

The Memengoo Program

Addressing Homelessness
for Indigenous Youth In and
From Care





INTRODUCTION



Memengoo works with Indigenous youth aged 18-25 in and from the care of Child and Family Services (CFS). We prioritize youth at imminent risk of or experiencing homelessness, from the Southeast First Nation communities.

“Memengoo is the Anishinaabe word for butterfly. Butterfly survives a metamorphosis through cycles of nurturance and protection, supporting their ability to develop skills and strength, resulting in the ability to spread their wings and fly. This program is designed to support youth as they transition into adulthood, nurturing their special gifts and talents while supporting them to learn life skills.”



INTRODUCTION: OUR MODEL



The Seven Teachings

The Medicine Wheel

The Circle Of Courage



Indigeneity

Indigenous people are vastly over-represented among people experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg.

65.9% of all participants were **Indigenous**. More than **two thirds** of Indigenous people experiencing homelessness were **First Nations**.

60.6% of First Nations people grew up in a First Nations community.

58.5% of Indigenous people surveyed spent time in the care of **Child and Family Services**.

BACKSTORY-

Why is a different approach needed for Indigenous Youth?

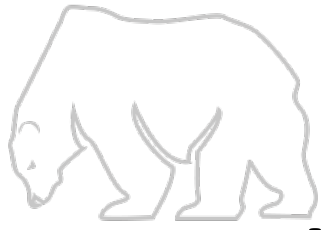
Events leading to homelessness

Youth homelessness leads to adult homelessness. The median age at which people **first** became homeless was **20** and the most **frequent age** was **18** years.

Of those who experienced homelessness for ten or more years throughout their lives, the majority (62.0 percent) **first experienced homelessness** when they were **18 years old or younger**.

The most common reason people experienced homelessness for the first time was **family breakdown, abuse, or conflict**.

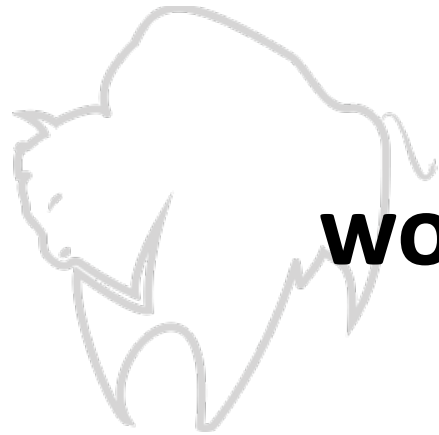
51.5% of people experiencing homelessness had been in the care of **Child and Family Services** at one point in their lives. **62.4%** of them experienced homelessness within **one year of leaving care**.



BACKSTORY- The Need for Memengoo

We believe that Indigenous youth need to be supported in environments where Indigenous values and worldviews are practiced and upheld, where the context of their lives is understood, and where they can learn and live their culture.





A Guiding Compass- working side by side to guide in the right direction



What We Provide

- Access to ceremony, cultural activities
- Traditional values are role modelled
- Supports that understand colonial history and impacts & acknowledge the responses to this context
- Programming that embraces & support families
- Youth as the decision makers

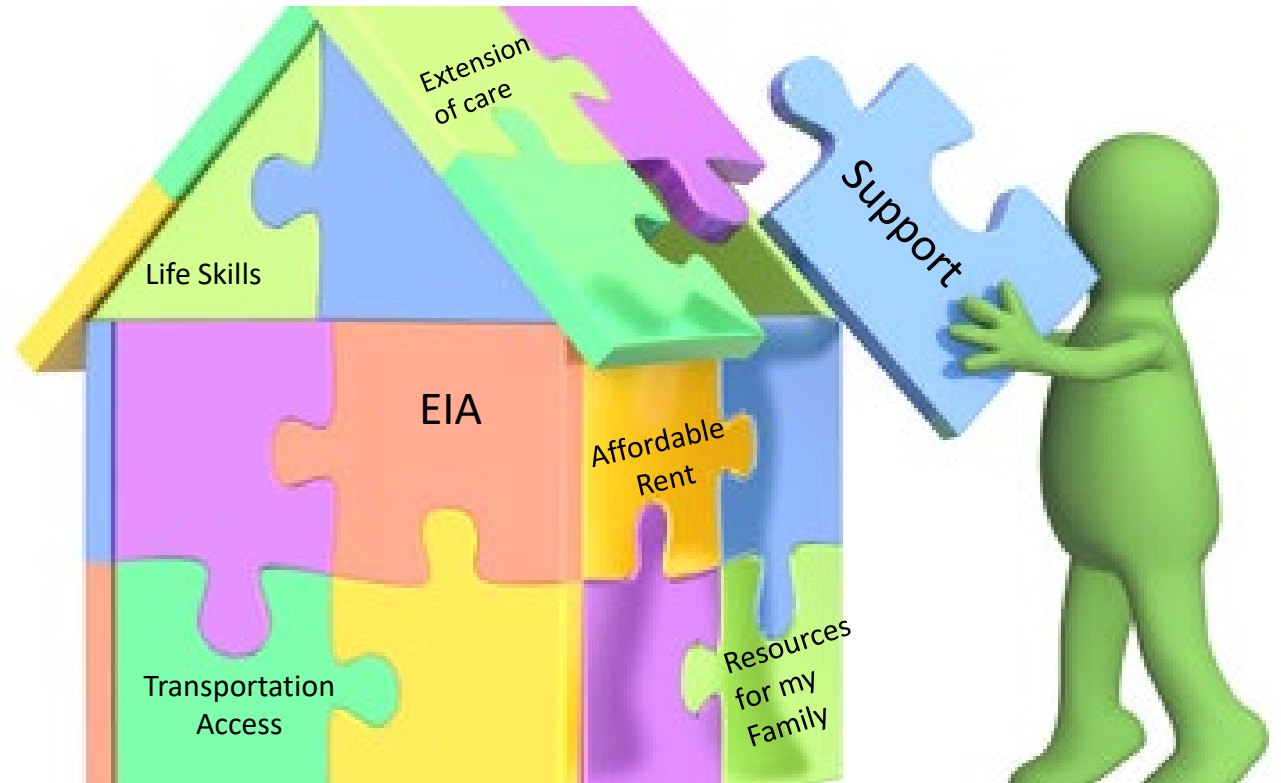


The Memengoo Home

Transitional Housing for Indigenous Youth
in and from Care

- First tenants June 2019
- Full within 3 weeks of opening
- 3 spaces for youth in care, 3 for youth aged out
- On-site caretaker & support workers plus assigned one-on-one worker
- On and off-site programming

Barriers & Challenges: It's Not the Youth, It's Us





Barriers & Challenges: What Others Had to Say



- “we don’t have a way to fund this”
- “we aren’t doing them any favors [by extending supports to 25]”
 - “call us back if you receive charitable status”

The Future

- Multi-unit housing for youth; Young parent reunification housing; housing for youth moving to WPG from communities
- More resources for “emerging adults” aging out of the CFS system
- Better supports for families involved with CFS

