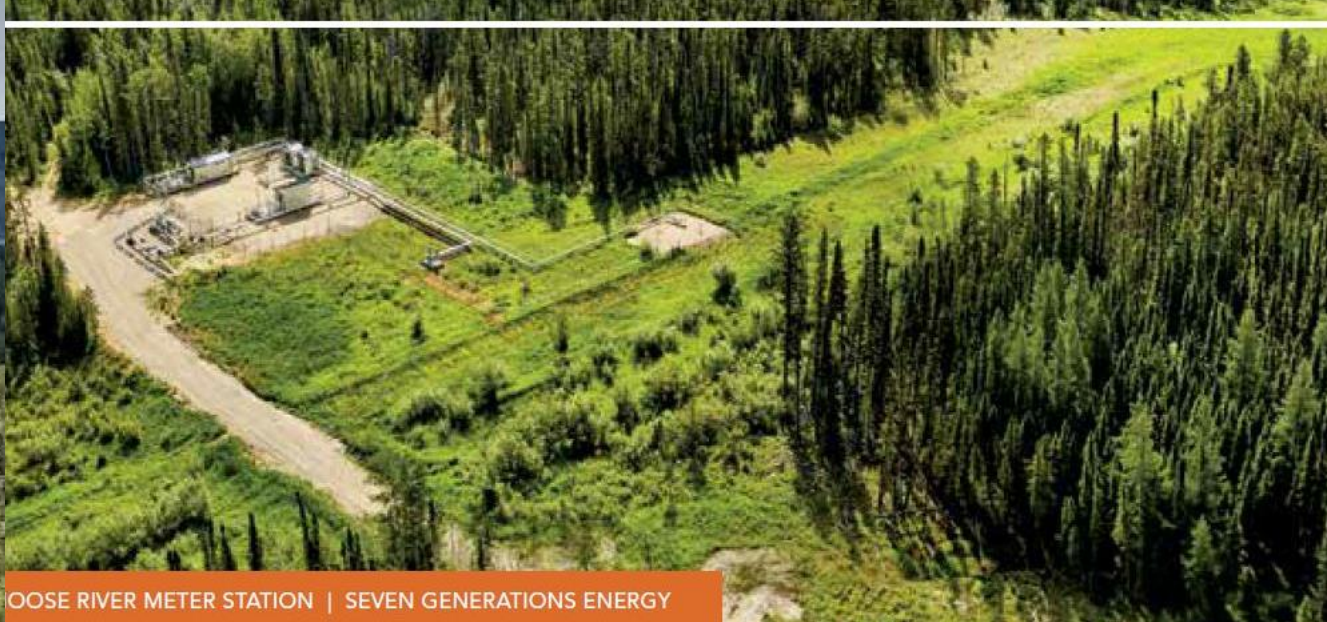




Housing Loss Prevention

Evaluation results and
program experience from
Grande Prairie, AB





OOOSE RIVER METER STATION | SEVEN GENERATIONS ENERGY

Grande Prairie



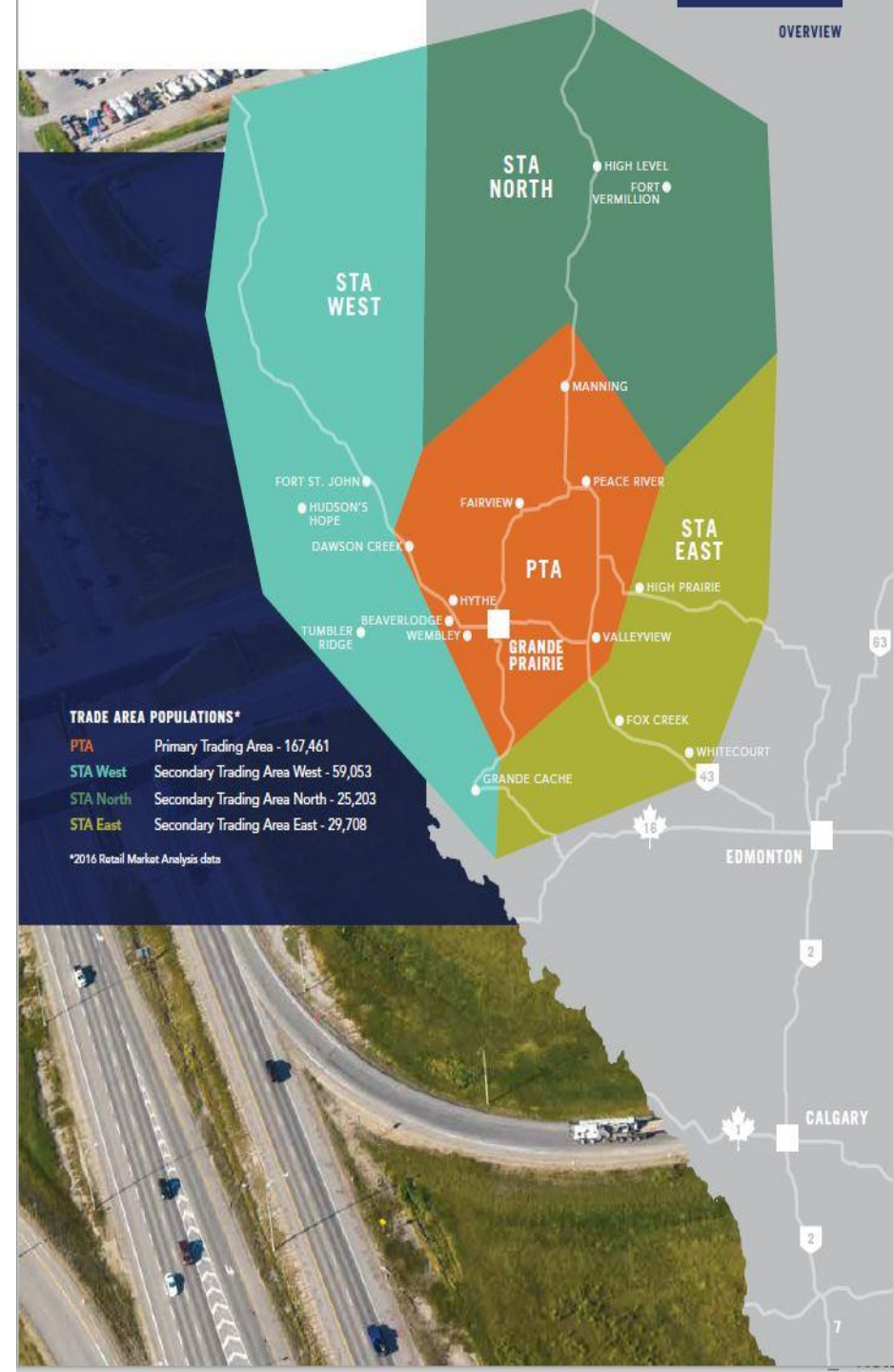
Housing and Homelessness

Homelessness

- **228** people in 2018 Point in Time Count
- Over **310 people currently active** on the By Name List
- Temporary Transition Site (Camp) accommodated over **90** people as shelter overflow in September 2019
- Takes **6-8 weeks** for the average Housing First participant to find stable housing, from time of referral to a housing team

Housing

- **11%** population in Core Housing Need (2,475 households)
- At most, **31%** in Core Housing Need can access affordable housing
- Approx **680** households on Affordable Housing waitlists
- Swings in availability and cost





Preventing Homelessness in GP

1. Start

- 2015
- 2017 to present w/ Centerpoint Facilitation Inc.

2. Current Funding

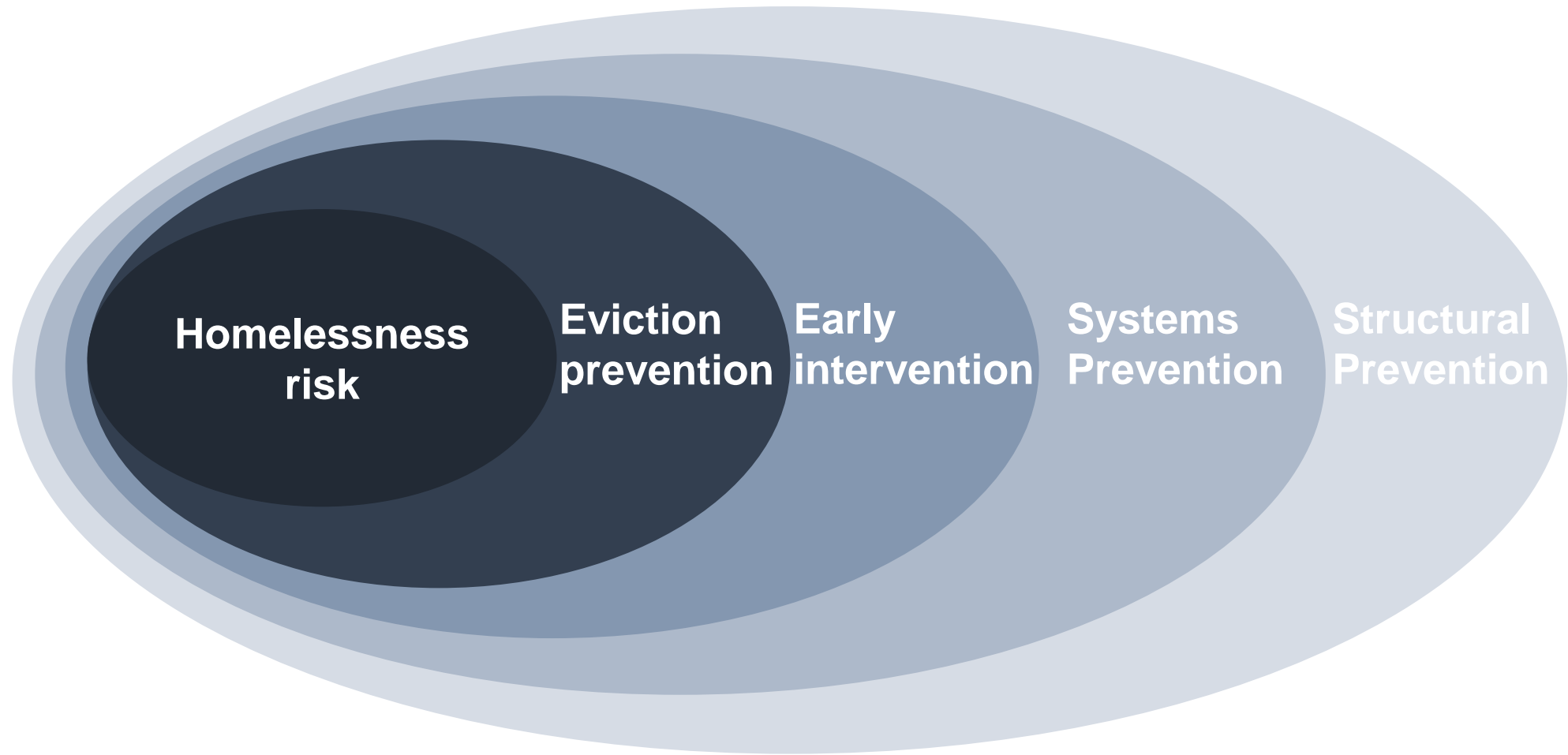
- \$405,374/yr Federal Reaching Home
 - Designated: \$231,503
 - Indigenous: \$ 173,871

3. Purpose of Housing Loss Prevention Program

What does Housing Loss Prevention currently offer?

- Active Intake Process:
 - referrals and system navigation to everyone who walks in the door
 - point of contact for Grande Spirit, AB Supports, Rising Above
- 90-day window of financial support per 12 months to eligible individuals and families
 - Rent or mortgage arrears and top-ups
 - Security deposits
 - Utility arrears
 - First month's rent
 - Moving costs/storage costs
- Assistance with re-housing

Canadian Typology of Prevention



Complexity of implementation and measurement **increases** as we move further from individual or family-focused, trigger-based intervention. **Potential impact also increases.**

● 2018 Evaluation: Purpose & Questions

Inform decision about how to use Reaching Home Funding going forward from 2020.

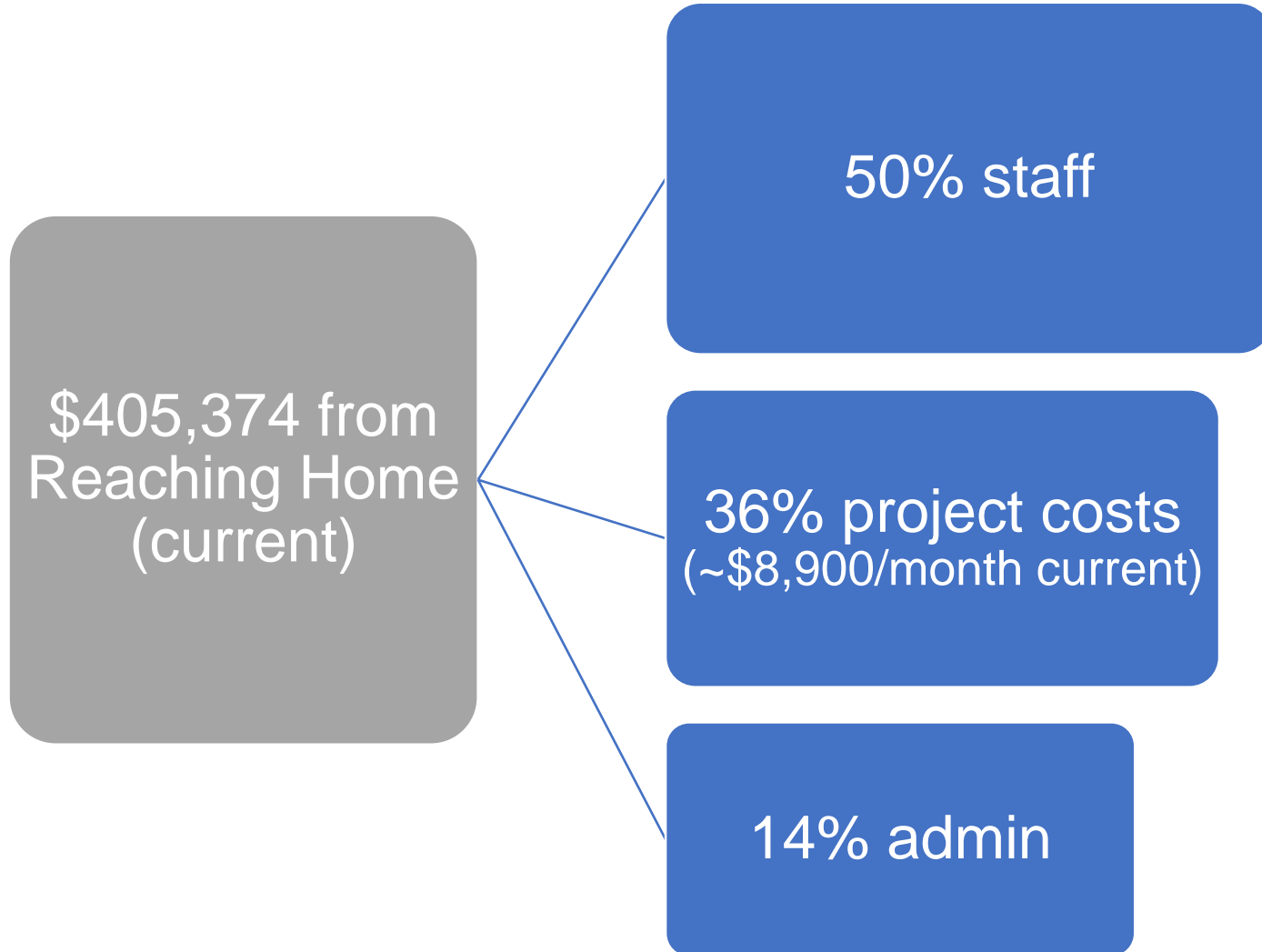
1. How has funding been used?
2. Does the program reach people at risk of homelessness?
3. Does the program prevent homelessness?



Question #1: How is
funding used?



● Funding Use Overview



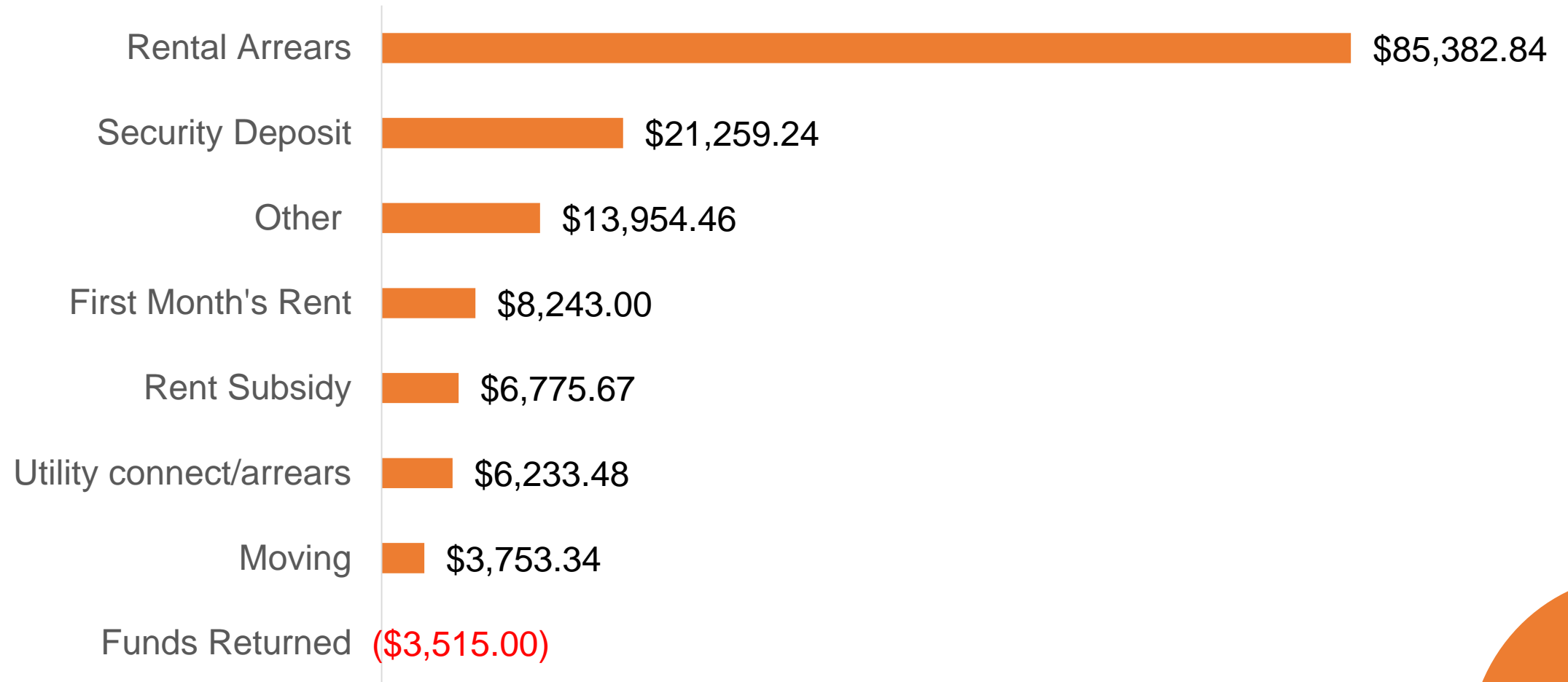
Reach during
18month
evaluation

300 people
@intake

201 enrolled

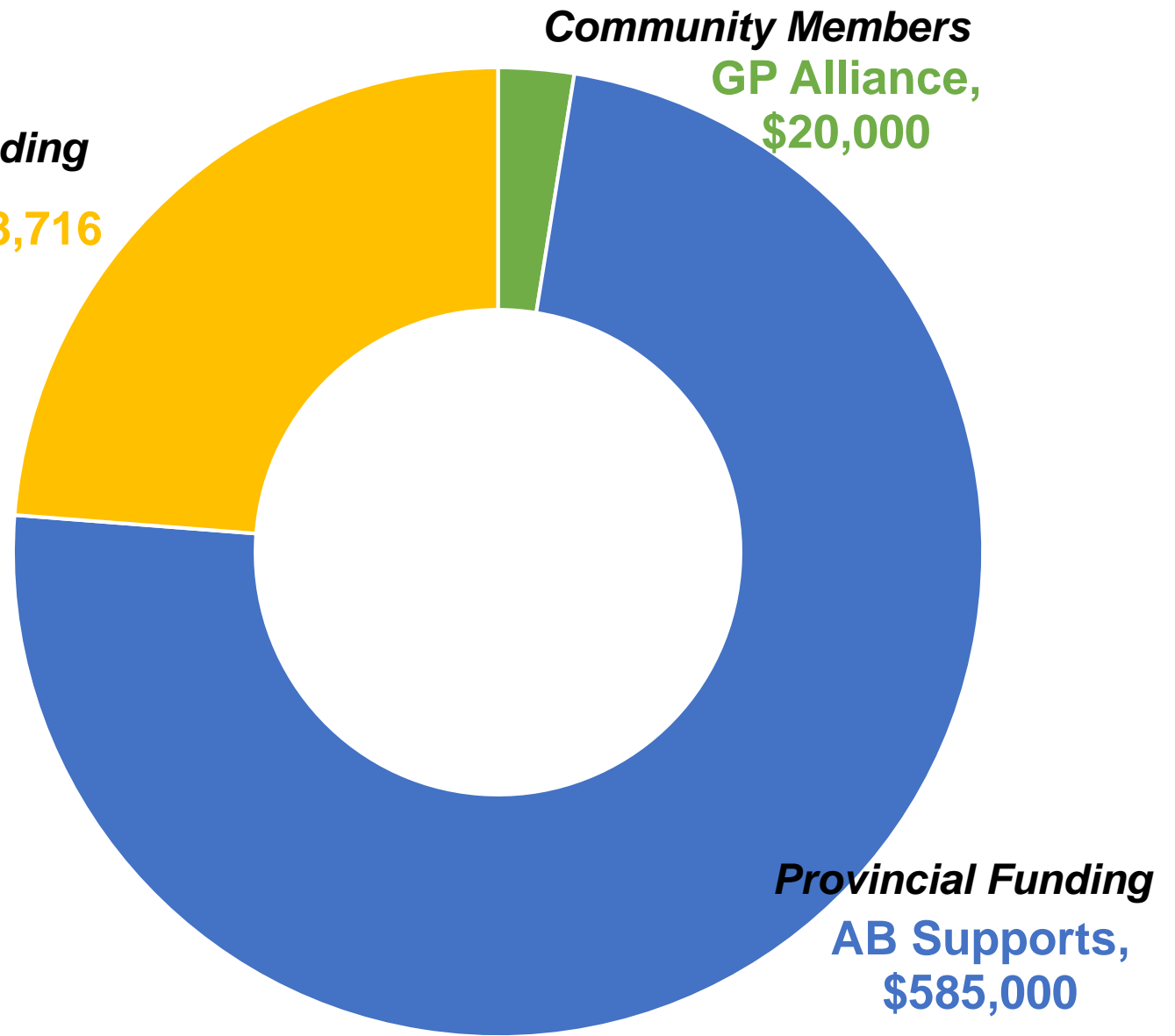
111 to Oct in 2019

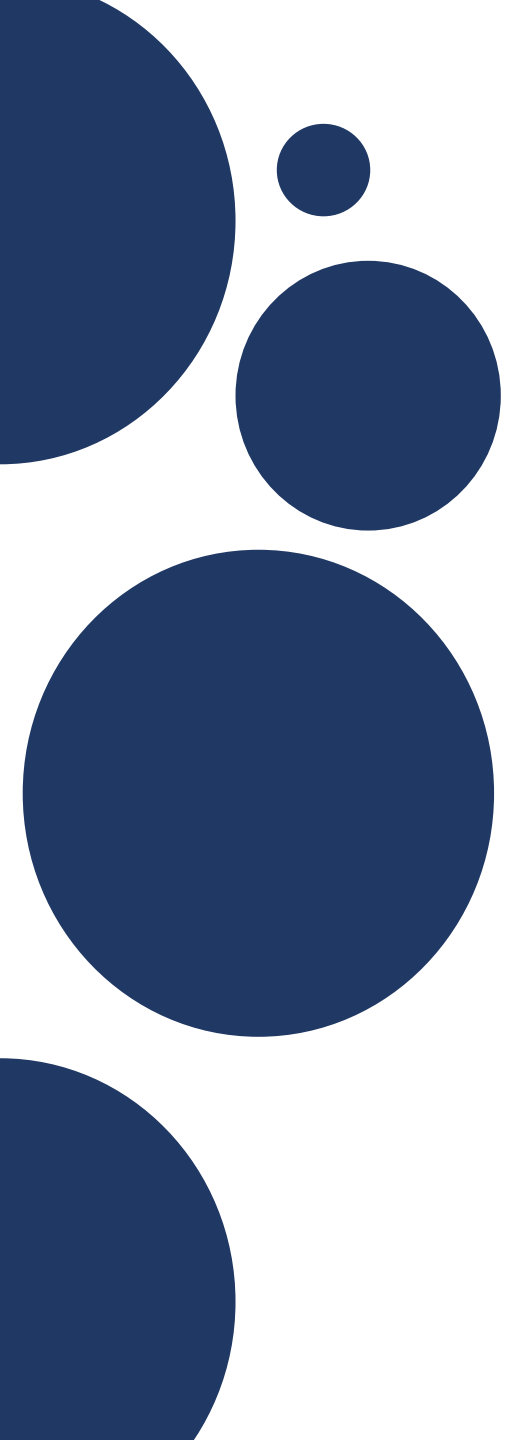
● What were/are the main Project Costs?




Other: Food security, school fees, home support/cleaning, disposal services, subsidized transit, tenant's insurance, tax completion.

Three
Dimensions of
Funding for
Prevention
during evaluation





Question #2: Does the program reach people at risk of homelessness?



● Who is eligible for HLP?

- A wide variety of people can be at risk of housing loss. The program is open to anyone who can provide:
 - Eviction Notice
 - Demand Letter (mortgage)
 - Disconnection Notice
 - Income sufficient to cover current housing costs or willingness to seek more affordable housing
 - Lease Agreement, 30-day bank statement
 - Proof of ineligibility for AB Supports

● Who might be at risk of homelessness?

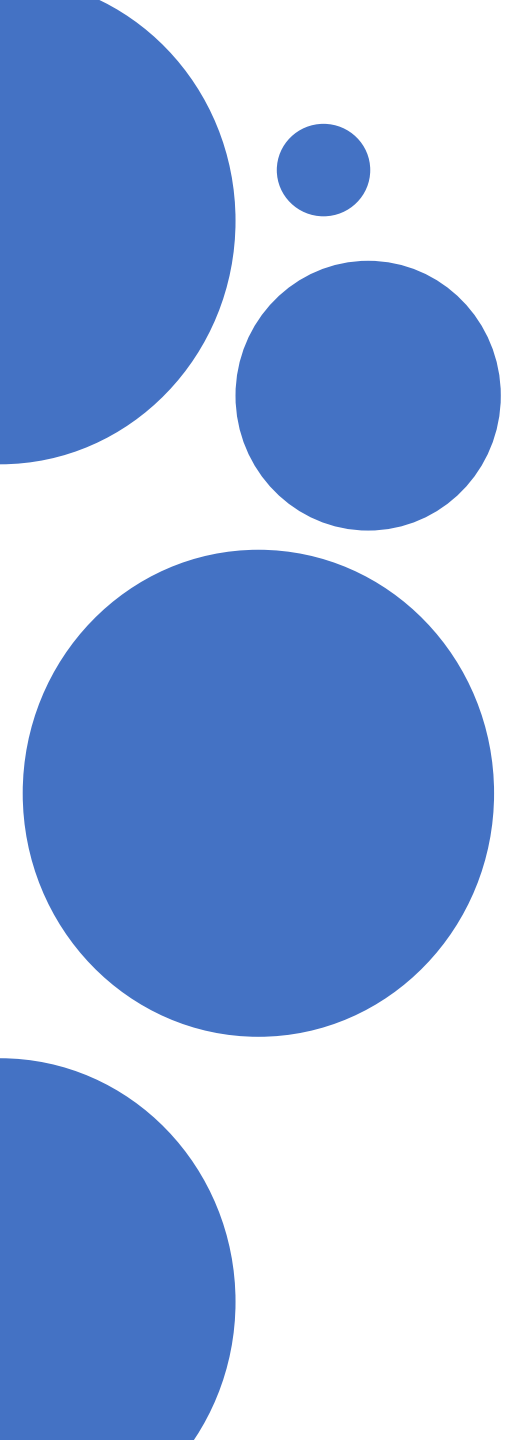
- Some groups are **more likely** to face multiple structural, systemic and individual risk factors than others (eg. single parent, single adult on fixed income, independent youth or indigenous).
- **Trigger events** such as eviction, relationship breakdown and discharge from systems tip the scale toward homelessness when other risk factors are present.
- People who are not homeless, but have **characteristics similar to people who are experiencing homelessness** can be at higher risk.

Housing Loss Prevention Demographics


Female	59%
Male	41%
Indigenous	40%
Non Indigenous Caucasian	60%
Single Adult	61%
Single Parent	17%
Couple	9%
Two Parent Family	9%
Youth (18-25)	11%
Adult (26-55)	72%
Older Adult (56+)	17%

Rely on Government Income	54%
<i>Majority of remaining participants had income less than \$2500/month.</i>	
Hidden Homeless at start	39%
Homeless in 4 years prior	40%

All present with eviction, demand or utility notice, and confirmation of accessing other services (eg. AB Supports).



Question #3: Does the
program prevent
homelessness?




● Outcomes at Exit and 3 Months Later

- **At Exit:** 78% housing situations stabilized at Exit, 90% self-report improved stability going forward
- **Three months later:** 96% still stably housed (62% calls answered)
- **Continued precarity:** 11% returned to Housing Loss Prevention after 12 month waiting period; 13% enrolled in Housing First after Housing Loss Prevention
- **Independence:** a number of participants end up with family/friends because financial situation does not permit independence



In Summary: Our Primary Strengths

- **Our own intake staff**
 - **Clear eligibility process:** it is very clear whether someone is eligible or not, based on documents provided. Requirement of eviction notice/demand letter.
 - **Streamlined services among partners:** eg. AB Supports, faith orgs and Grande Spirit Foundation.
 - **Honest budgets** and **participants contribute \$\$\$** to their intervention
 - Ability to make payments **more quickly** than other prevention programs
 - **Partnership with Rising Above** to help people complete treatment
 - **Relationship with landlords:** landlords make referrals to the program and also provide us with 3-month follow-up information.
- 



In Summary: Issues to Address

- **Impacting long-term outcomes** within 3-months without case management, systemic or structural changes
- **Indigenous funding** not managed by indigenous organization
- Lots of **paperwork** for every intervention
- Educating **private landlords/property owners** about the program
- Social media negative influence



Thanks!

● Risk Factors Seen in GP H1 Participants

Structural

Low and Fixed Income: 87% had annual income of less than \$20,000 and 54% reported income from AB Supports.

Indigenous Identity: 40% indigenous compared to 10% in general population.

PiT: cause of most recent homelessness **relationship breakdown** (44%) or **eviction/housing safety** issues (31%)

Systemic

Barriers to Systems: More report addictions than report accessing treatment programs.

Gaps Within Systems: 50% discharged from health, mental health, treatment or justice within 12 months of enrolment.

Individual/Relational

Mental Health: 52% of participants reported a known mental health condition.

Substance Use Issue: 45% of participants reported a known substance use issue.

Employability: 62% not employable at time of intake

Physical Health: 50% of participants had a known physical health issue.

Domestic Violence: 30% exposed to or fleeing violence.