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Homelessness Prevention: From Framework to Action

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Canadian Observatory on Homelessness

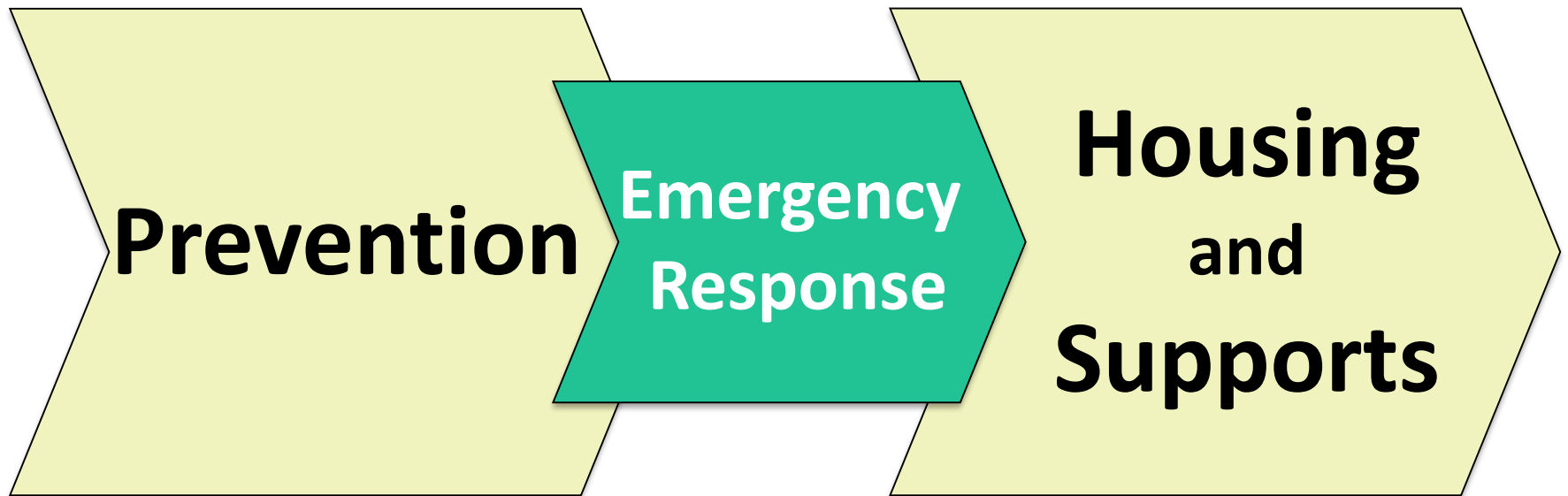
Part 1

Does *Homelessness Prevention* matter?

Responding to homelessness in Canada



Where we want to get to



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.



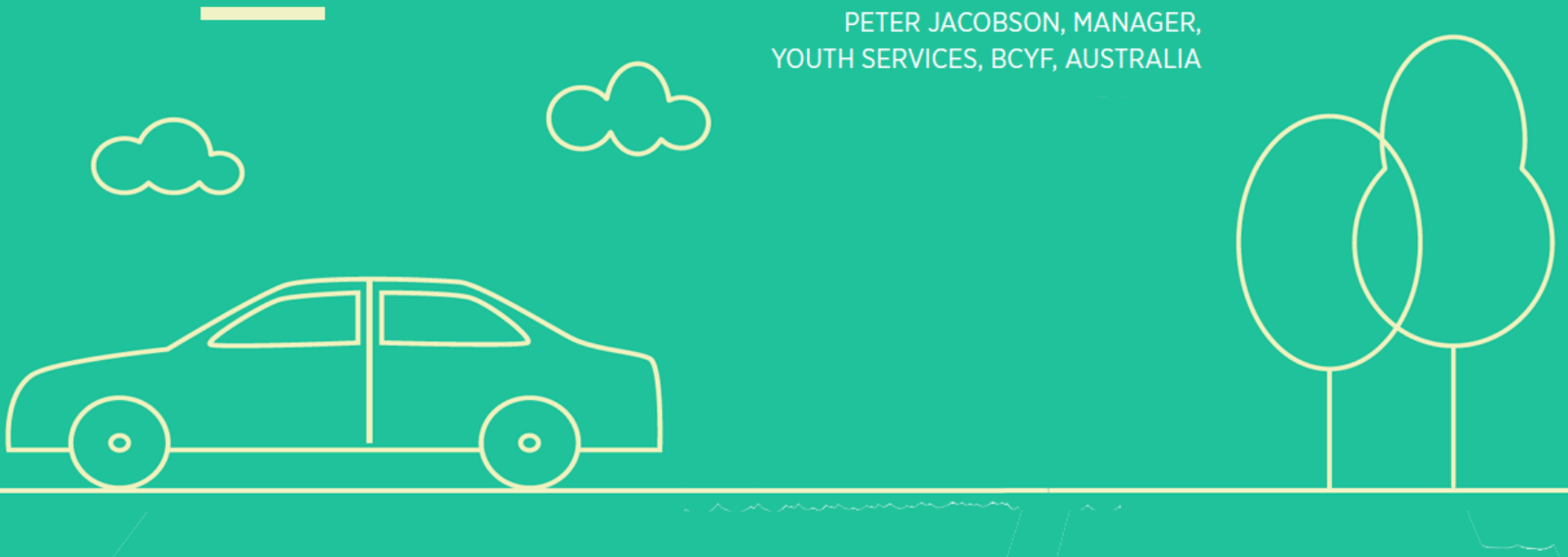
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IF WE WANT TO STOP PEOPLE DYING ON ROADS, WE INVEST MONEY IN SEATBELTS, NOT IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT. In the same way in regards to homelessness, why would we wait to intervene with a young person when they're in crisis, when we can intervene early and keep them at home, and in school and engaged?

PETER JACOBSON, MANAGER,
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Part 2

What *IS*

Homelessness
Prevention?



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A New Direction: A Framework for Homelessness Prevention

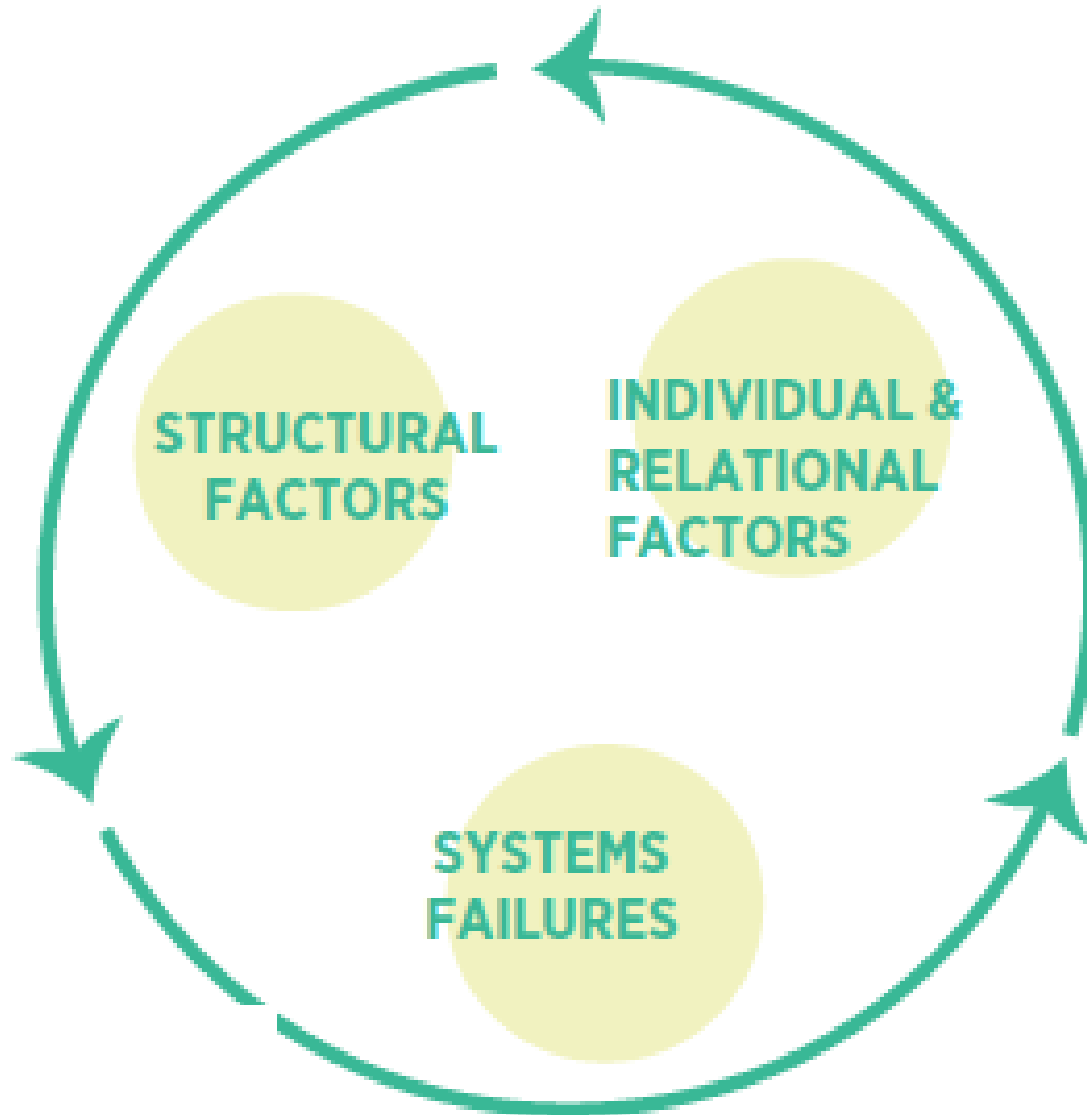
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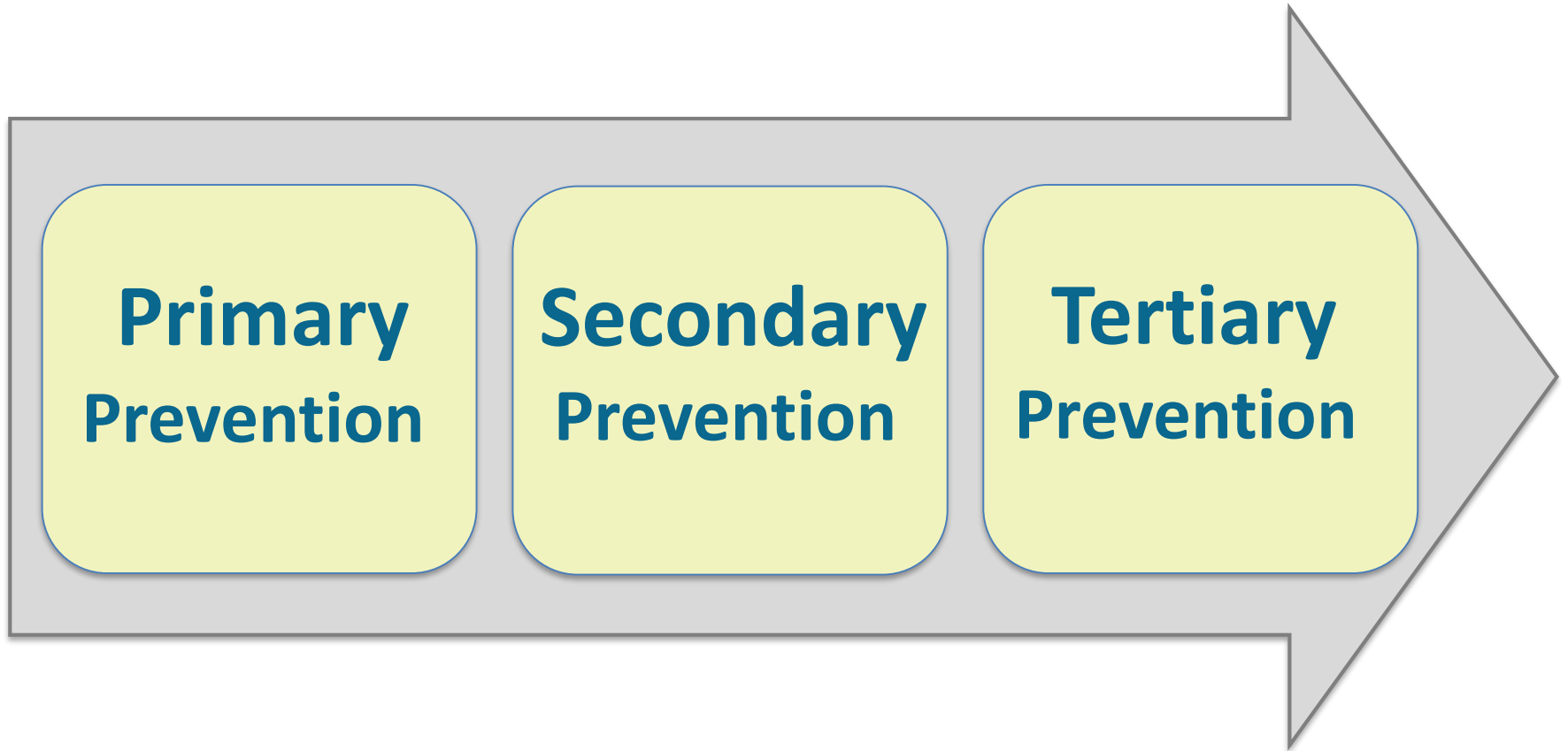
What is the evidence?



Causes of Homelessness



The Public Health model of prevention



Definition of the Prevention of Homelessness

Homelessness prevention refers to policies, practices, and interventions that reduce the likelihood that someone will experience homelessness. It also means providing those who have been homeless with the necessary resources and supports to stabilize their housing, enhance integration and social inclusion, and ultimately reduce the risk of the recurrence of homelessness.

The causes of homelessness include individual and relational factors, broader population-based structural factors, and the failure of many public institutions to protect people from homelessness. This suggests that homelessness prevention must not only include interventions targeted at individuals, but broader structural reforms directed at addressing the drivers of homelessness. That not only communities but all orders of government, and most departments within have a responsibility to contribute to the prevention of homelessness is in keeping with a human rights perspective.

WHAT HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION IS *NOT*

It is important to emphasize that the concept of homelessness prevention must be used with some precision to describe strategies designed to ensure that people do not lose their homes and that their housing is not precarious. This means that we not only need to understand what homelessness prevention is, but what it is not.



Part 4

A TYPOLOGY of

Homelessness

Prevention

Typology of Homelessness Prevention

1. STRUCTURAL PREVENTION

2. SYSTEMS PREVENTION

3. EARLY INTERVENTION

4. EVICTION PREVENTION

5. HOUSING STABILITY

***ENDING
HOMELESSNESS***

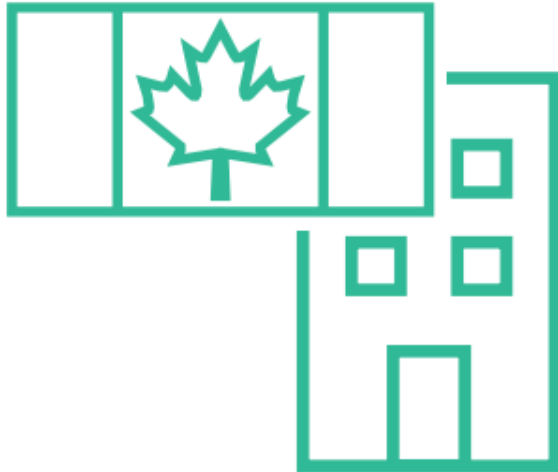
PRIMARY

SECONDARY

TERTIARY



Structural Prevention



Legislation, policy, and investment that builds assets, and increases social inclusion and equality.

A) UNIVERSAL PREVENTION

- Poverty reduction strategies
- Income supports
- Adequate supply of affordable housing
- Early childhood interventions
- Violence prevention
- Anti-discrimination policy, practice and training
- Effective landlord / tenant legislation

B) SELECTED PREVENTION

- Addressing the social, cultural, and economic exclusion of **Indigenous individuals, families, and communities**
- Supporting victims of systemic violence
- School-based programs
- Supports for individuals facing discrimination

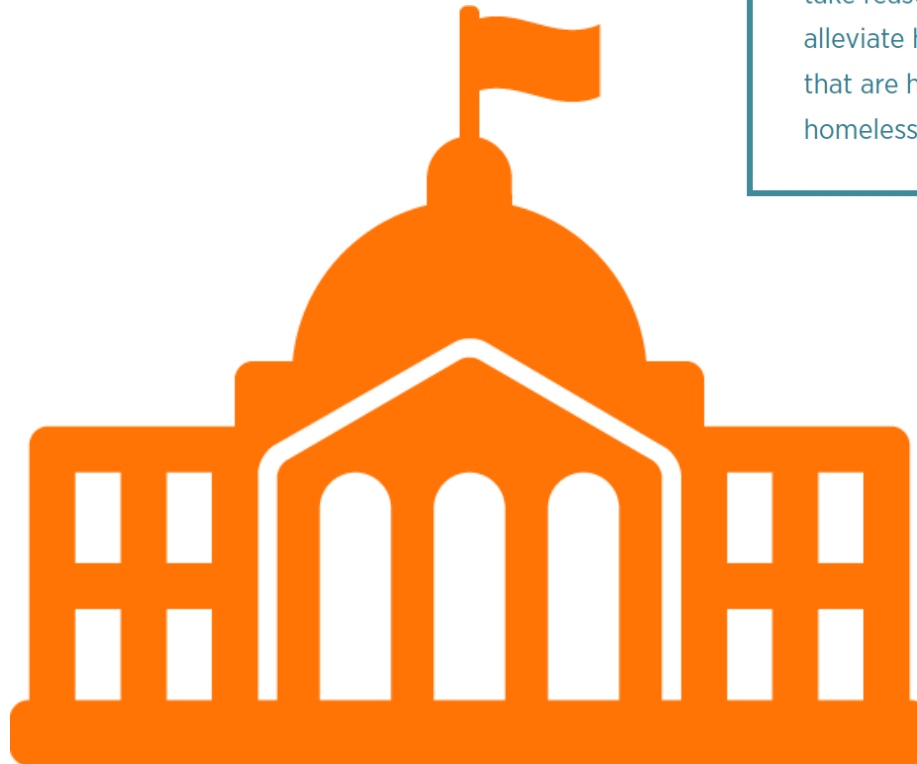
C) INDICATED PREVENTION

- Supports for families in which there is interpersonal violence
- Supports for individuals with addictions and mental health challenges

D) HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION LEGISLATION and POLICY

Housing (Wales) Act of 2014

“Local authorities (are) required to take reasonable steps to prevent or alleviate homelessness for all households that are homeless or threatened with homelessness” (Mackie, 2015, p. 13).



2

Systems Prevention



Addressing institutional and systems failures that contribute to the risk of homelessness.

**A) FIXING POLICY AND
PROCEDURAL BARRIERS TO
FACILITATE PROGRAM ACCESS
AND SUPPORT**

**B) ENHANCING ACCESS TO PUBLIC
SYSTEMS, SERVICES, AND
APPROPRIATE SUPPORTS**

C) REINTEGRATION SUPPORT:

Facilitating effective transitions from public institutions or systems

- Young people leaving **child protection**
 - Transitional supports for people leaving **corrections**
 - Individuals leaving **inpatient health** and **mental health** settings



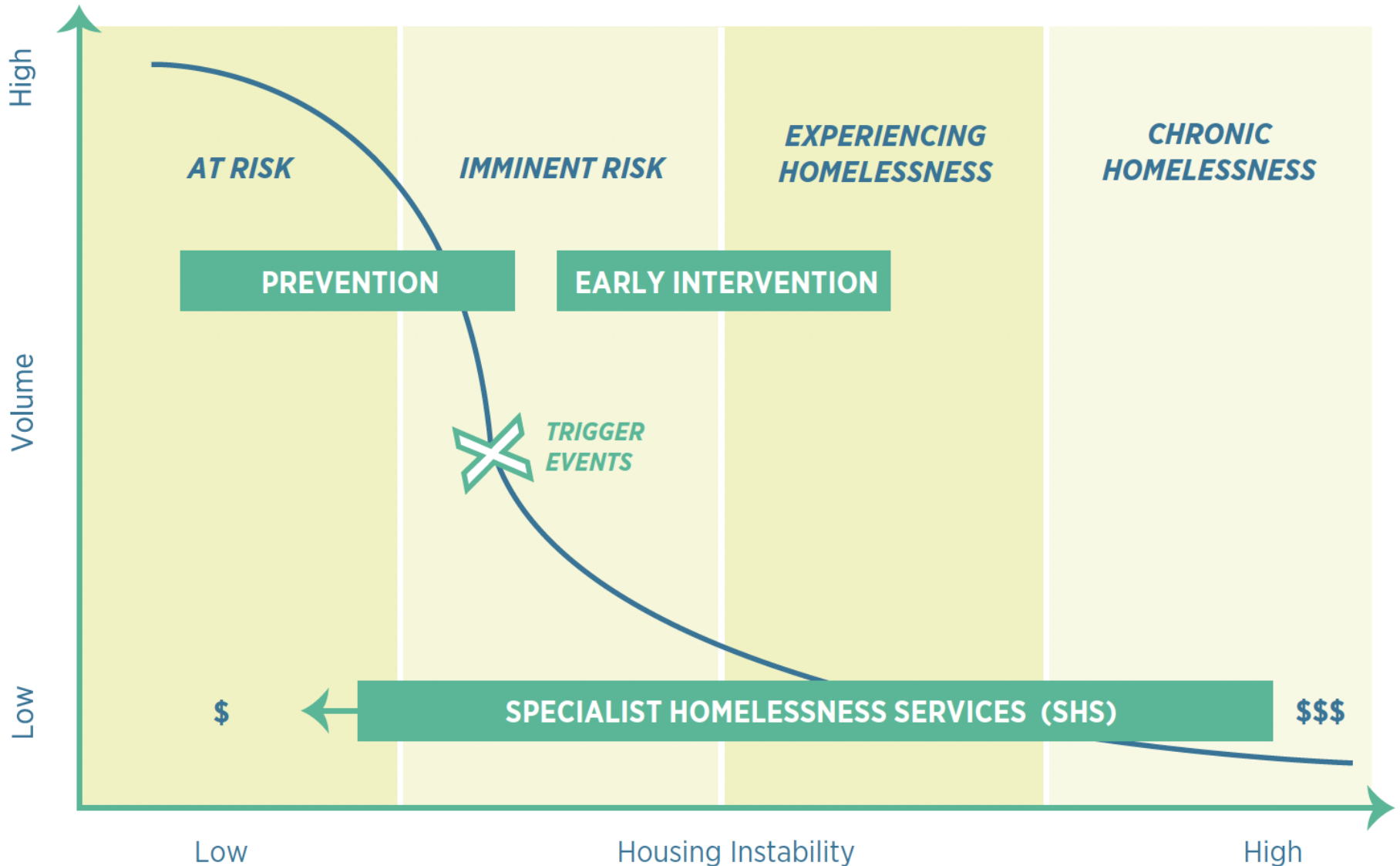
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Early Intervention



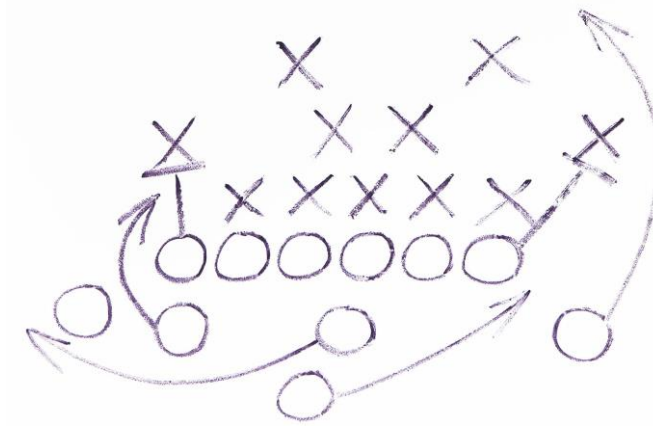
Policies and practices to support individuals and families at imminent risk of homelessness or who have recently become homeless.

Intervening when people are at imminent risk

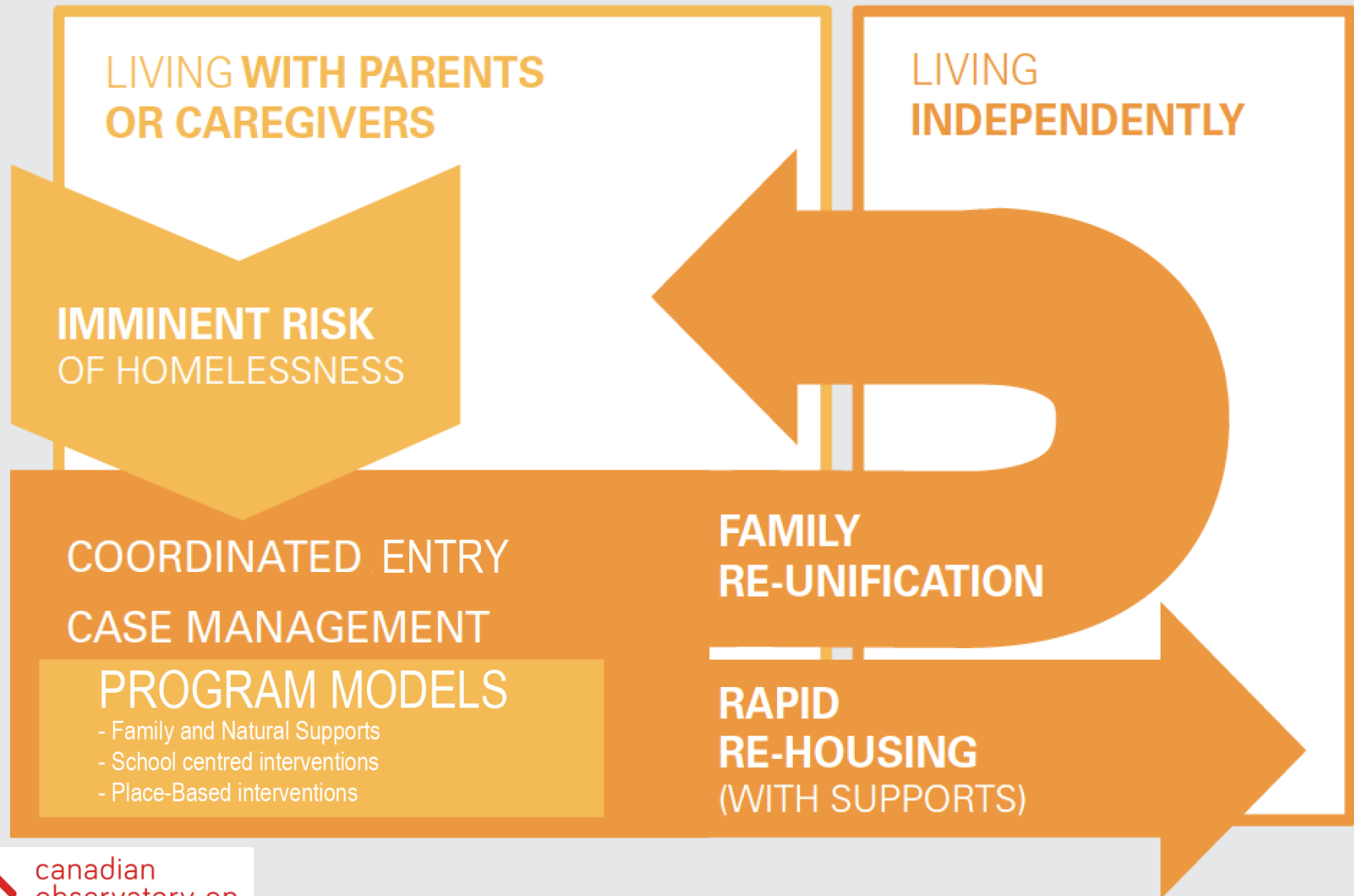


Supporting early intervention requires a range of strategies, including:

- i) Outreach, identification, and engagement
- ii) Intake and assessment
- iii) Case management and systems navigation
- iv) Place-based supports and shelter diversion



EARLY INTERVENTION for youth



Early intervention for youth



SCHOOL-BASED
PROGRAMS



FAMILY
FIRST



HOST
HOMES



YOUTH
RECONNECT

4

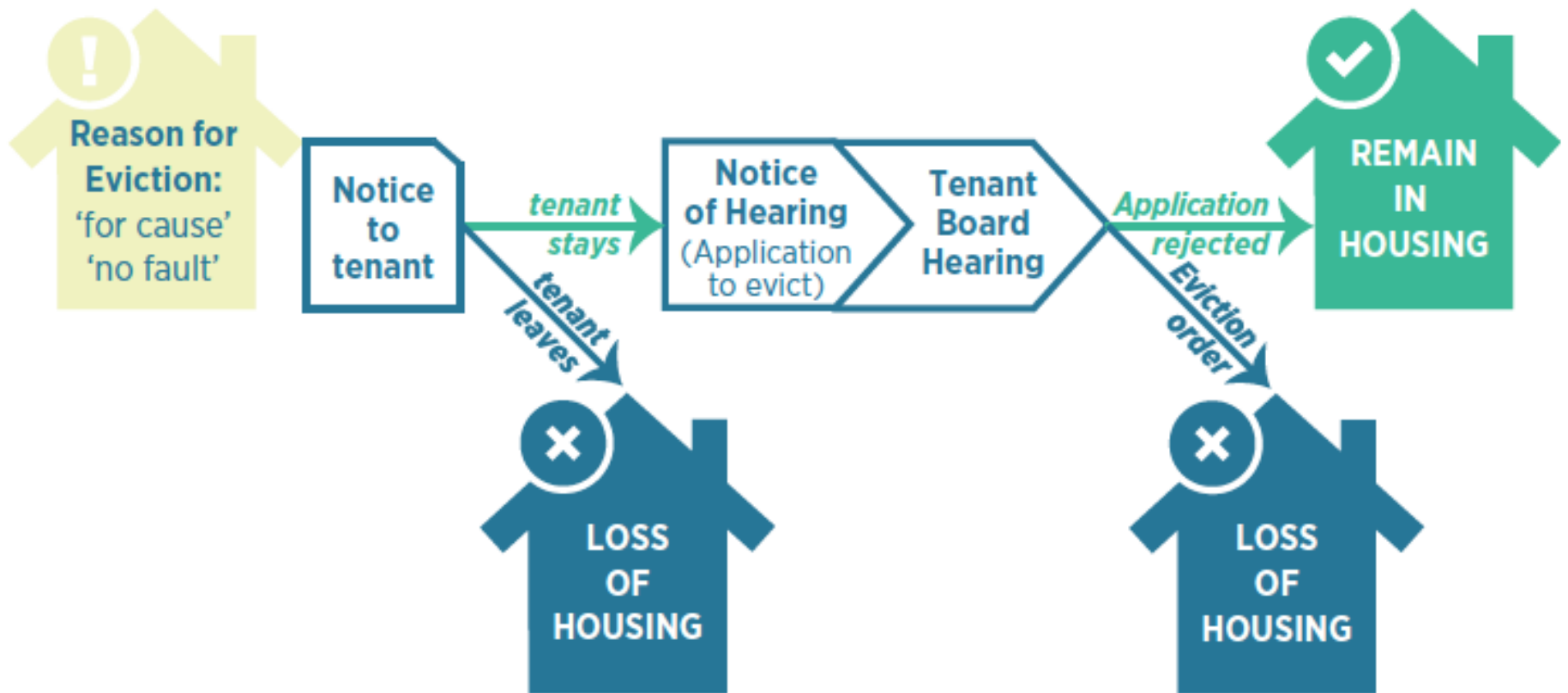
Evictions Prevention



Programs and strategies designed to keep people at risk of eviction in their home and avoid homelessness.

Evictions Process

Evictions Process in Ontario



Points of Intervention

1. Evictions prevention for housing providers
2. Evictions prevention for service providers
3. Supports for tenants
 - a) Information and advice
 - b) Legal support and representation
 - c) Landlord liaison, conflict resolution
 - d) Rental assistance or supplements
 - e) Emergency financial support
 - f) Third party financial management

5

Housing Stability



Initiatives and support for people who have experienced homelessness that allows them to exit homelessness quickly and never experience it again.

Housing First



Part 5

Homelessness Prevention:

What's Next?

Youth Homelessness Prevention Framework

To be released: September 2017





Renewal of Canada's national homelessness strategy

(the Homelessness Partnering Strategy expires in 2019)

CANADIAN OBSERVATORY ON HOMELESSNESS
POLICY BRIEF

LEADING THE WAY

*Reimagining Federal Leadership
on Preventing Homelessness*



STEPHEN GAETZ • ERIN DEJ • JESSE DONALDSON • NADIA ALI



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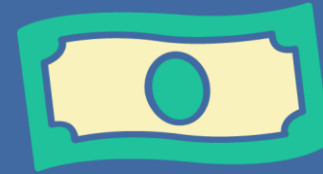
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4 Point Plan

1) Alignment



2) Investment



3) Innovation



4) Partnership



Provinces and Territories



Community level



**Questions or
comments?**

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