

# Making Progress in Homelessness Prevention: Insights on Implementing Shelter Diversion & Eviction Prevention Programs From Six Community- based Organizations

National Conference on Ending Homelessness – Halifax, NS

Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup> 2023, 3:30 – 5:00 pm

# Building Local Capacity to Reduce Homelessness through Shelter Diversion & Eviction Prevention: Community Partners

- **Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness** (Victoria, BC)
- **Argus Residence for Young People** (Waterloo, ON)
- **Bissell Centre** (Edmonton, AB)
- **HELP USA** (New York, USA)
- **Native Council of Prince Edward Island** (PEI)
- **REST Centres** (Peel Region, ON)



## Total number of calls

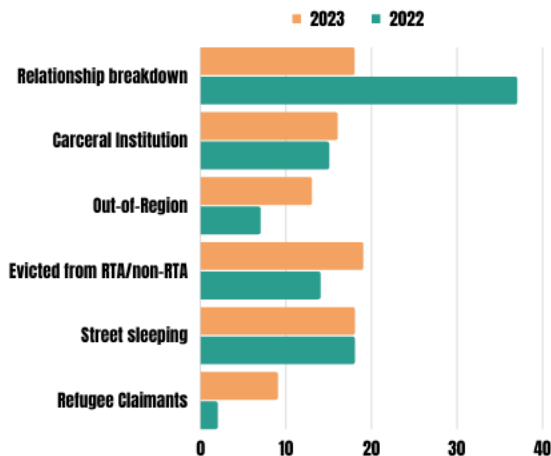
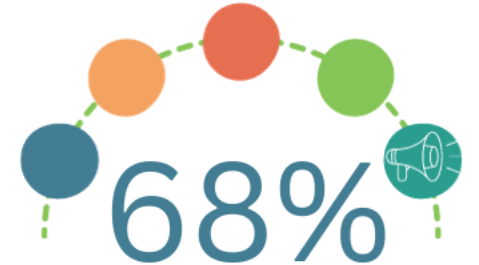
# 6500

Calls include: homelessness prevention and shelter diversion, service navigation, community referrals, and partner support



## Homelessness prevention and shelter diversion

68% of callers who are calling for shelter access were supported with homelessness prevention or shelter diversion



## Reasons for Shelter Access

This includes: relationship breakdowns, discharges from carceral institutions, individual from other regions, evictions, street sleeping, and refugee claimants.



## Community Connections


This include: emergency shelters, safe housing, diverting to friends or family housing, home regions, transitional housing, housing resources, legal aid, immigration supports, financial supports



# **Introductory Presentation to CAEH 2023**

**Presented by: Nikima Leslie**

# Who are We?

- 
- Restoration and Empowerment for Social Transition Centres
  - B3 charitable organization providing transitional housing support services to youth (16-24) experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in Peel.
  - Founded in 2015 by Dagma Koyi
  - Mission: to help raise BIPOC youth out of Housing insecurity in Peel
  - 13 FTEs
  - Supports an average of 200 youth annually since 2021
- 
- A solid orange horizontal bar at the bottom of the slide.

# Who Do We Serve?

BIPOC Youth at-risk of homelessness	BIPOC Youth experiencing homelessness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Youth aging out of Foster Care/CAS system</li> <li>✓ Family disintegration</li> <li>✓ Mental health deterioration</li> <li>✓ Eviction notice received</li> <li>✓ Loss of income</li> <li>✓ Low income (survival vs. rent)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Couch-surfing</li> <li>✓ On streets</li> <li>✓ In shelters</li> <li>✓ In transition homes</li> <li>✓ Asylum seekers</li> </ul>

# How We Serve - SDEP lenses

Pillar	Main Program(s)	Key Supports	SD	EP
Shelter	Bridge Of Hope (BOH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-based model</li> <li>• Income &amp; Housing Application Assistance</li> <li>• Case management</li> <li>• Tenant training &amp; support</li> <li>• Landlord training &amp; support</li> </ul>	X X	X X X X
	Family Intervention and Reunification Management (FIRM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual counselling</li> <li>• Culturally appropriate family counseling</li> <li>• Family reunification</li> <li>• School interventions</li> </ul>		X X X X

# How We Serve - SDEP lenses

Pillar	Main Program(s)	Key Supports	SD	EP
Living	Bare Necessities (BN)	• Food subsidy		X
		• Rent subsidy	X	X
		• Emergency needs (e.g. storage, rent)	X	X
Healing	Healing Emotional Recovery & Opportunity (HERO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual counselling</li> <li>• Group counselling</li> <li>• Talk therapy</li> <li>• Referrals</li> </ul>		X X X X
	Recreation Inspiring Social Engagements (RISE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentorship</li> <li>• Coaching</li> <li>• Prosocial supports (mental &amp; emotional)</li> <li>• Physical well-being</li> </ul>		X X X X



# How We Serve - SDEP lenses

Pillar	Main Program(s)	Key Supports	SD	EP
<b>Growing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning Initiatives</li> <li>Fostering</li> <li>Employment (LIFE)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment prep</li> <li>Financial Literacy</li> <li>Home Economics</li> </ul>		X X X
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Socio-Cultural Opportunities</li> <li>Restoring</li> <li>Engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural awareness</li> <li>Prosocial behavioral development</li> </ul>		X X

---

# Thank You



SHELTER DIGNITY





# Indigenous Shelter Diversion and Eviction Prevention: A Wholistic Approach

**Cathy Fournier, PhD**, Senior Researcher, Indigenous Homelessness, COH

**Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi**, Executive Director, Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness

**Averi Labancz-Vye**, Project Coordinator, Shelter Diversion & Eviction Prevention, COH

# Panel Discussion

- *Insights from the partners on 4 themes, which are based on conversations from the Shelter Diversion and Eviction Prevention Community of Practice calls*



# REST in Advocacy & Collaboration



Homelessness Providers Meeting with Min. Sean Frazer



Post-meeting photo op with Min. Nina Tangri

# Introducing a Shelter Diversion & Eviction Prevention Community of Practice

180 participants joined, 40-80 participants per call

Includes people involved in service provision, policy/planning/research/advocacy, funders, volunteers

Primarily homeless sector; also legal, mental health and substance use services

Community-based, provincial and national organizations

*“...it's also nice to hear what's happening in different jurisdictions, even if you know people are still new and just trying things out. It's just nice to kind of have that environmental scan of what's happening in different areas.”*

- CoP Participant

*“But in general, I think the idea would be to just come out with a better appreciation of other people's experiences and what they're learning and what they're doing.”*

- CoP Participant



# Mobilizing Community Capacity to Implement or Develop Shelter Diversion & Eviction Prevention – Coming in Spring 2024

- Gathering what we learn from our national survey, literature review/environmental scan, community partner and Lived Expertise engagement, and the CoP, **we will co-create resources to support communities looking to start or strengthen SD-EP programs**
- Will include **program model guides**, and **training materials**



**THANK YOU!  
QUESTIONS?**



canadian  
observatory on  
homelessness

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

---

*[thehub@edu.yorku.ca](mailto:thehub@edu.yorku.ca)*

*[facebook.com/homelesshub](https://facebook.com/homelesshub)*

*[@homelesshub](https://twitter.com/homelesshub)*