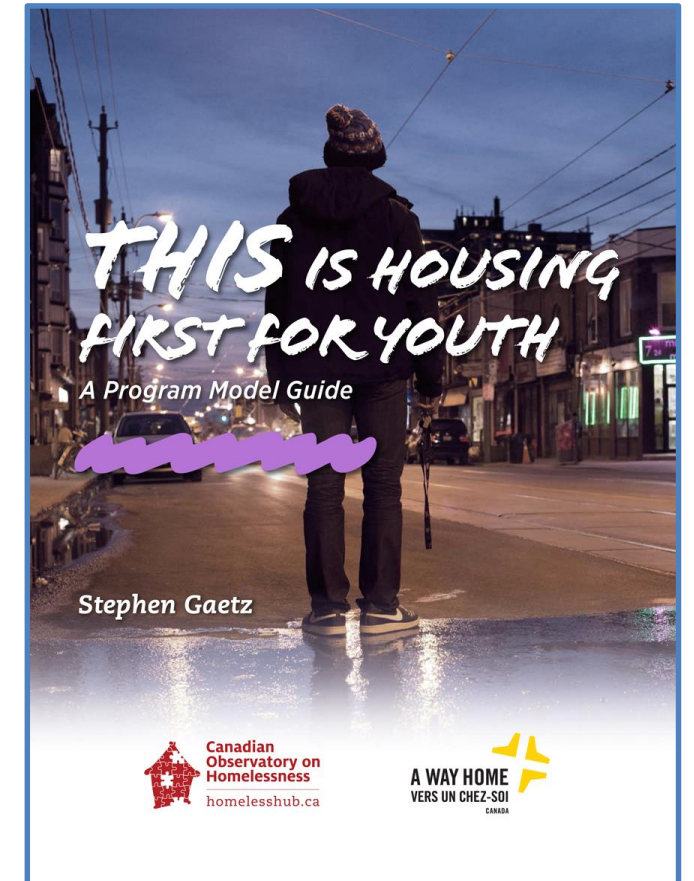


Figure 2: Models of accommodation within a HF4Y framework





AREAS OF SUPPORTS TO ENHANCE HOUSING STABILIZATION (HOUSING FIRST FOR YOUTH)



1. HOUSING SUPPORTS



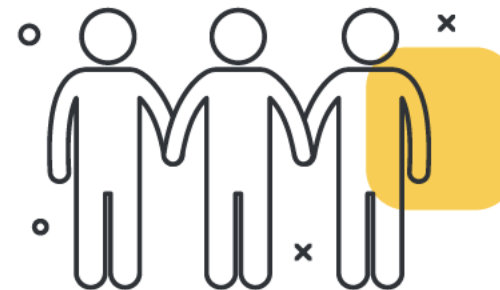
2. HEALTH & WELL-BEING



3. ACCESS TO INCOME & EDUCATION



4. COMPLEMENTARY SUPPORTS



5. SOCIAL INCLUSION

5

Duty to Assist

Legislation, Policy and Practice





A Duty to Assist

A “Duty to Assist” means that communities are provided with necessary resources and supports by higher levels of government to enable them to fulfill the requirement of providing information, advice and assistance to young people under the age of 25 who are at risk of, or are experiencing homelessness.



A Duty to Assist

**A Statutory Responsibility
to Prevent Youth Homelessness**





A Duty to Assist

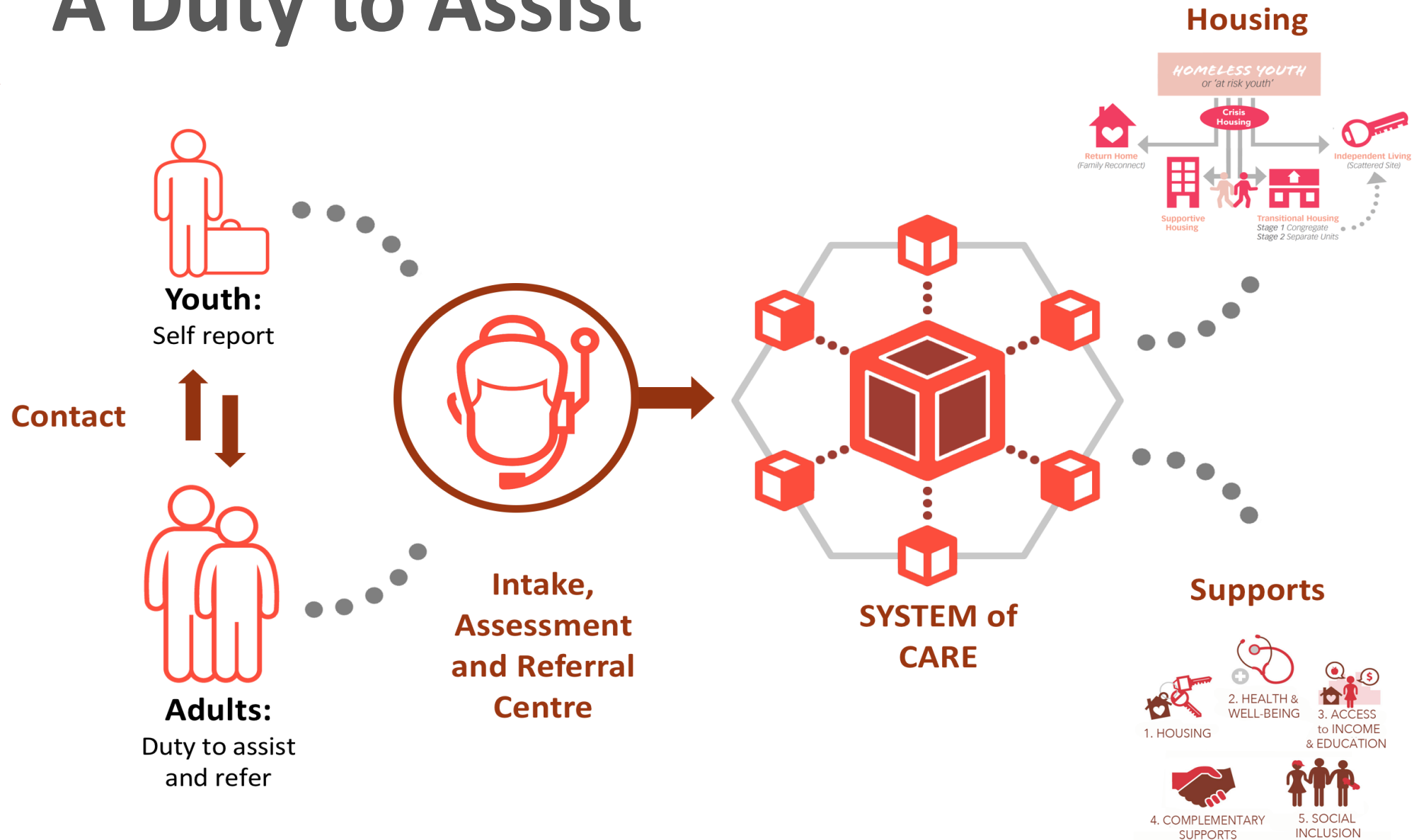
A **Statutory Responsibility** to Prevent Youth Homelessness

- Legislated requirement, State responsibility
- Retool the sector
- Fund prevention programs
- Promise of assistance to youth (13-25) within 30 days
- Place-based youth-centred





A Duty to Assist



Part 6

How do we get there?

5

key

THINGS

to

consider

1

Engage all orders of government

Federal ⇌



Indigenous ⇌



Provincial /
Territorial ⇌



Municipal ⇌

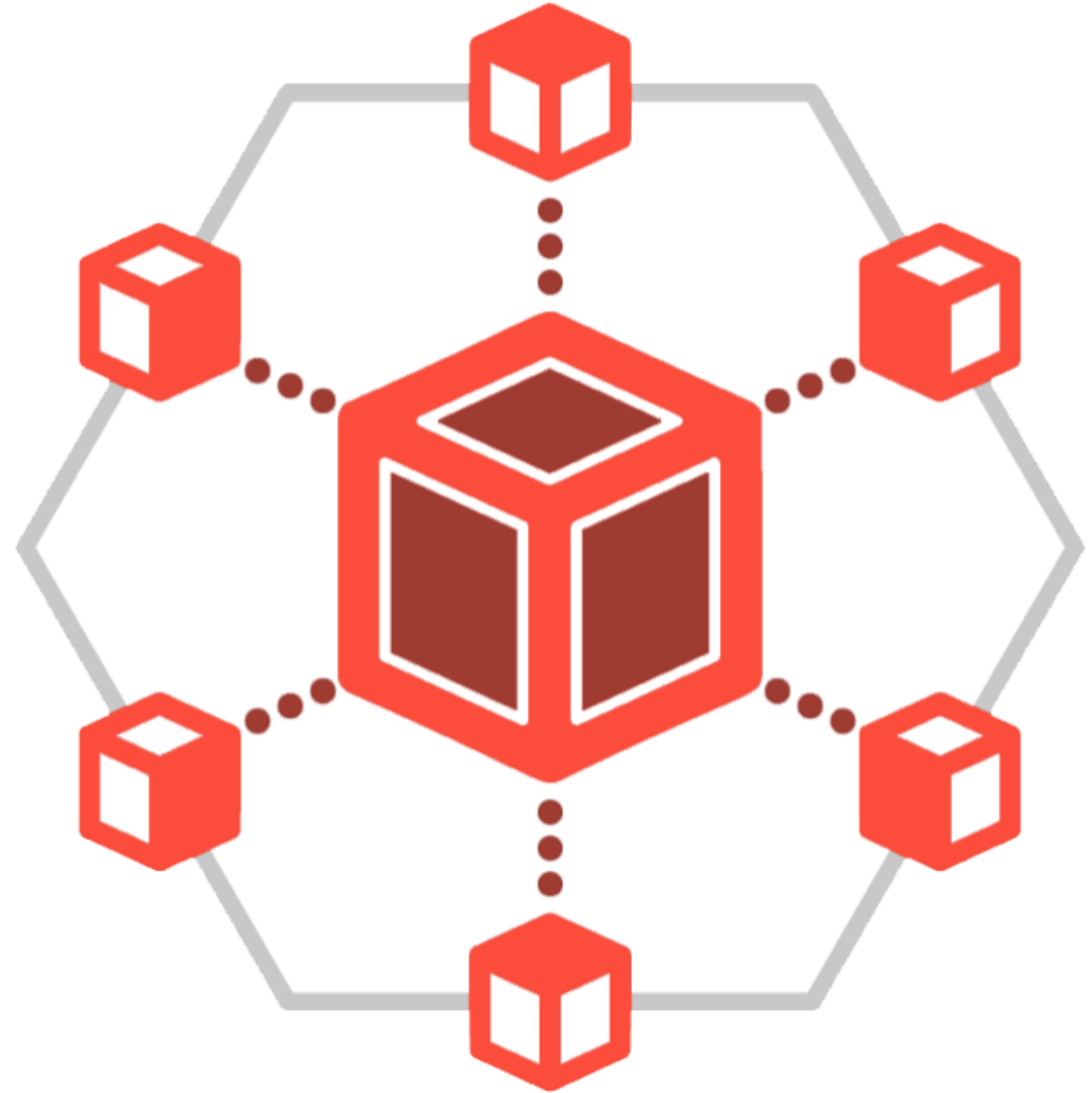


2

Systems Integration

EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM OF CARE

- Integrated Services, Integrated Systems
- Coordinated Entry
- Case Management



Success relies on Systems Integration

Mainstream

Services

- Health
- Education
- Corrections
- Child protection

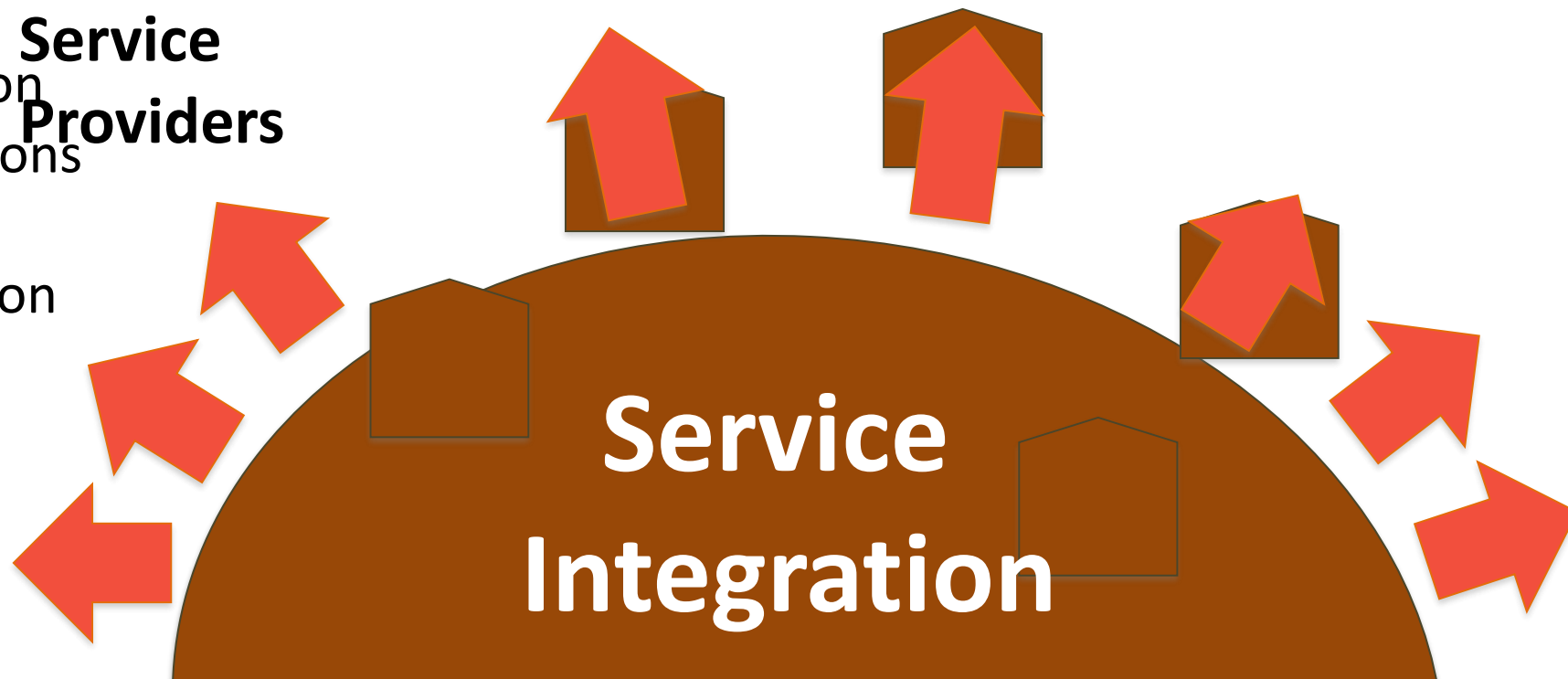
Homelessness

Service Providers

Government and Funders

Unusual Suspects

- Landlords
- Police
- Private Sector
- Lawyers

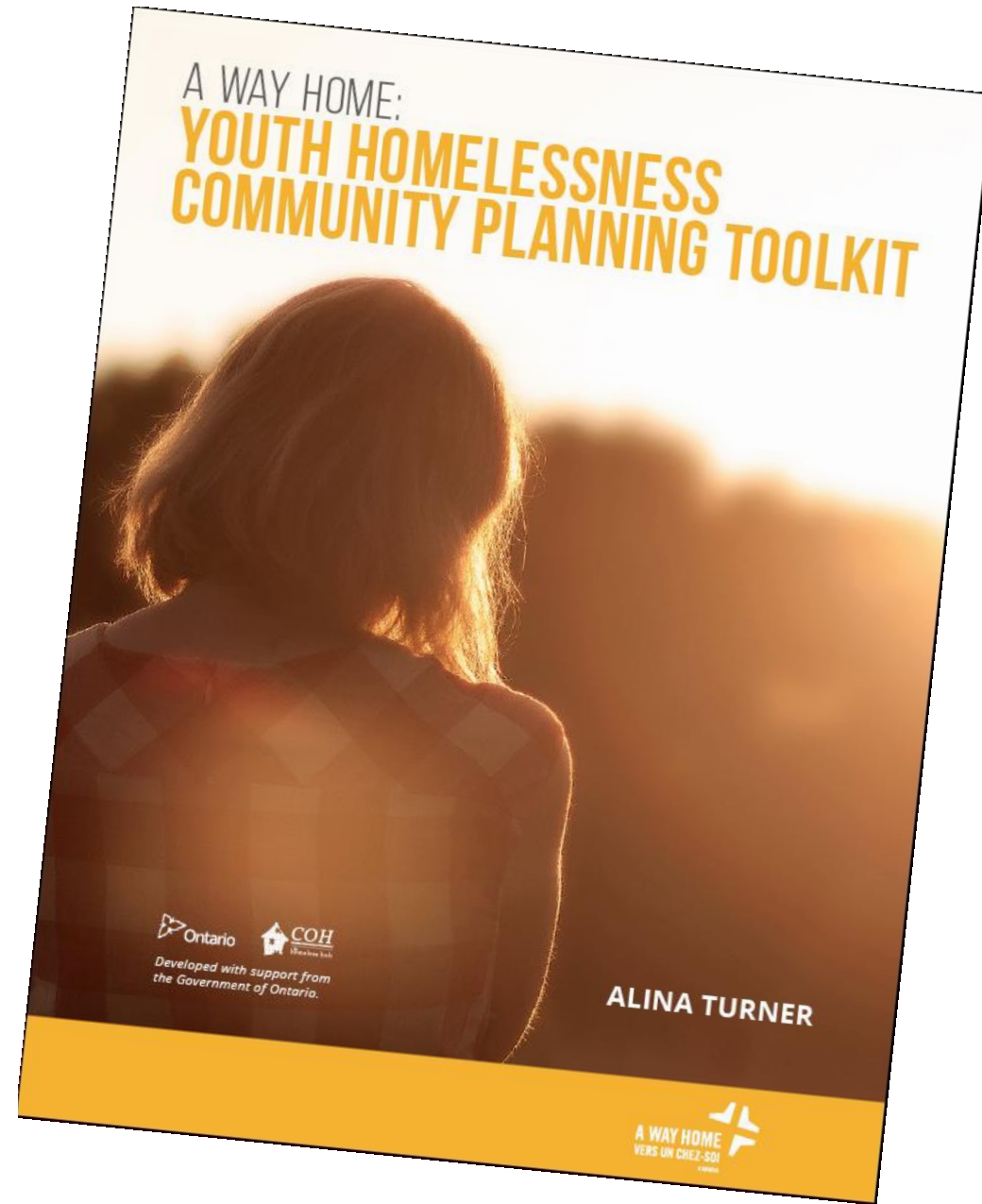


3

Systems Planning



Community Planning Toolkit



4

Lived Experience of Youth Homelessness



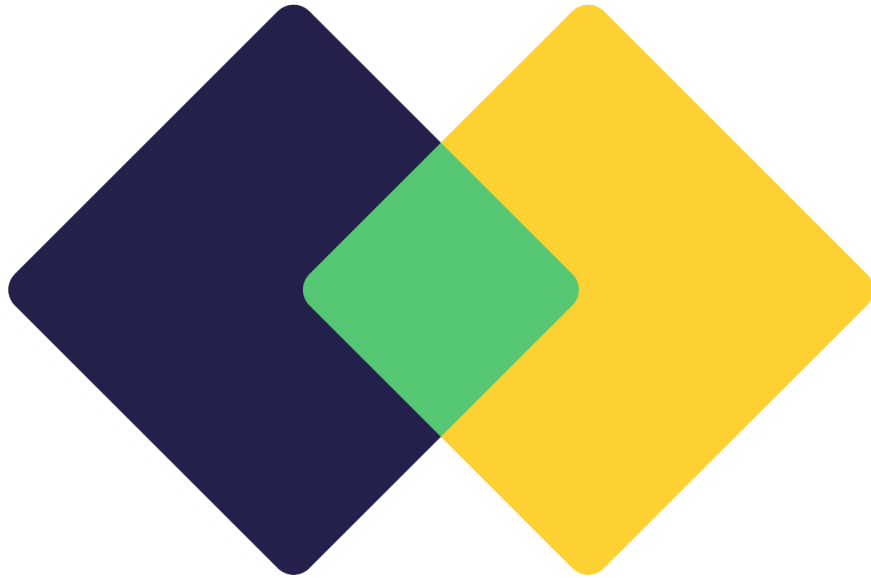
Take Account of Diversity and Equity



5

Research & Data





Phase 1

MAKING THE SHIFT

Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab

UPCOMING RELEASE!

A ROADMAP FOR THE PREVENTION OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

DR. STEPHEN GAETZ, DR. KAITLIN SCHWAN,
MELANIE REDMAN, DAVID FRENCH AND DR. ERIN DEJ

November 20th, 2018
12:00PM-1:30PM

WEBINAR



Questions or Comments?

