

# A WAY HOME VERS UN CHEZ-SOI

CANADA



Melanie Redman  
President & CEO  
*A Way Home*



*Why?*

# Addressing Youth Homelessness is a Fusion Policy issue



**If the**  
**CAUSES & CONDITIONS**  
**of youth homelessness are**  
**unique, so must be the**  
**SOLUTIONS!!!**



Homelessness

JUNIOR

# Problem



# Solution

# 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

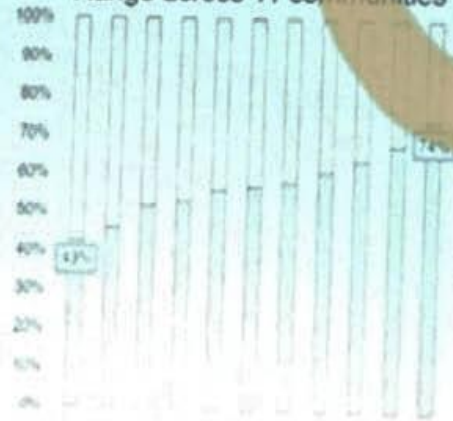
Canada



## Select Community PiT Results

### First homeless as youth (< 25)

Range across 11 communities



- In all but two of eleven communities, a majority of respondents first became homeless as youth under the age of 25 (median = 57% across 11 communities).

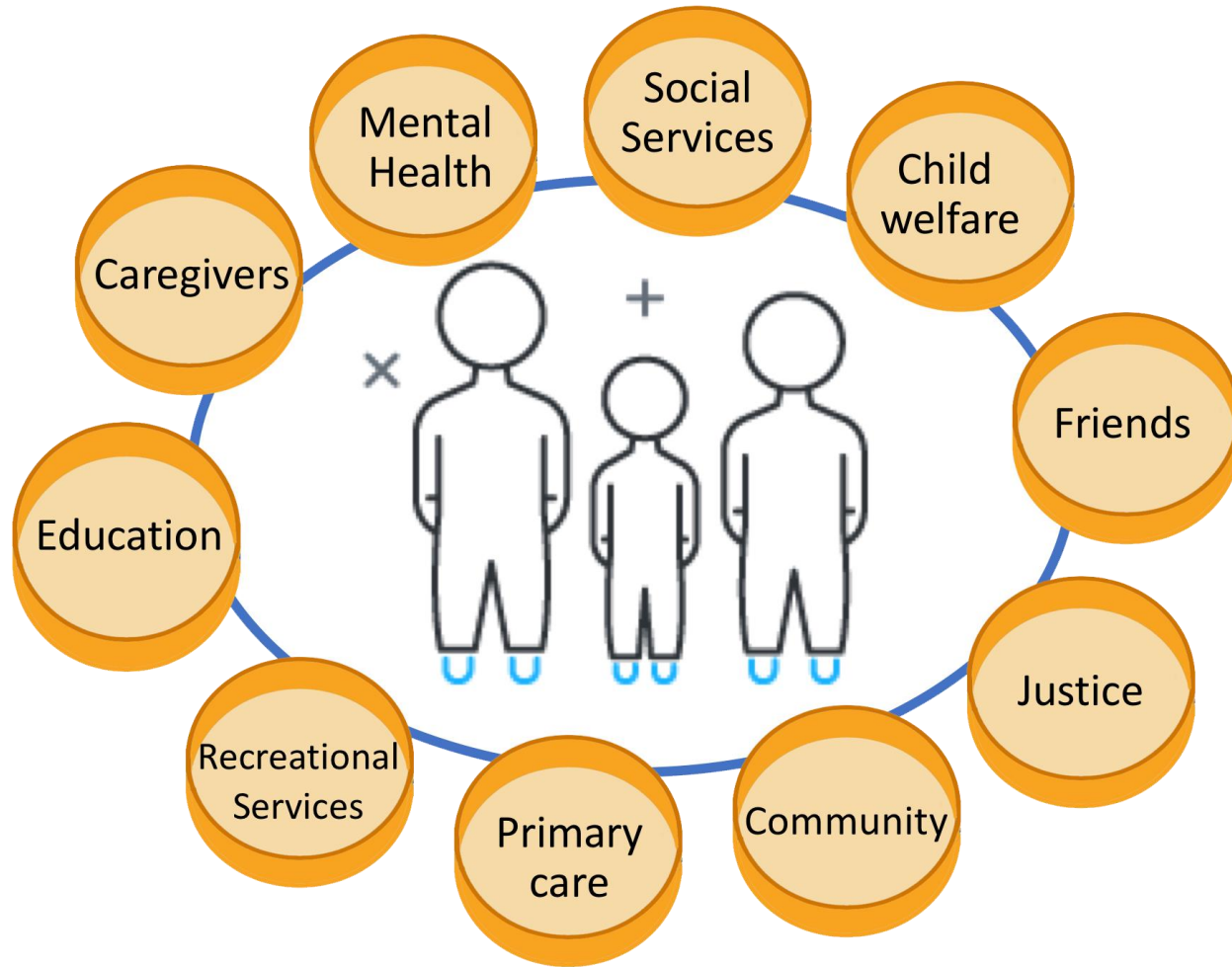
- Some also noted that the proportion was still high among older adults and seniors, raising the possibility of a lifetime of insecure housing and homelessness.



# Systems Planning

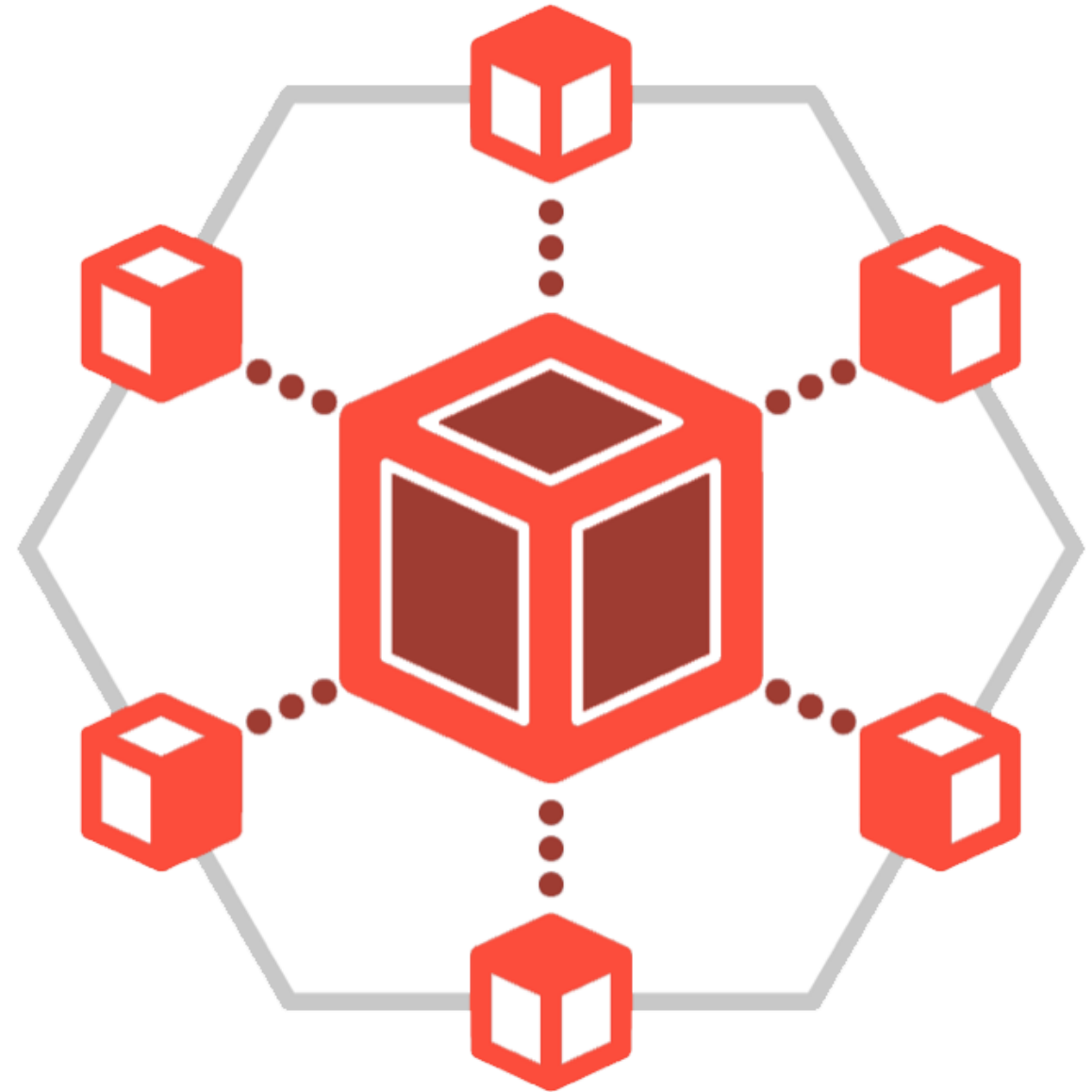


# Wrap around System of Care



- Community-based
- Youth driven
- Family engagement
- Cultural and linguistic competence

# Systems Integration



# Success relies on Systems Integration

## Mainstream

### Services

- Health
- Education
- Corrections
- Child protection

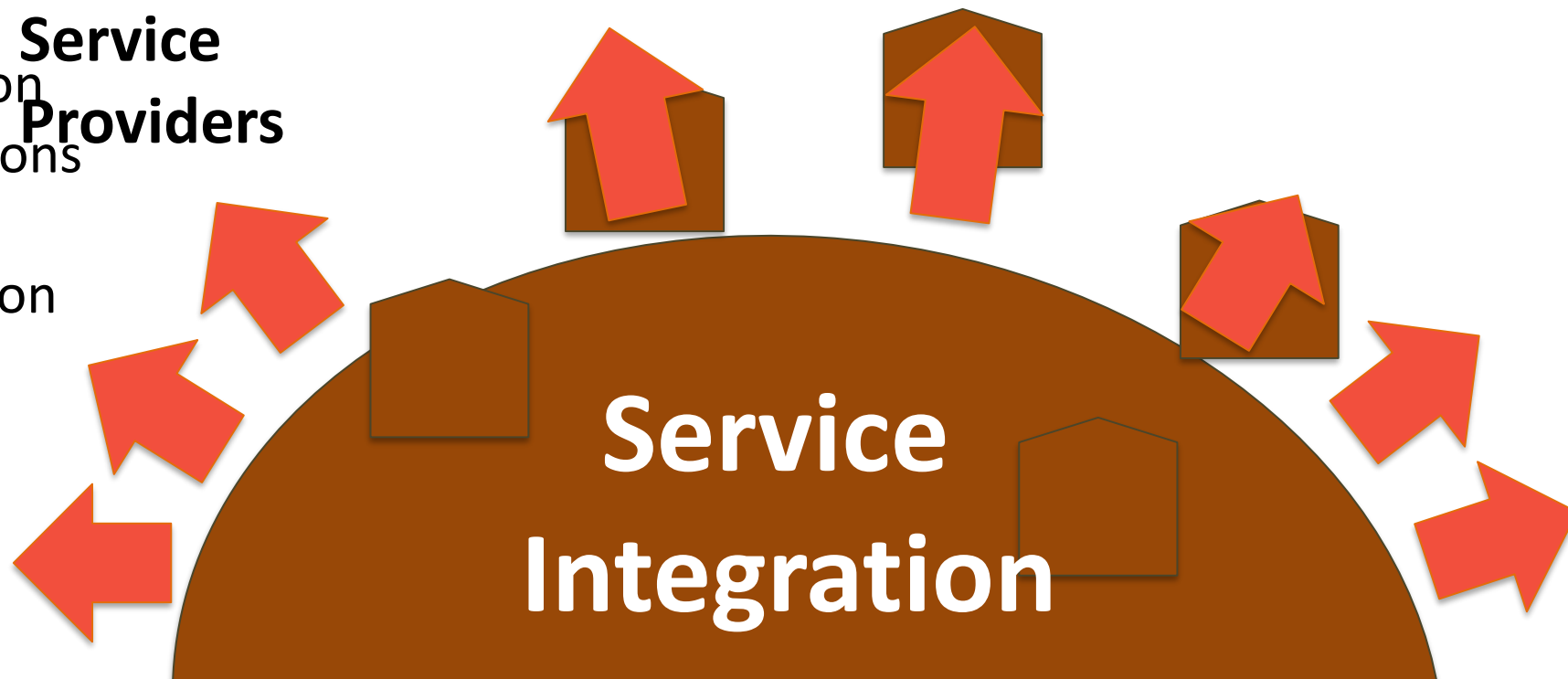
### Homelessness

### Service Providers

### Government and Funders

### Unusual Suspects

- Landlords
- Police
- Private Sector
- Lawyers



# Collective Impact





# Lived Experience



## 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*

# Youth Rights! Right Now!

Ending Youth Homelessness:  
A HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDE



CANADA WITHOUT POVERTY  
CANADA SANS POUVÉ

A WAY HOME  
UN VOIE EN CHEZ VOUS



# THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF HOUSING FIRST FOR YOUTH

Core principles are important because they provide a guide for planning and delivering a strategy, service or intervention. Core principles also help to measure fidelity to the HF4Y model, especially for scaling or adaptation.

## The core principles of HF4Y include:

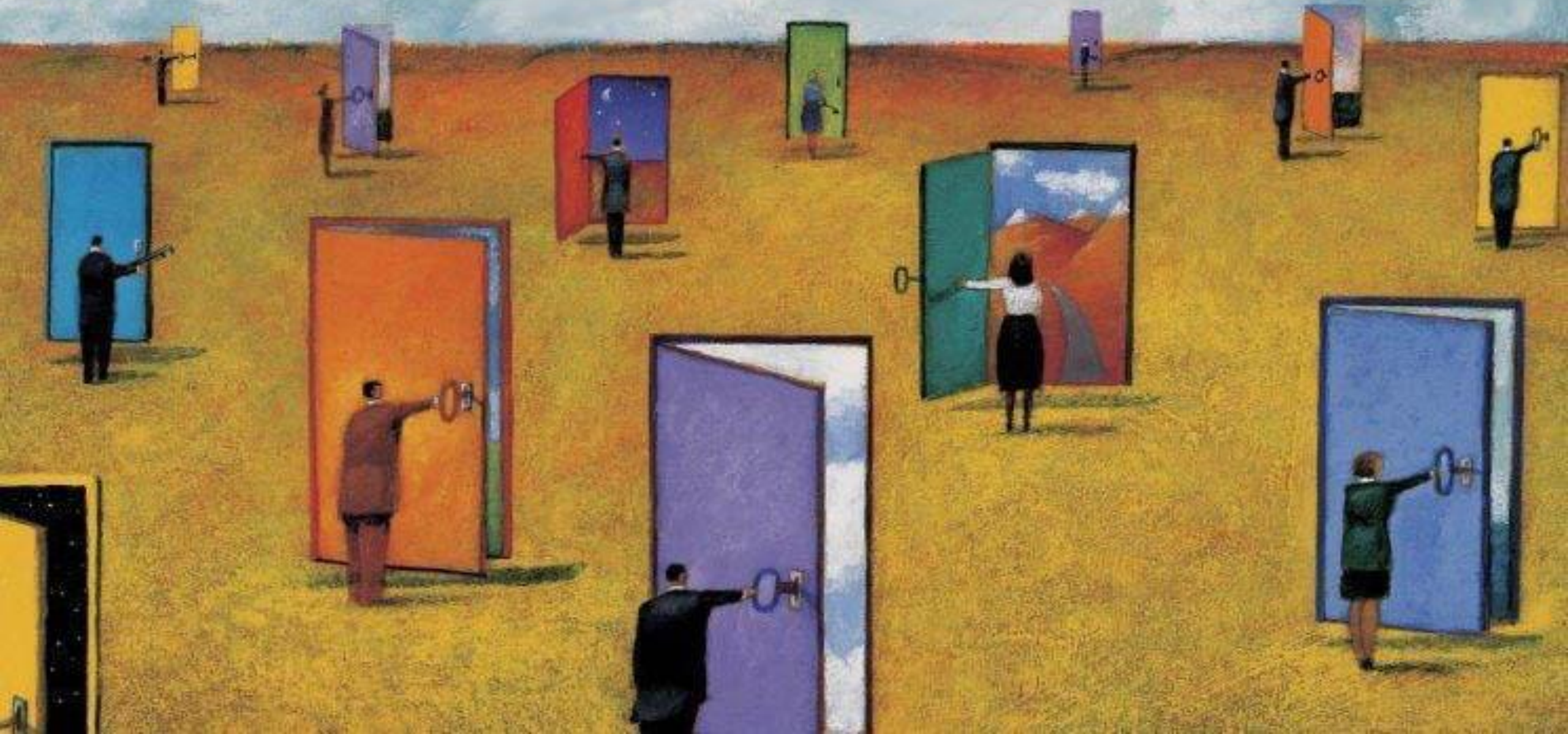
1. A right to housing with no preconditions
2. Youth choice, youth voice and self-determination
3. Positive youth development and wellness orientation
4. Individualized, client-driven supports with no time limits
5. Social inclusion and community integration

# Take Account of Diversity and Equity



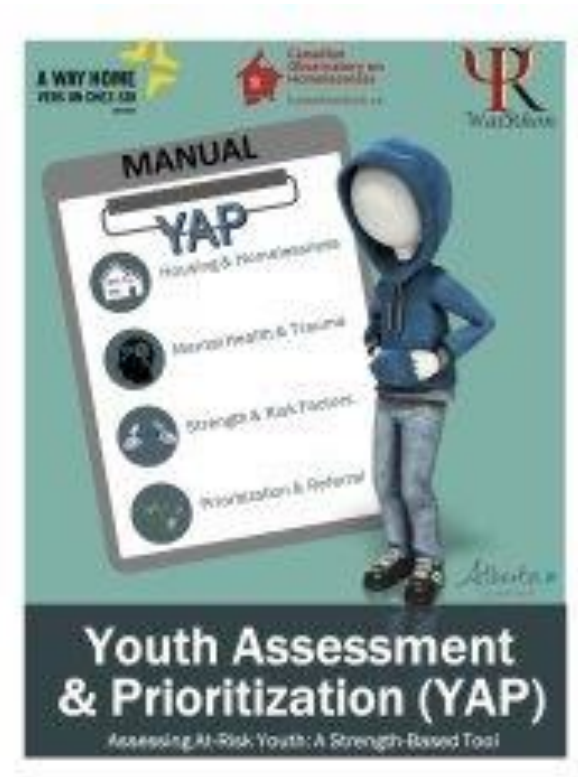


# Coordinated Access



## Youth Assessment and Prioritization (YAP) tool

- It is based on the needs of developing adolescents and young adults
- Is strengths-based and rooted in a Positive Youth Development orientation.
- It involves both client and staff knowledge
- It assists decision-making, and doesn't determine prioritization for you
- It can catch things that other vulnerability assessment tools cannot.



# OUTCOMES

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Outcomes are tied to the service delivery models. Because the focus of these interventions is not just on independence, but on healthy transitions to adulthood, outcomes go beyond a simple measure of housing stability.



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# Program outcomes



## 1) Housing stability

- Obtaining housing
- Maintaining housing
- Enhancing knowledge and skills regarding housing and independent living
- Reducing stays in emergency shelters



## 2) Health and well-being

- Enhanced access to services and supports
- Improved health
- Food security
- Improved mental health
- Reduced harms related to substance use
- Enhanced personal safety
- Improved self-esteem
- Healthier sexual health practices
- Enhanced resilience



## 3) Education and employment

- Established goals for education and employment
- Enhanced participation in education
- Enhanced educational achievement
- Enhanced participation in training
- Enhanced labour force participation
- Improved financial security



## 4) Complementary supports

- Established personal goals
- Improved life skills
- Increase access to necessary non-medical services
- Addressing legal and justice issues



## 5) Social inclusion

- Building of natural supports
- Enhancing family connections
- Enhancing connections to communities of young person's choice
- Strengthening cultural engagement and participation
- Engagement in meaningful activities





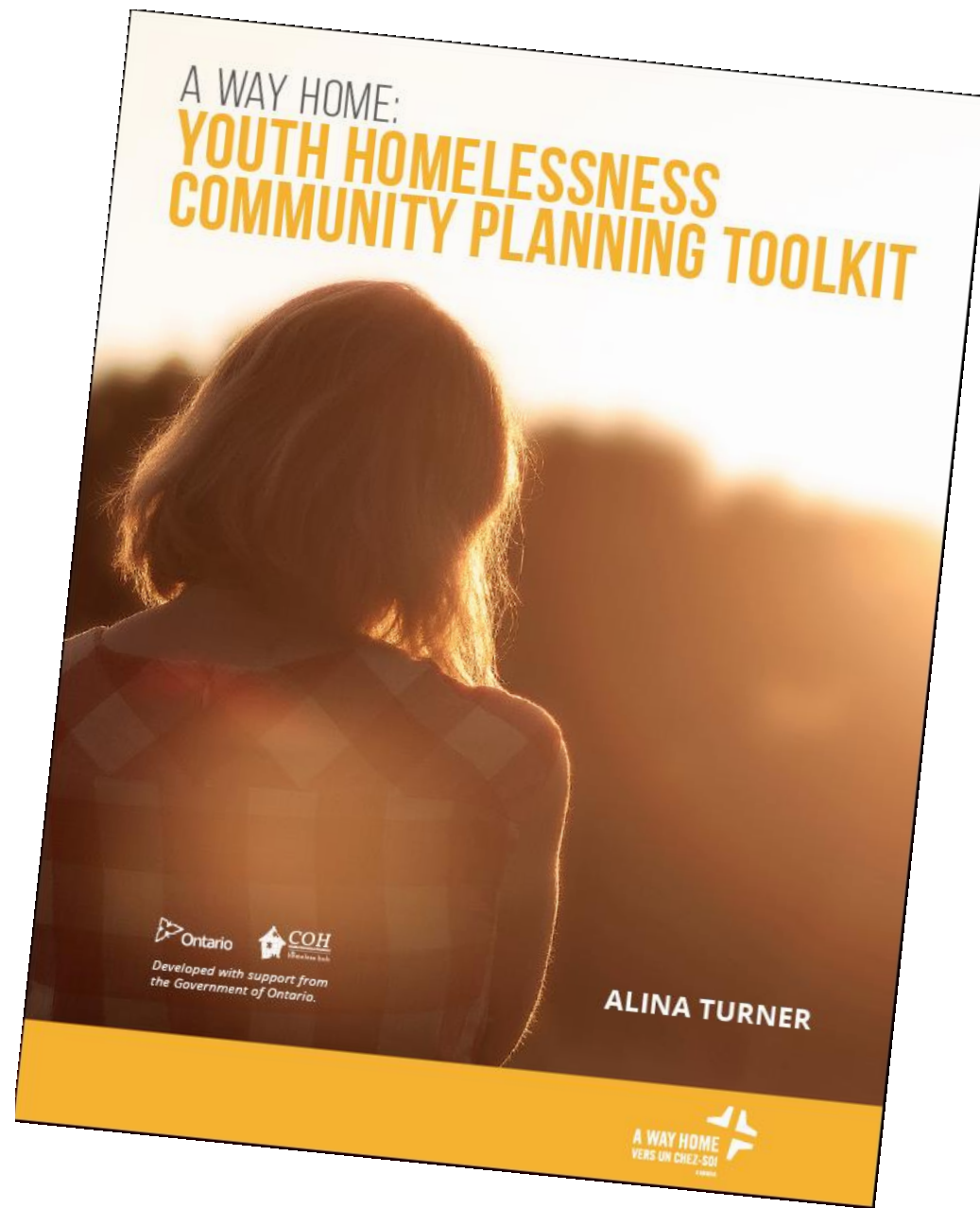
# Research & Data





how  
do we  
get there?

# Community Planning Toolkit





**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 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
12:00PM-1:30PM

**WEBINAR**



# 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*

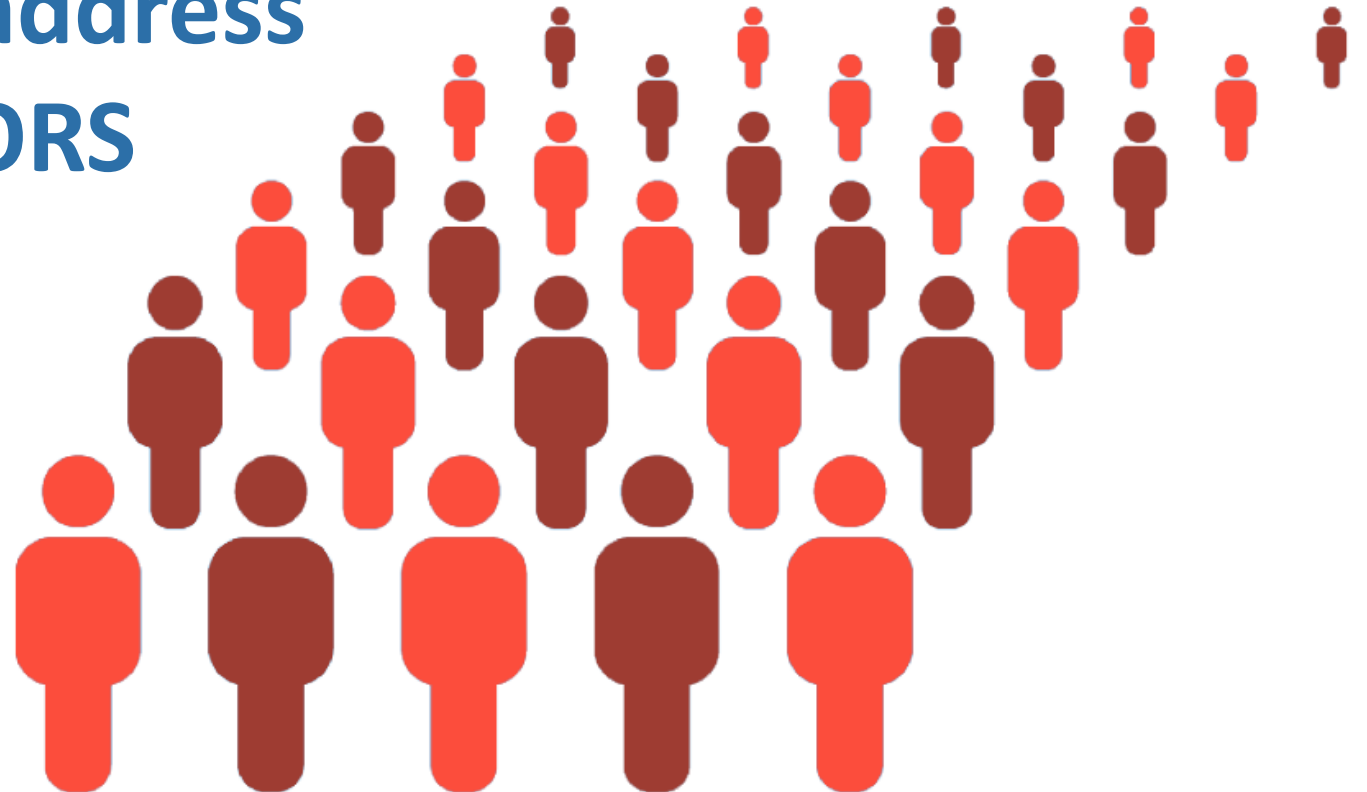
*TERTIARY*

## Structural Prevention:

*Working Upstream to  
Address Underlying Causes  
of Youth Homelessness*



**Work upstream to address  
STRUCTURAL FACTORS**

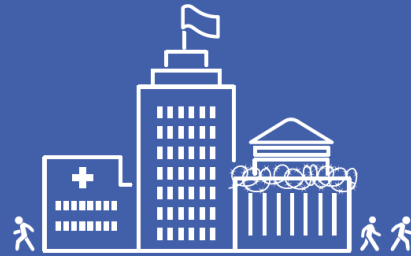




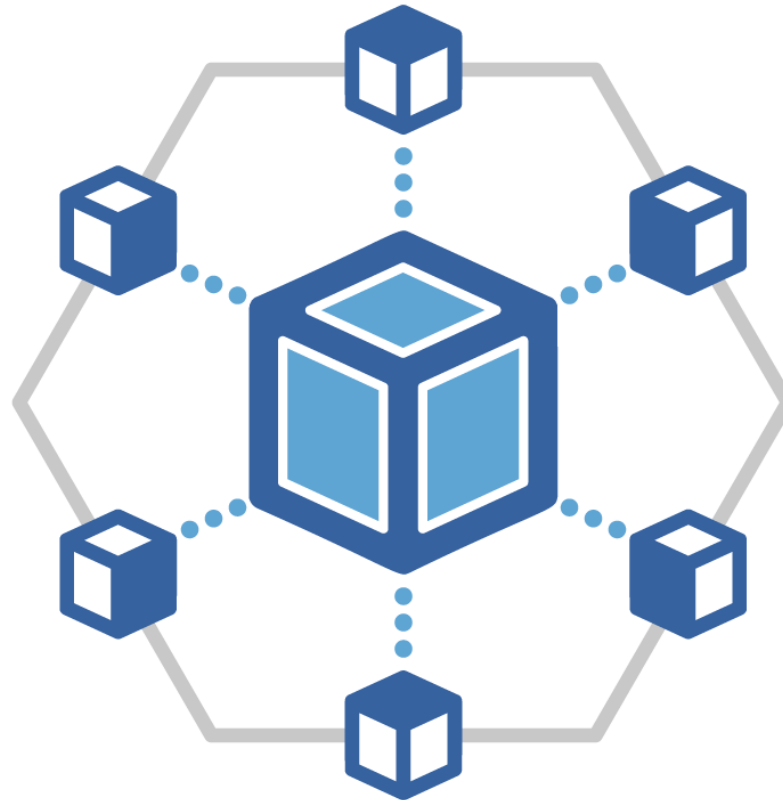
## Systems Prevention:



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



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



# Early Intervention:

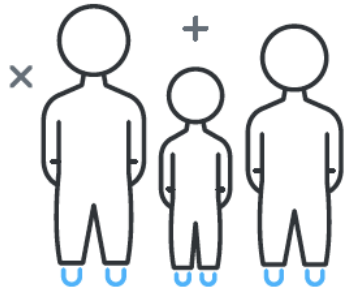


*Targeted Supports for  
Young People At Risk  
of Homelessness*

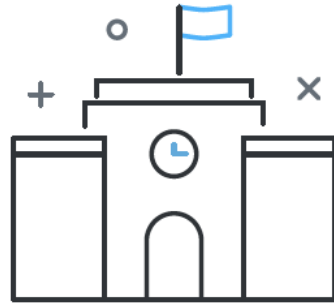


Key early intervention program areas described in the Roadmap include:

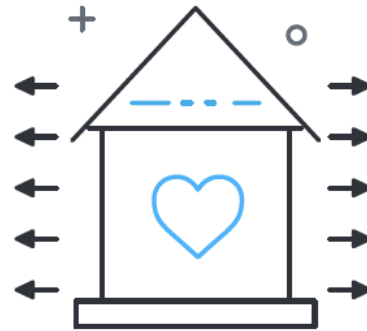
Enhancing **Family**  
and **Natural Supports**



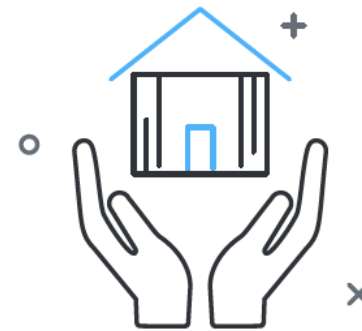
**School-based**  
Early Intervention



**Shelter** Diversion



**Housing-led** Supports



**Sex** Trafficking

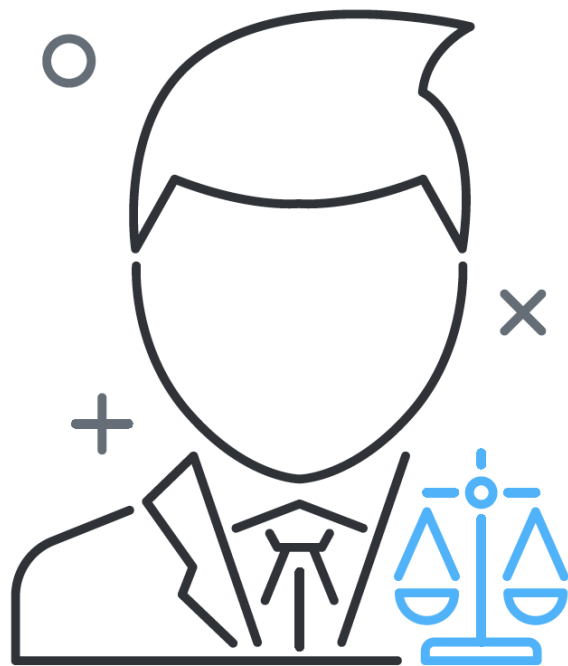


# IV Evictions Prevention



"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).**



## Housing Stabilization

*for Youth Who Have  
Exited Homelessness*



# Duty to Assist

Legislation, Policy and Practice







you're

NOT

alone

# Resources

## Planning resources

Youth Homelessness Community Planning Toolkit

Community of Practice/Workspace

Roadmap for the Prevention of Youth Homelessness

Without a Home Report

Youth Rights, Right Now Guide

## Toolkits

Youth Point in Time Count Toolkit

Youth Engagement Toolkit

LGBTQ2S Toolkit

Housing First for Youth Program Model Guide

Youth Assessment and Prioritization Tool (YAP)

Program Model Toolkits



**UPCOMING RELEASE!**

# A ROADMAP FOR THE PREVENTION OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

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MELANIE REDMAN, DAVID FRENCH AND DR. ERIN DEJ

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# A “Duty to Assist

## How we can end youth homelessness in Canada

### Stephen Gaetz

President - Canadian Observatory on Homelessness  
Professor, Faculty of Education  
York University, Toronto, Canada



# Part 1

**What *is* a**

**Duty to Assist?**



# The Housing (Wales) Act 2014



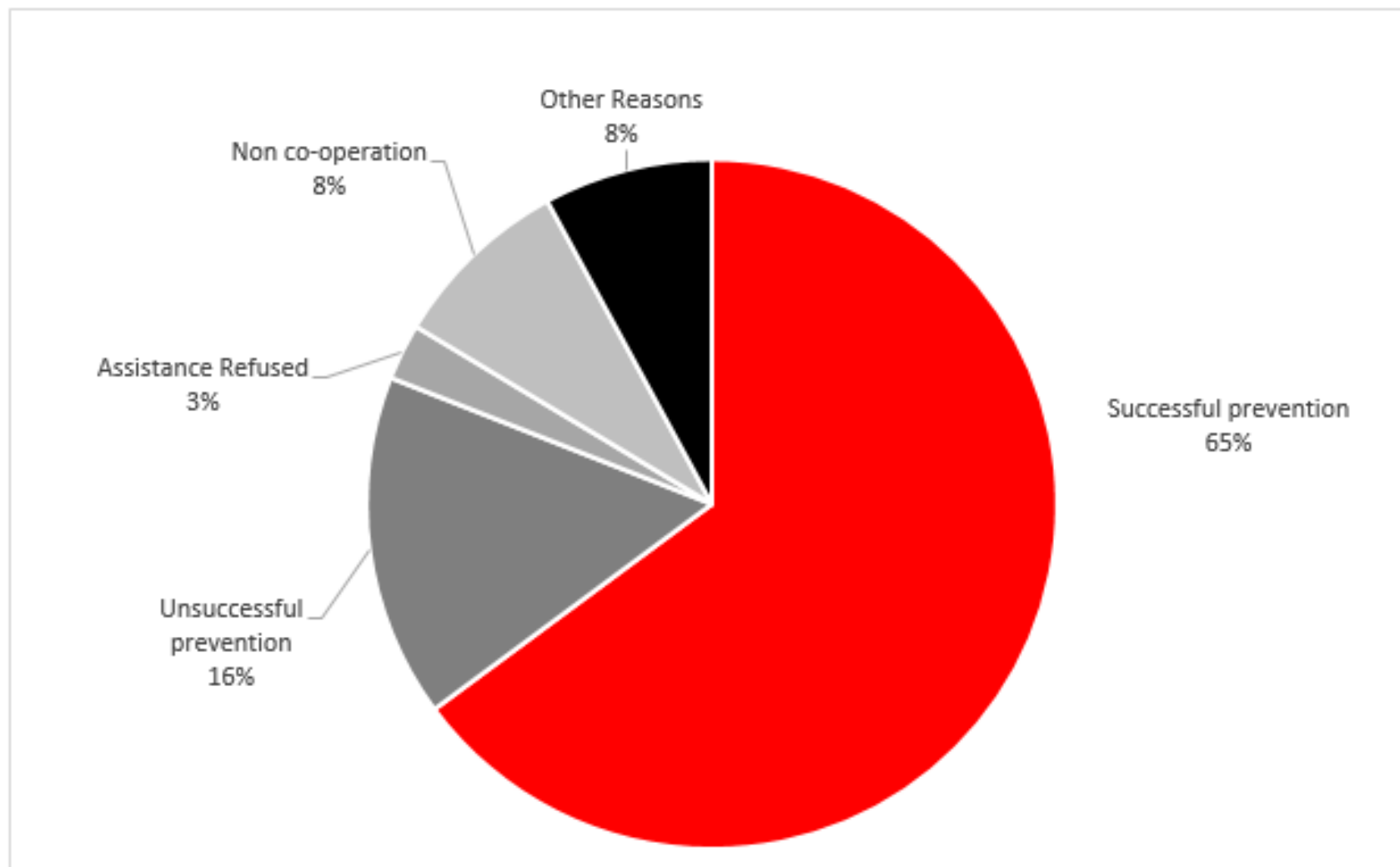
**Peter Mackie**  
Cardiff University, Wales



# The Housing (Wales) Act 2014

- Attempts to **prioritise homelessness prevention**, reorienting services, entitlements and funding
- Makes access to prevention services a **universal right** – challengeable through the courts.
- The **duty to assist**: local authorities must take ‘**reasonable steps**’ to prevent and relieve homelessness and should have recourse to a wide range of different mechanisms of assistance.
- Local authorities should consider the most appropriate intervention or range of interventions **for each person**
- Homelessness is prevented if accommodation is available for **at least 6 months**
- People are also expected to **cooperate**

## Successful prevention: helping people stay in their accommodation?



# Earlier, meaningful help



# Part 2

## Addressing Youth Homelessness in Canada through a **Duty to Assist**





# A Duty to Assist

**A Statutory Responsibility  
to Prevent Youth Homelessness**





# 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

This statutory responsibility means there is an obligation, or a *legal duty* to ensure that young people under 25 are provided with information, advice, and housing-led supports to avoid an experience of homelessness, or to make that experience as brief as possible.

# Who is responsible?



# Who is responsible?

All orders of government have a role to play, carry responsibility and are accountable.

Federal ⇨



Indigenous ⇨



Provincial /  
Territorial ⇨



Municipal ⇨



# Who is responsible?

**Provincial / Territorial governments**  
are responsible for Duty to Assist legislation

**In doing so, they must ensure:**

- **Role of municipalities are defined**
- **Policy framework**
- **Investment**





# Who is responsible?

Finally, public systems must be reformed to properly play a role in the prevention of Youth Homelessness

Youth homelessness prevention is a fusion policy issue



# Who is responsible?

## Municipalities / community entities:

P/T legislation should define the responsibilities of municipalities / community entities, and specify the minimum set of interventions that local authorities ought to have in place and local authorities are expected to consider the most appropriate intervention(s) for each person.

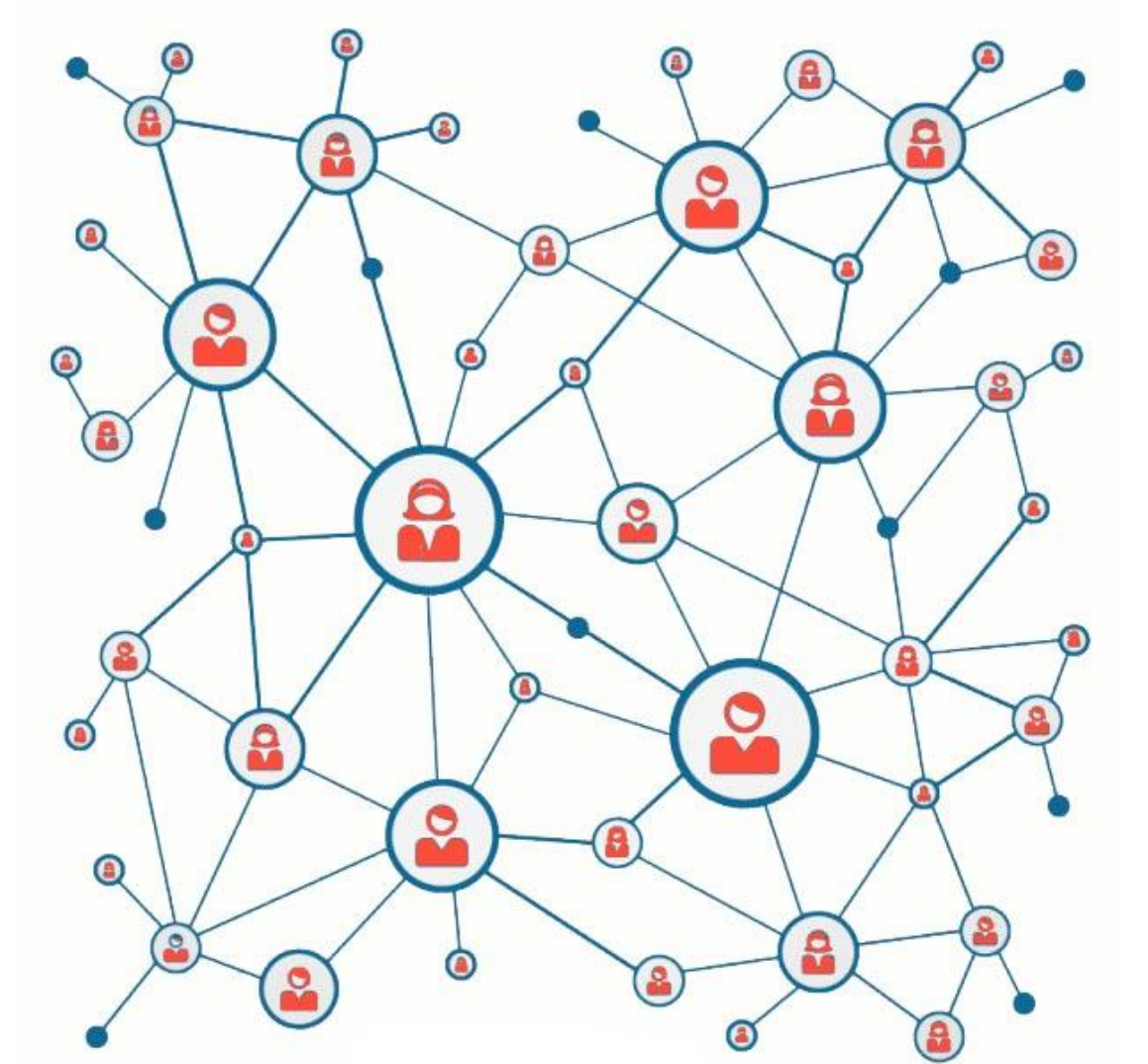


*A promise of assistance to youth (13-25) within 14 days*

# Who is responsible?

Meaningful adults in the lives of young people who identify or reasonably suspect that a young person is at risk of, or is experiencing homelessness, have a duty to offer support and / or facilitate access to supports. This includes, for instance:

- Teachers
- Instructors
- Coaches
- Community workers
- Employment workers, etc.



# Part 3

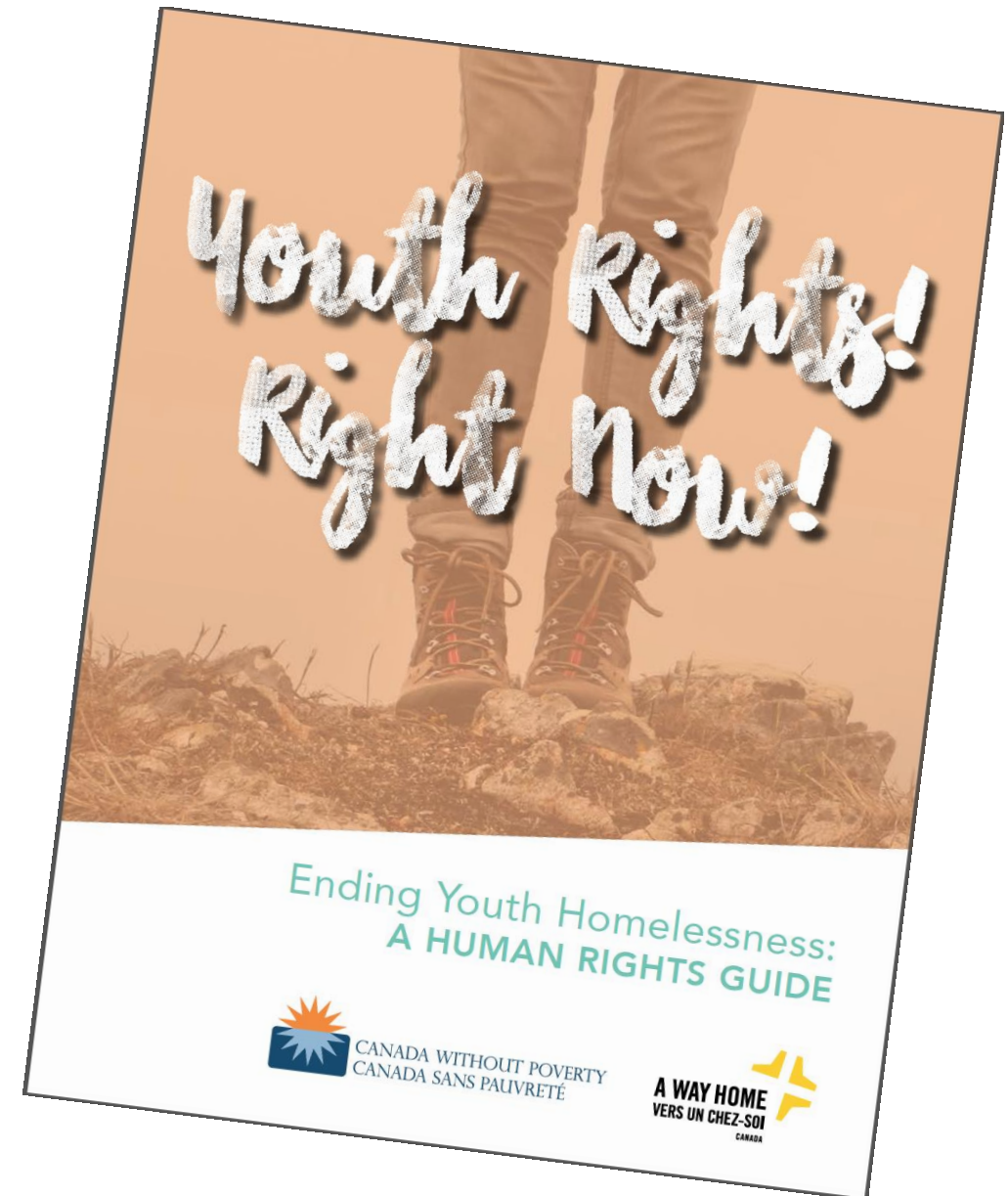
## Policy Context

**Implementing a statutory**

**“Duty to Assist”**

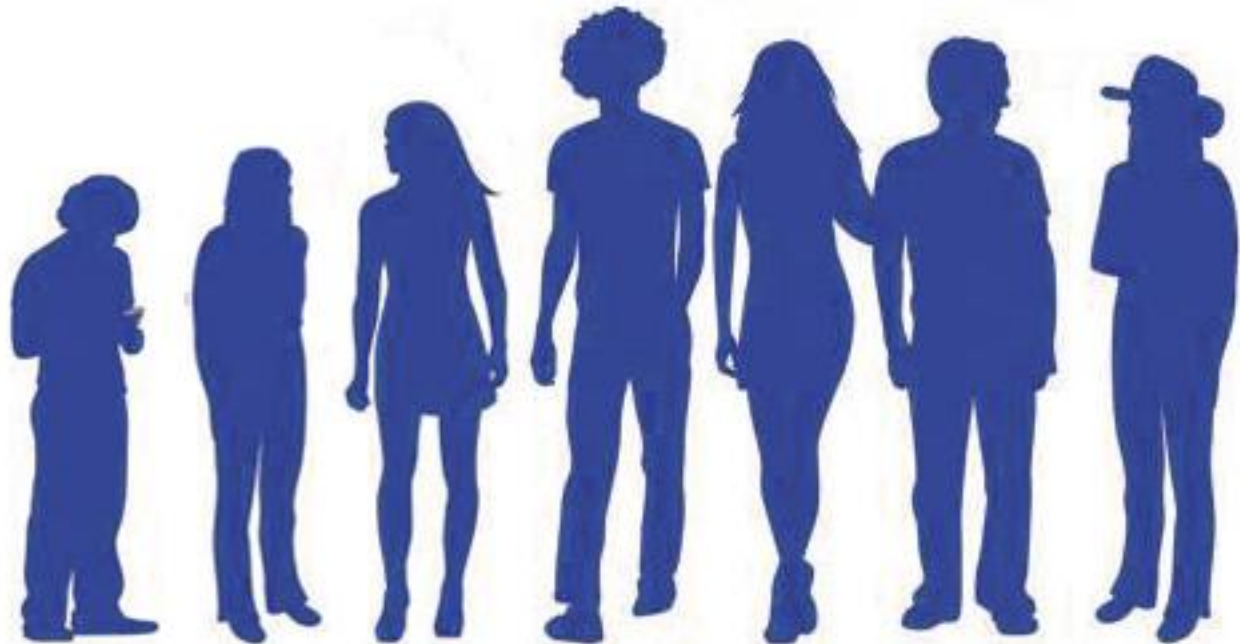
# Policy context

- A Rights-Based Approach



# Policy context

- A Rights-Based Approach
- **Age mandate**





# Policy context

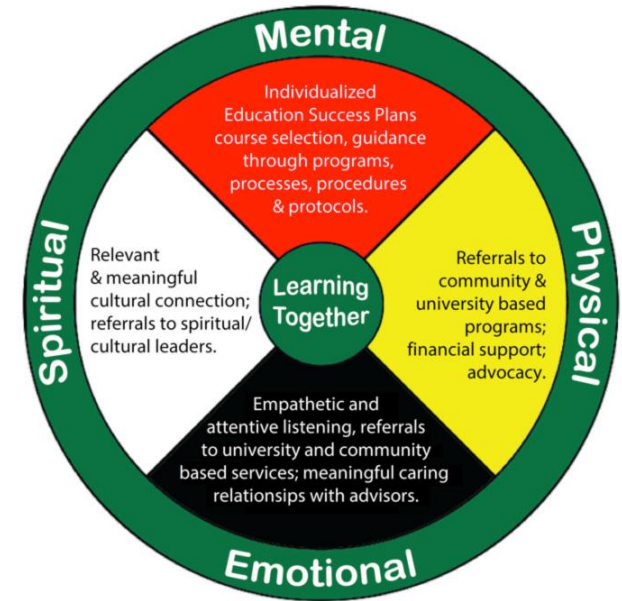
- A Rights-Based Approach
- Age mandate
- **Obligation to Act**

A hand is shown writing the words 'ACTION CHANGES THINGS' on a black chalkboard. The letters 'A', 'C', and 'T' are each inside a colored square (orange, green, and blue respectively). The words are written in white chalk.

A ACTION  
C CHANGES  
T THINGS

# Policy context

- A Rights-Based Approach
- Age mandate
- Obligation to Act
- **Addressing the Needs of Indigenous Youth**



# Policy context

- A Rights-Based Approach
- Age mandate
- Obligation to Act
- Addressing the Needs of Indigenous Youth
- **Quality Assurance**

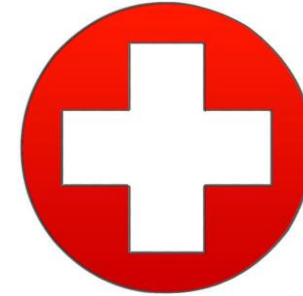


# Policy context

- A Rights-Based Approach
- Age mandate
- Obligation to Act
- Addressing the Needs of Indigenous Youth
- Quality Assurance
- **Reconciling different duties to assist**



Child Protection



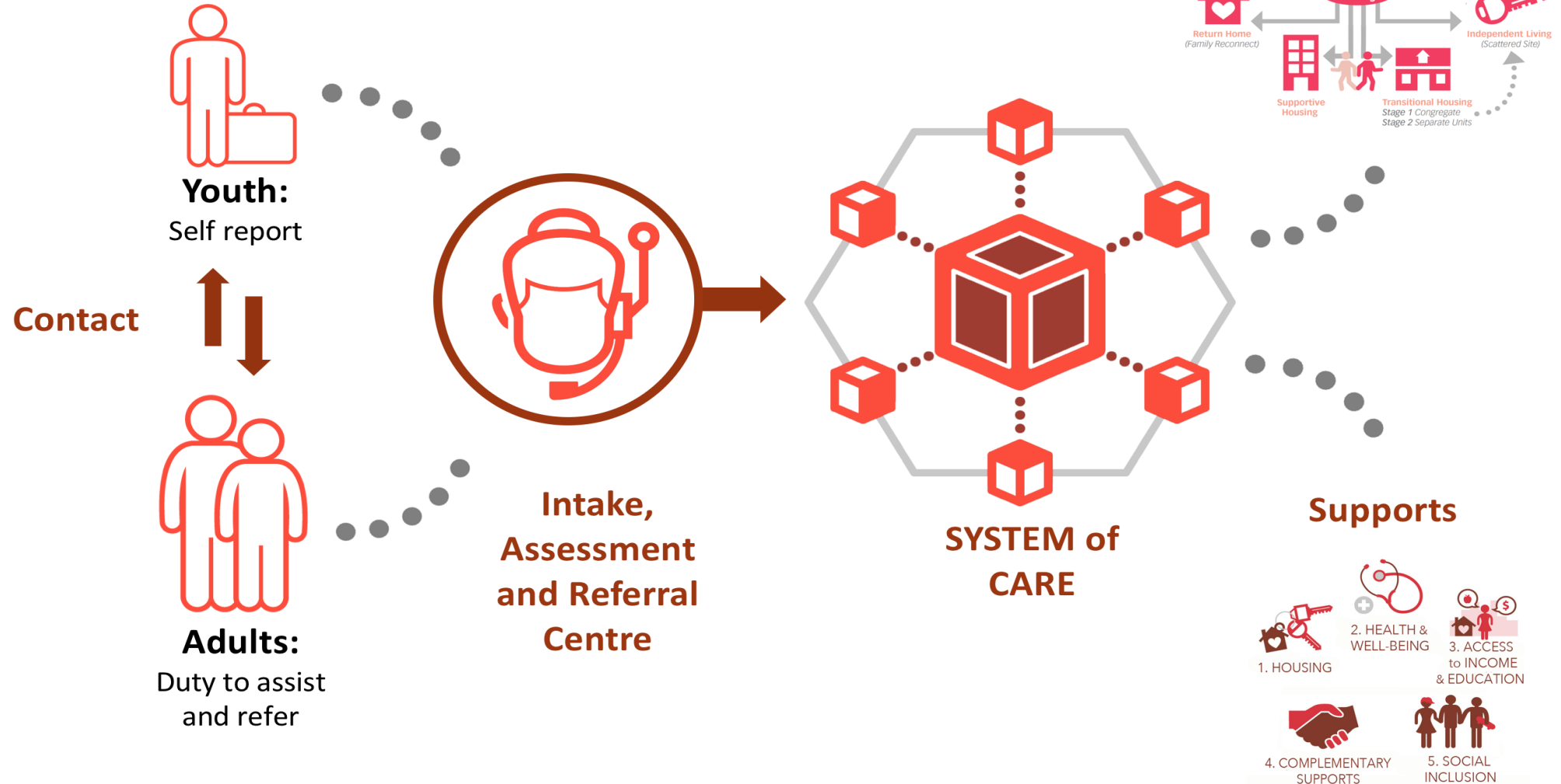
Health Care



Justice

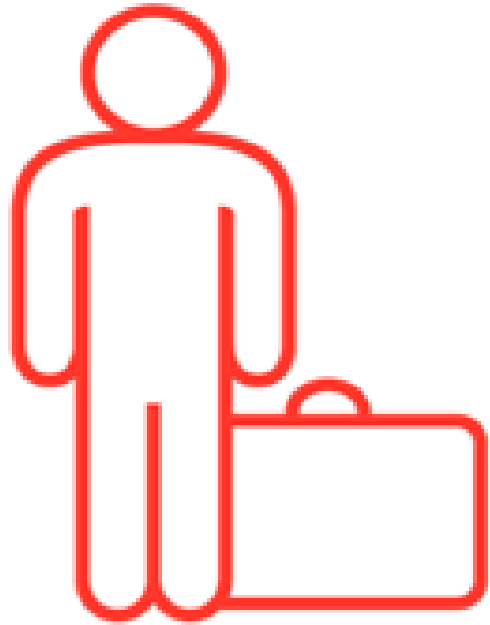


# A Duty to Assist





# A Duty to Assist



**Youth:**  
Self report

- That help is available must be visible to youth
- There needs to be branding and marketing to support Duty to Assist, and to make young people and supportive adults aware.
- Useful web-based technologies such as HELP Seeker can be useful ways of connecting







# A Duty to Assist



**Youth:**

Self report



**Adults:**

Duty to assist  
and refer

- Young people may seek the assistance of meaningful adults in their lives
- At the same time, such adults may identify that the young person is in trouble.
- Youth Choice is paramount. If the adult offers to make a referral, the young person must consent, unless there is a clear indication of imminent harm to the young person or others.



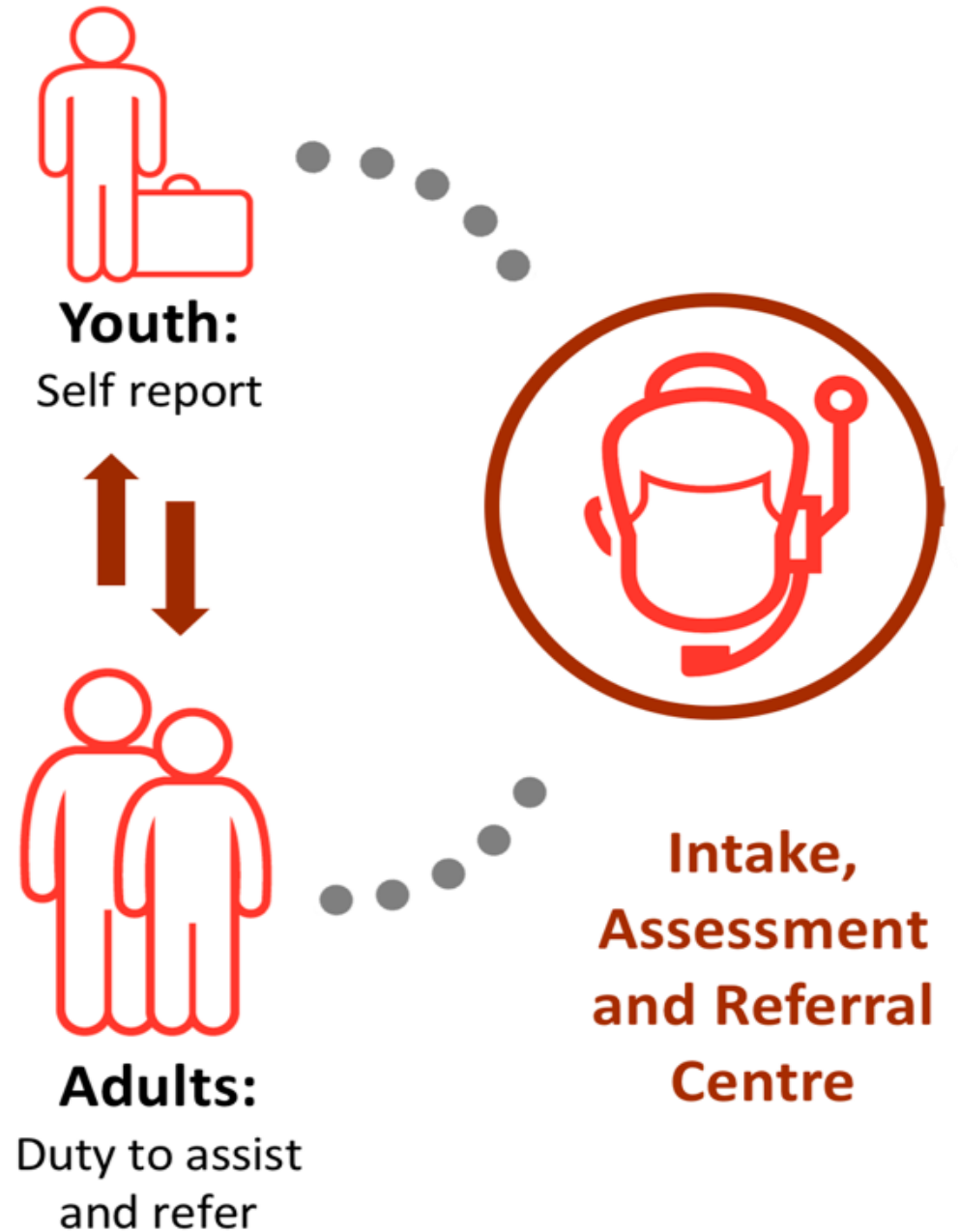
# A Duty to Assist

## Contact:

### Key Considerations:

## *A Place to Access Support*

- Taking reasonable steps
- Accessibility
- Response tied to housing need
- Visibility





# A Duty to Assist

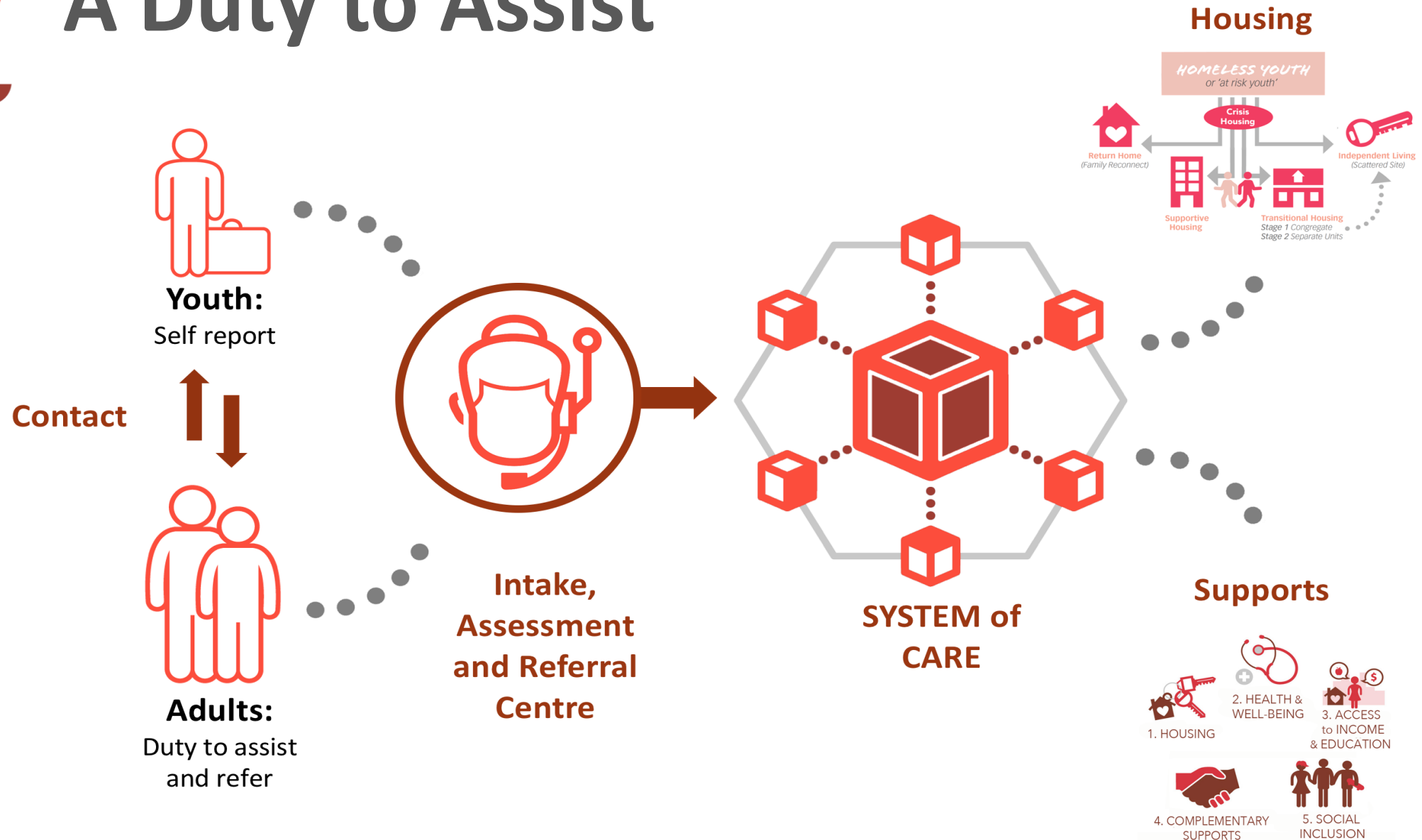


Figure 2: Models of accommodation within a HF4Y framework



# Supports



1. HOUSING  
SUPPORTS



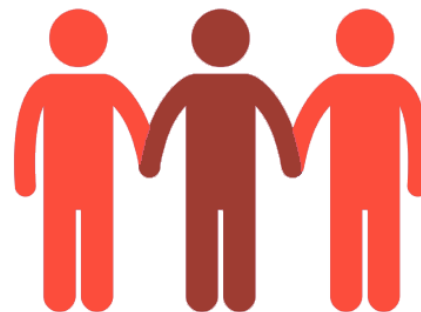
2. HEALTH & WELL-BEING



3. ACCESS TO INCOME  
& EDUCATION



4. COMPLEMENTARY SUPPORTS



5. SOCIAL INCLUSION


# Part 5

## Getting Ready

**Preparing communities  
for implementation**

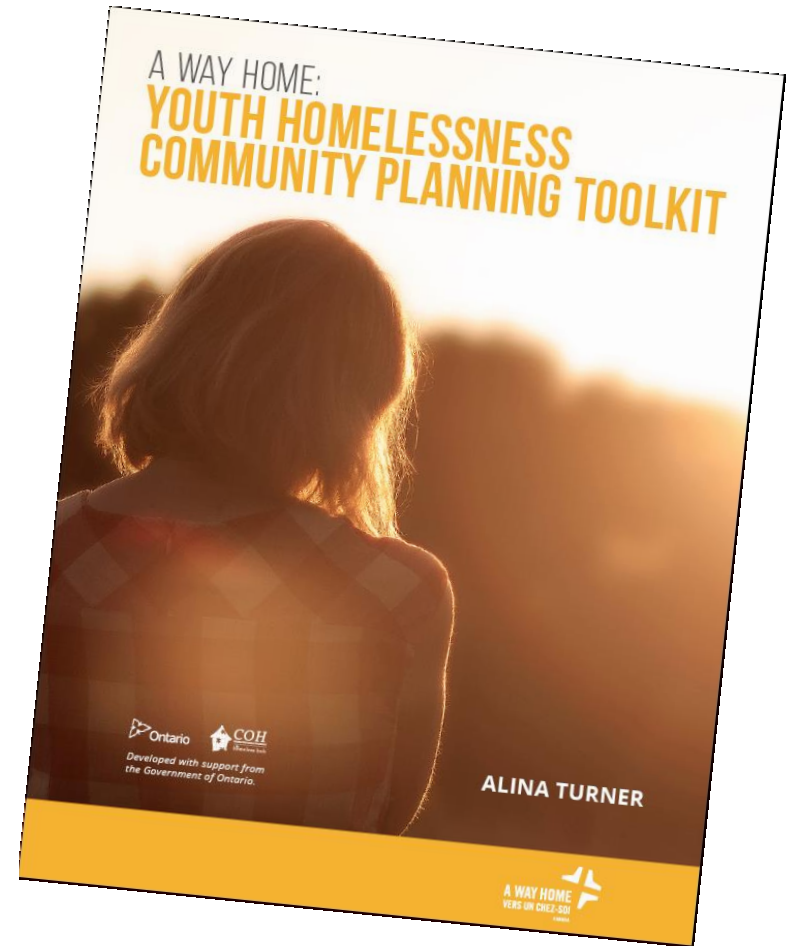
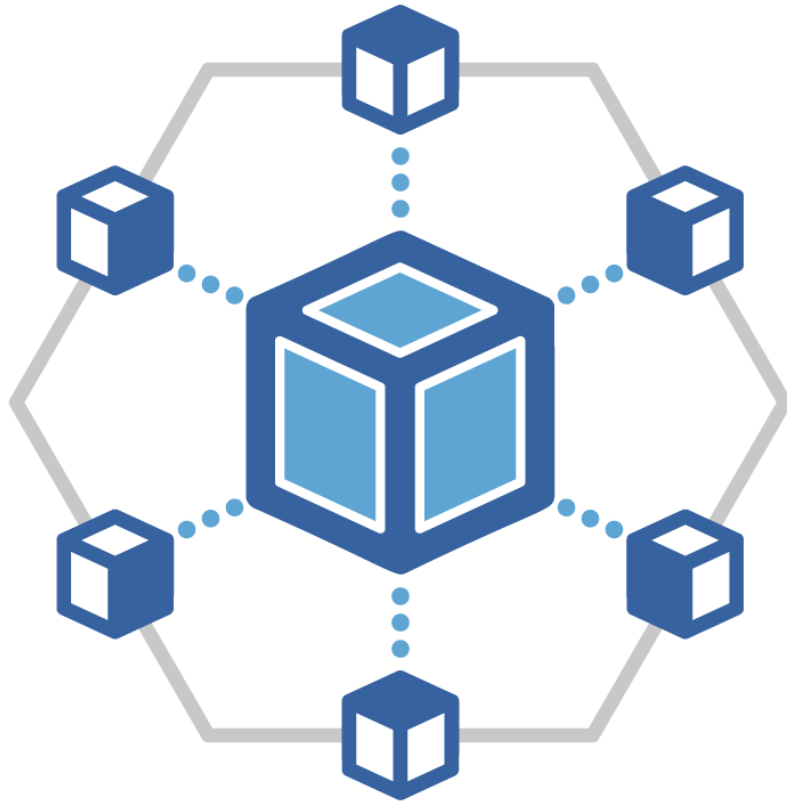


# Change management and the Progressive Realization of Rights

- 
- Duty to refer
  - Housing led
  - Client-centered supports
  - Families
  - Quality of service
  - Addressing and accommodating vulnerability
  - Unconditional support
  - Accommodation for geographical variation



# Community plans and systems integration





# Retooling the sector

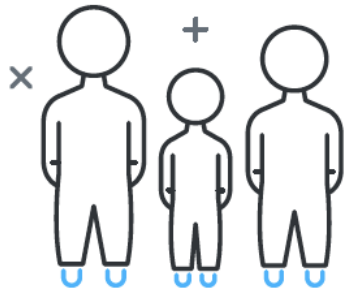




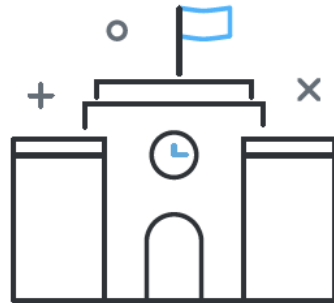
# Investment in early intervention prevention initiatives

Key early intervention program areas described in the Roadmap include:

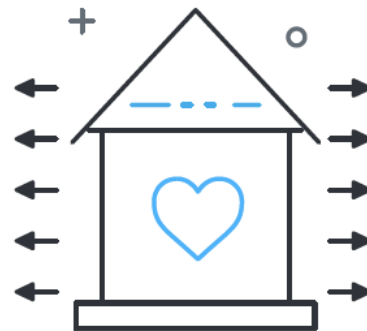
Enhancing **Family**  
and **Natural Supports**



**School-based**  
Early Intervention



**Shelter** Diversion



**Housing-led** Supports



**Sex** Trafficking



d

# Addressing housing affordability for young people and their families







# Mobilizing mainstream institutional responsibility





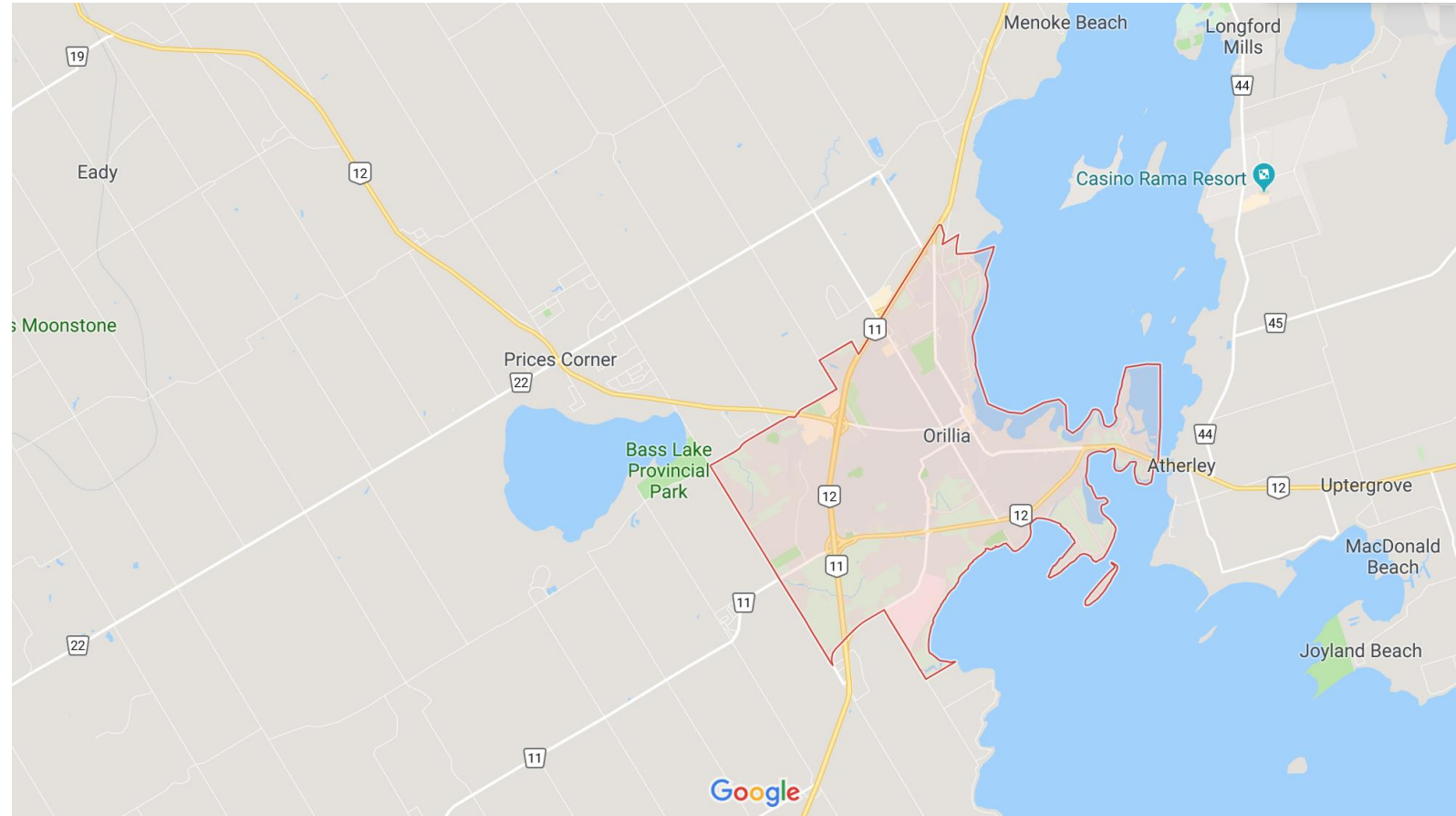


# Place-based supports

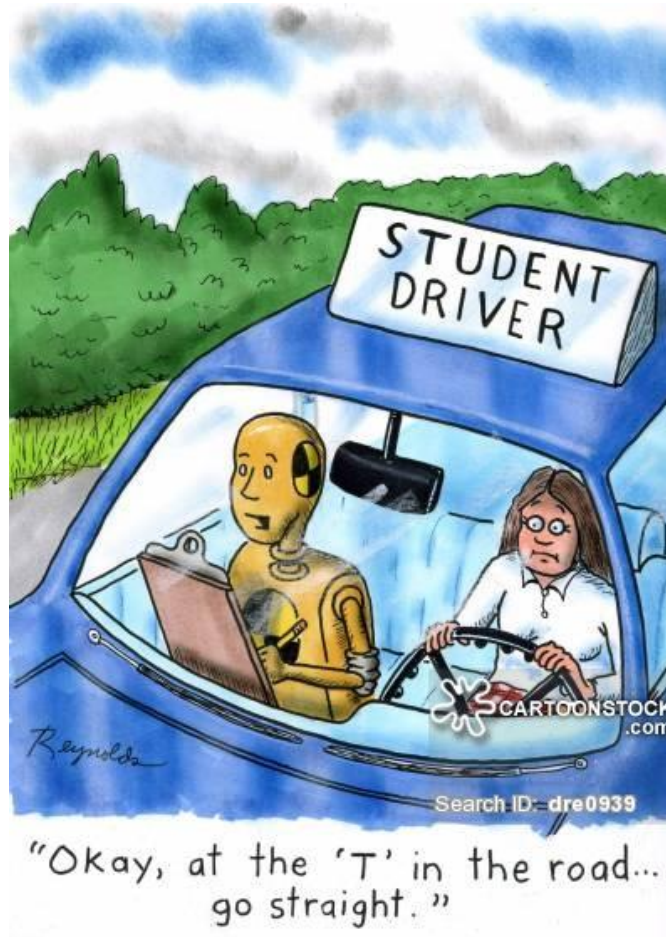




# Accommodation for geographical variation



# PILOTING a Duty to Assist





# Questions or comments?

[www.homelesshub.ca](http://www.homelesshub.ca)

