Preventing Youth Homelessness in 2020

9th March 2020, Cardiff City Hall

Contents Slide Pack 1

(click each title to jump to individual sections)

Experiences of Making the Shift to Youth Homelessness Prevention in Canada

An overview of how youth homelessness is approached in Canada, moving from 'managing', to 'preventing, reducing and ending'.

Housing Associations for Young People

An overview of how increasing the availability of affordable housing for young people is approached in Finland.

Systems Failures: How can we Prevent Homelessness from the Care System

An overview of the experiences of young people with lived experience of both care and homelessness, and of research being undertaken by End Youth Homelessness Cymru into dismantling the processes through which public systems contribute to young peoples' trajectories into homelessness, including recommendations for change.

View our **Twitter Moment** from the day here: https://twitter.com/i/events/1237304146056880128

Read the WCPP report *Preventing Youth Homelessness* here: https://www.wcpp.org.uk/publication/preventing-youth-homelessness/

End Youth Homelessness Cymru
www.llamau.org.uk/eyhcymru

Wales Centre for Public Policy
Canolfan Polisi Cyhoeddus Cymru
www.wcpp.org.uk

Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab

MAKING THE SHIFT

Melanie Redman President, A Way Home Canada
Director of Implementation, Making the Shift

Stephen Gaetz President, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness
Scientific Director, Making the Shift

End Youth Homelessness Cymru

Wales Centre for Public Policy
Canolfan Polisi Cyhoeddus Cymru

What is the *problem* we are trying to solve?

Youth Homelessness is a seemingly intractable problem in Canada

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS *in* CANADA
BY THE NUMBERS

- **40,000 over the course of a year**

- **7,000 on any given night**

YOUNG PEOPLE *aged 16-24* MAKE UP ABOUT 20% OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION.

canadian observatory on homelessness

Gaetz, Stephen; Dej, E., Richter, T., Redman, M. (2016) *The State of Homelssness in Canada – 2016* Canadian Homelessness Research Network / Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. Homeless Hub Paper series #2

Canadian research points to some important conclusions

First, we are waiting too long to intervene.

Second, experience of homelessness has a devastating impact on health, safety, mental health and well-being.

Third, some young people – Indigenous, LGBTQ2S, newcomer youth – experience additional burden of discrimination and exclusion.
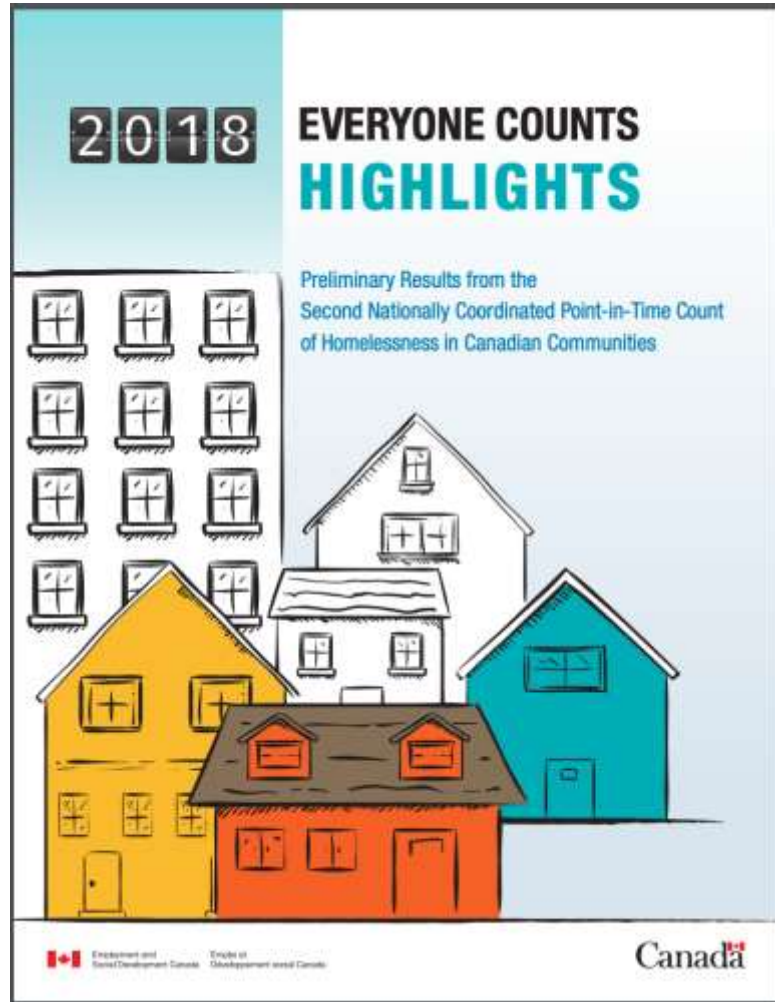
Fourth, the emergency response does not prevent or end youth homelessness.

Fifth, our public systems are failing to prevent youth homelessness.

Sixth, people with lived experience of youth homeless strongly profess the need to shift to prevention.

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Homelessness JUNIOR

URGENCY

"50% of all currently homeless persons had their first experience before the age of 25"

2018 National Point in Time Count

The change we want to see ...

Prevention → **Emergency Response** → Housing and Supports

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The change we want to see …

Prevention → **Emergency Response** → Housing and Supports

Reaching Home:
Canada's Homelessness Strategy

Measuring Success: Outcomes-based approach

- Chronic homelessness in the community reduced;

- Homelessness in the community is reduced overall and for specific populations;

- New inflows into homelessness are reduced; and,

- Returns to homelessness are reduced.

Soooo …

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Collective *Impact*

involves a group of relevant actors from different sectors working together to address a major challenge by developing and working toward a common goal that fundamentally **changes outcomes for a population**.

Solving youth homelessness is *NOT* solely the responsibility of service providers

canadian
observatory on
homelessness

Research Agenda

Key Priorities – 2014-16

- Point in Time Count Toolkit
- Definition of youth homelessness
- Program Model Case Studies
- National Youth Homelessness Survey
- Data Management Support
- Prevention Framework
- Cost Effectiveness Study
- Policy Briefs

Solving "Wicked Problems" through
Social Innovation

Attack of the
WICKED PROBLEM
Horror Beyond Understanding!

Co-Leadership

Two Components

Networks of Centres of Excellence
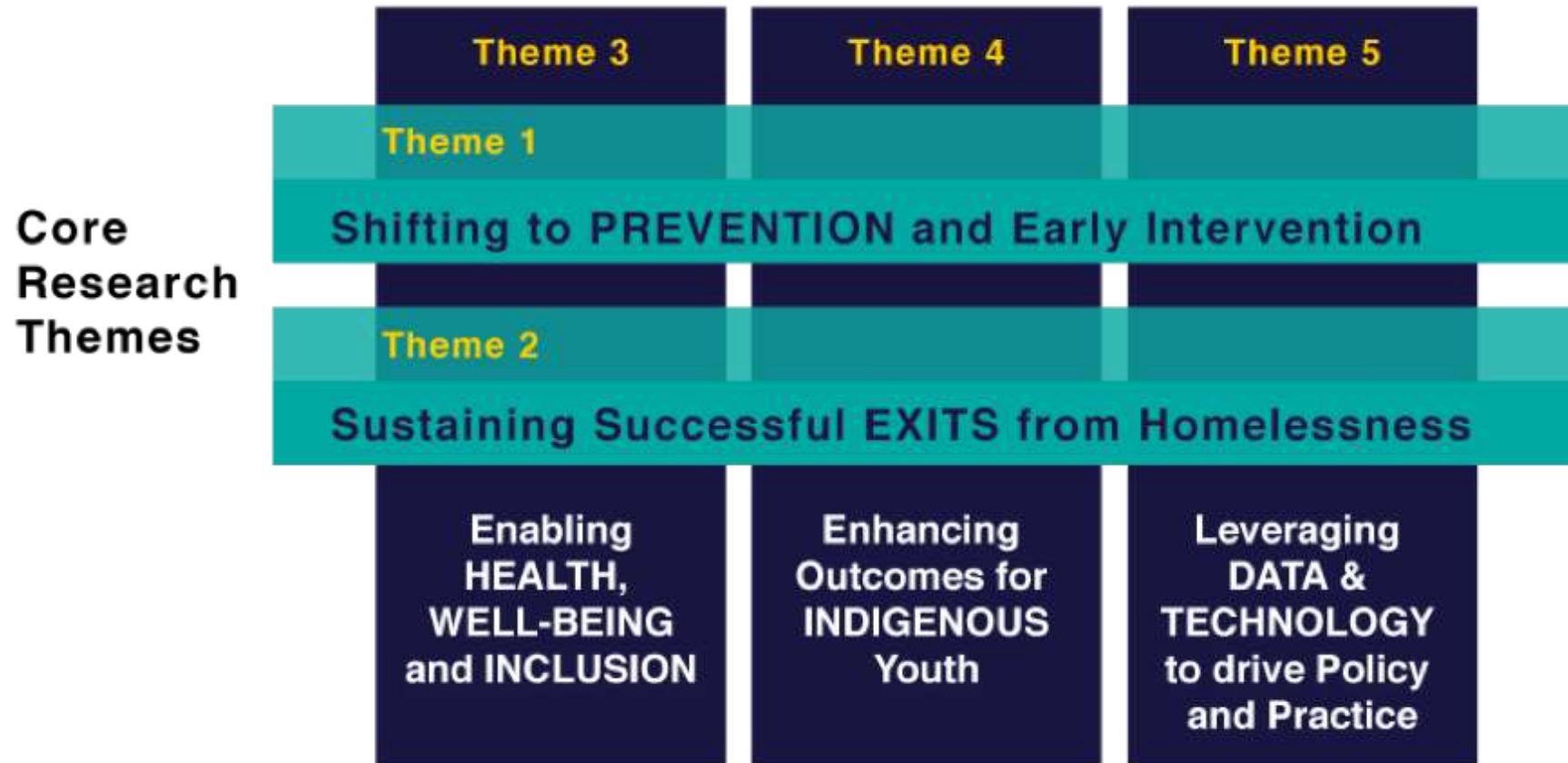$17.9 Million – Research Tri-council of Canada

Youth Employment & Skills Strategy
$11 Million – Government of Canada

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Our work focuses on a singular goal:

to conduct and mobilize quality research that supports governments, communities and service providers to make the shift from managing the crisis of youth homelessness, to a focus on prevention and enabling sustainable exits from homelessness.
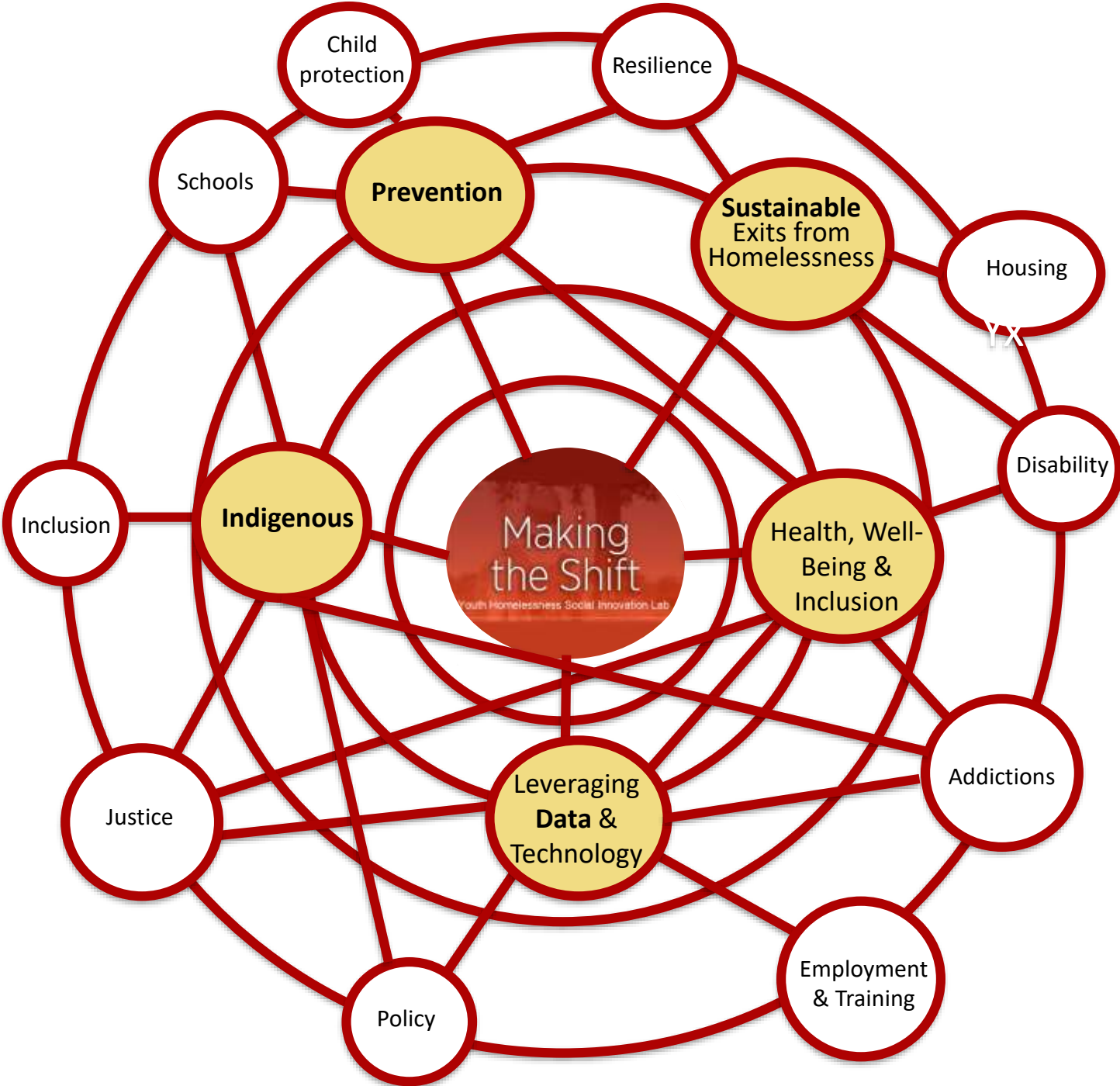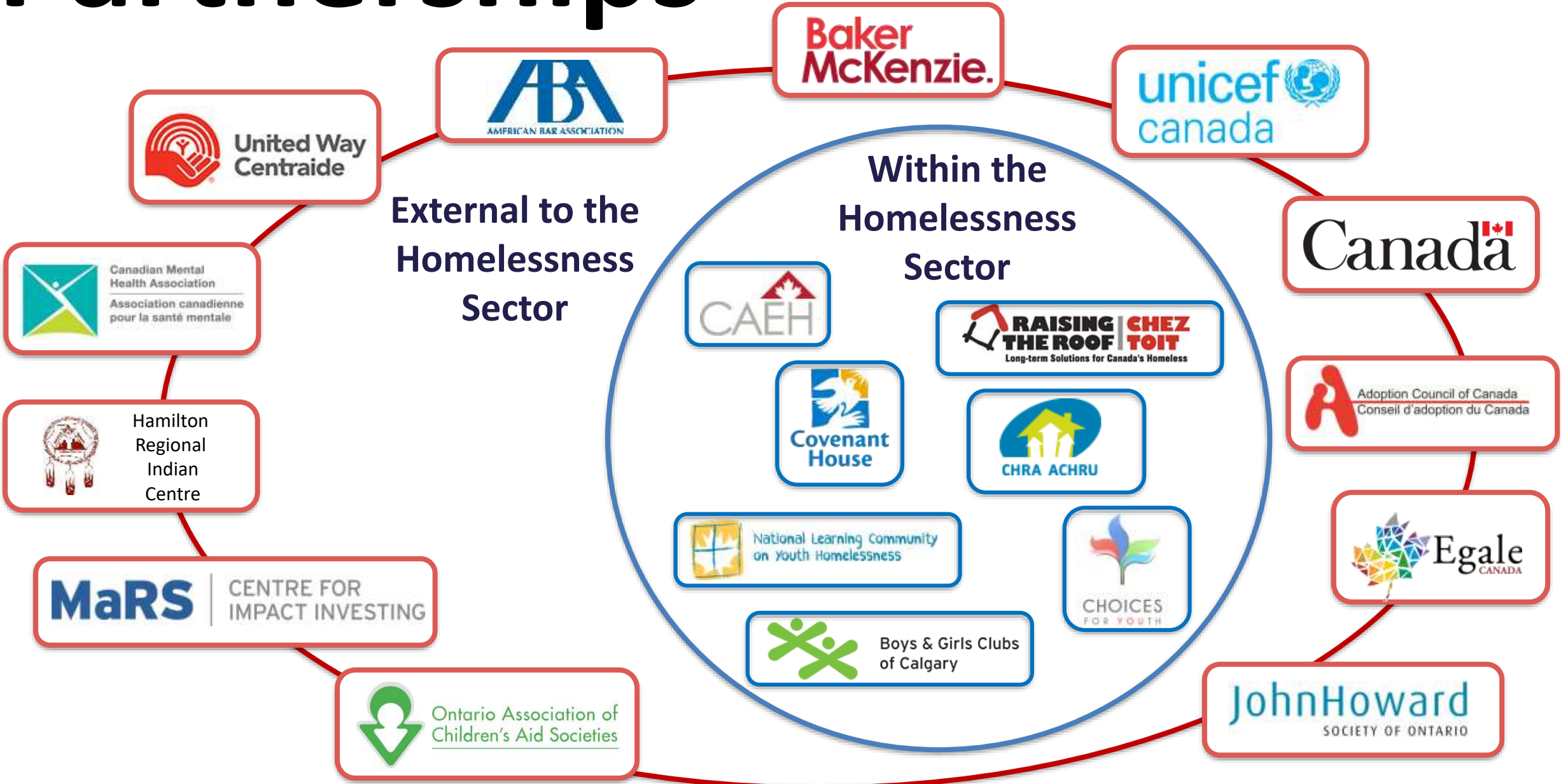
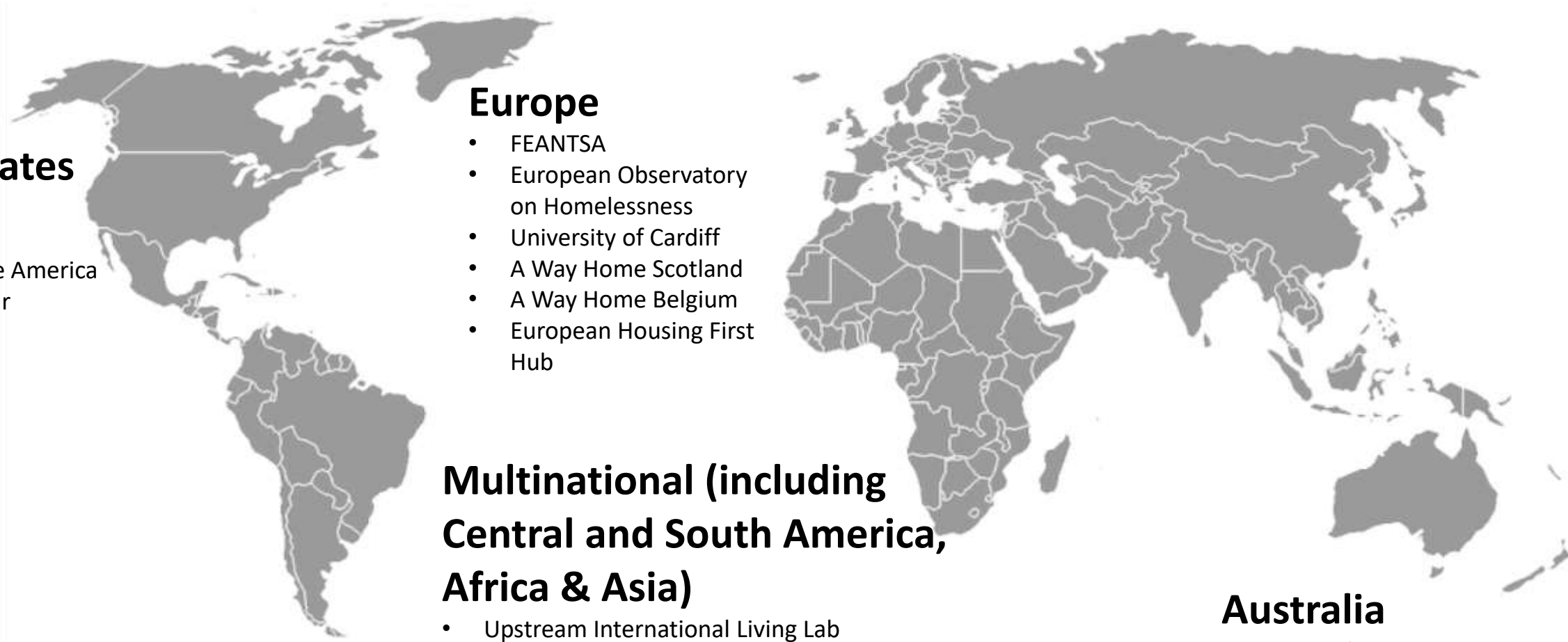# MtS Research Program

Research Theme Areas

Web of Research Networks

Partnerships

External to the Homelessness Sector

Within the Homelessness Sector

A Global Approach

United States

- NN4Y
- Chapin-Hall
- A Way Home America
- American Bar Association

Europe

- FEANTSA
- European Observatory on Homelessness
- University of Cardiff
- A Way Home Scotland
- A Way Home Belgium
- European Housing First Hub

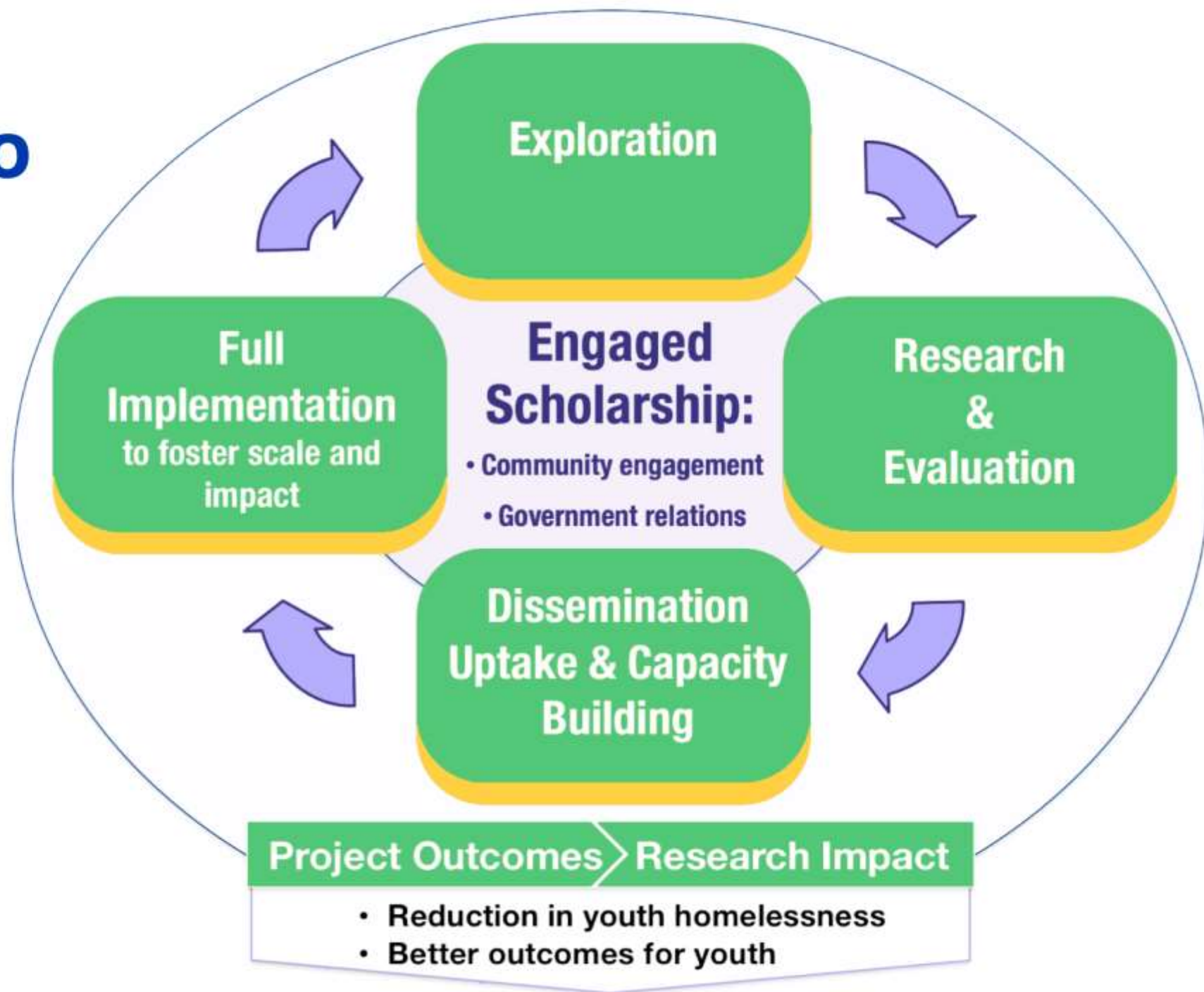## Multinational (including Central and South America, Africa & Asia)

- Upstream International Living Lab
- Institute on Global Homelessness
- Covenant House International
- Consortium for Street Children
- Baker McKenzie

Australia

- National Youth Commission
- University of Southern Australia

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Research to IMPACT Cycle

Exploration

Research & Evaluation

Dissemination Uptake & Capacity Building

Full Implementation to foster scale and impact

Engaged Scholarship:
- Community engagement
- Government relations

Project Outcomes > Research Impact
- Reduction in youth homelessness
- Better outcomes for youth

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1

Exploration

1.1 **Assessment** of current knowledge base.

1.2 **Innovation review:** Assessment and Identification of innovative policy & practice.

1.3 **Prioritization** for: a) Research; b) Resource development; c) Demonstration projects; d) Knowledge Mobilization.

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2

Research & Evaluation

2.1 **Social R&D planning**

2.2 **Research and Evaluation**

2.3 **Demonstration Projects** (Research to Practice)

2.4 **Policy analysis**

2.5 **Developmental and Outcomes evaluation** of YHSIL KMb

- Phase 1 launched in 2017

- Funded by Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (ESDC)

The **Making the Shift Demonstration Lab** offers a space to develop, refine and test models of prevention and Housing First for Youth in real time in 10 cities in Ontario and Alberta. At the same time, these models are undergoing rigorous research and evaluation in order to both strengthen the service delivery, and therefore ensure the best possible outcomes for young people and their families, but also to contribute to the body of knowledge generated by the MtS Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab
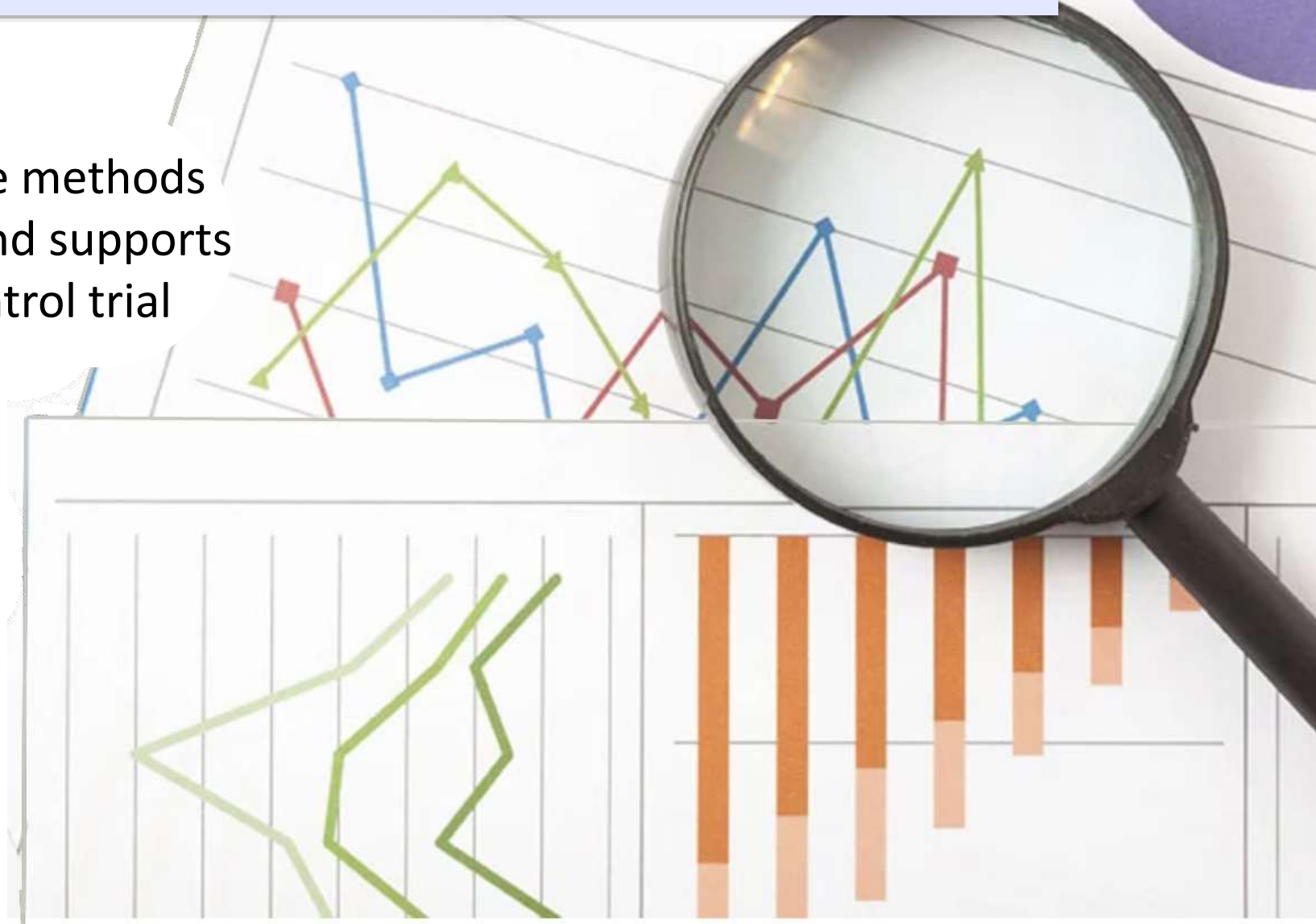
Service Design & Prototyping

Research and Evaluation

Research:

- Qualitative and quantitative methods
- Outcomes tied to service and supports
- For HF4Y - Randomized Control trial

Evaluation:

- Developmental Evaluation
- Outcomes Evaluation

OUTCOMES

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
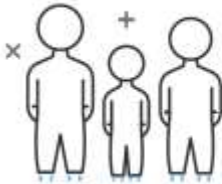- Engagement in meaningful activities

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Canadian Demonstration Projects
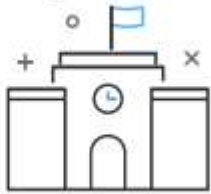

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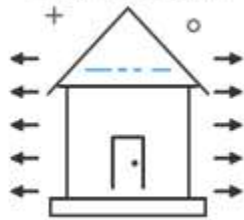
EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM AREAS

Enhancing **Family** & **Natural Supports**

School-based Early Intervention

Shelter Diversion

Housing-led Supports

Preventting **Sexual Exploitation** & **Trafficking**

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The Roadmap for the Prevention of Youth Homelessness

Stephen Gaetz, Kaitlin Schwan,
Melanie Redman, David French, & Erin Dej

Edited by: Amanda Buchnea
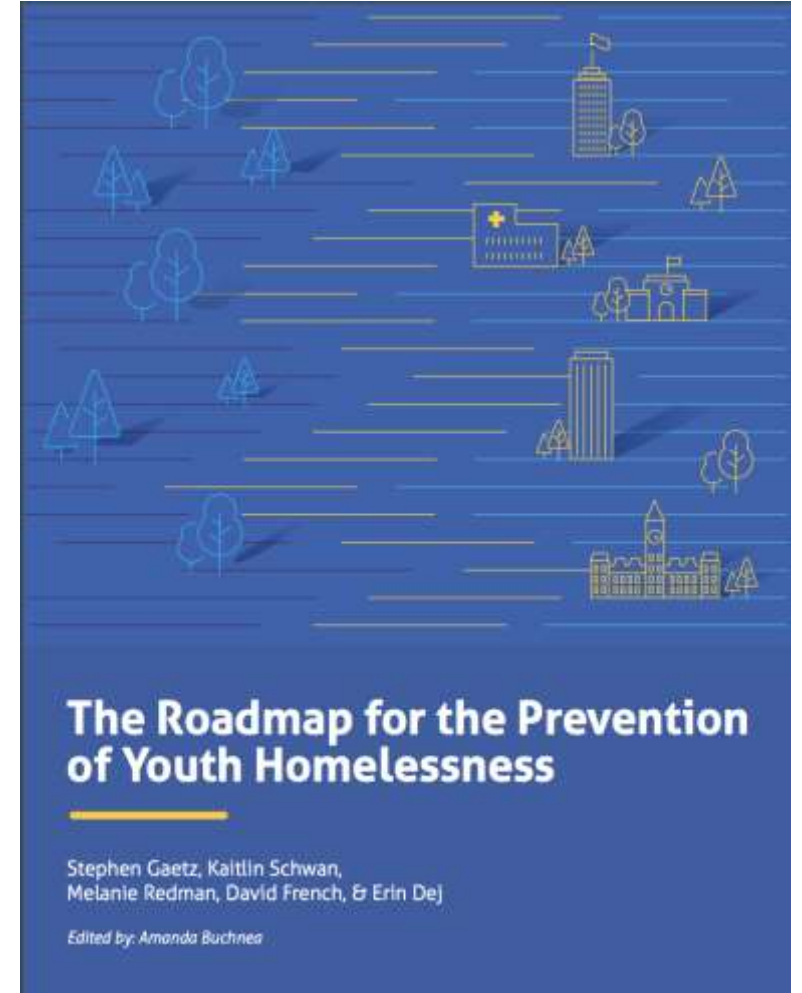
1 Enhancing Family and Natural Supports
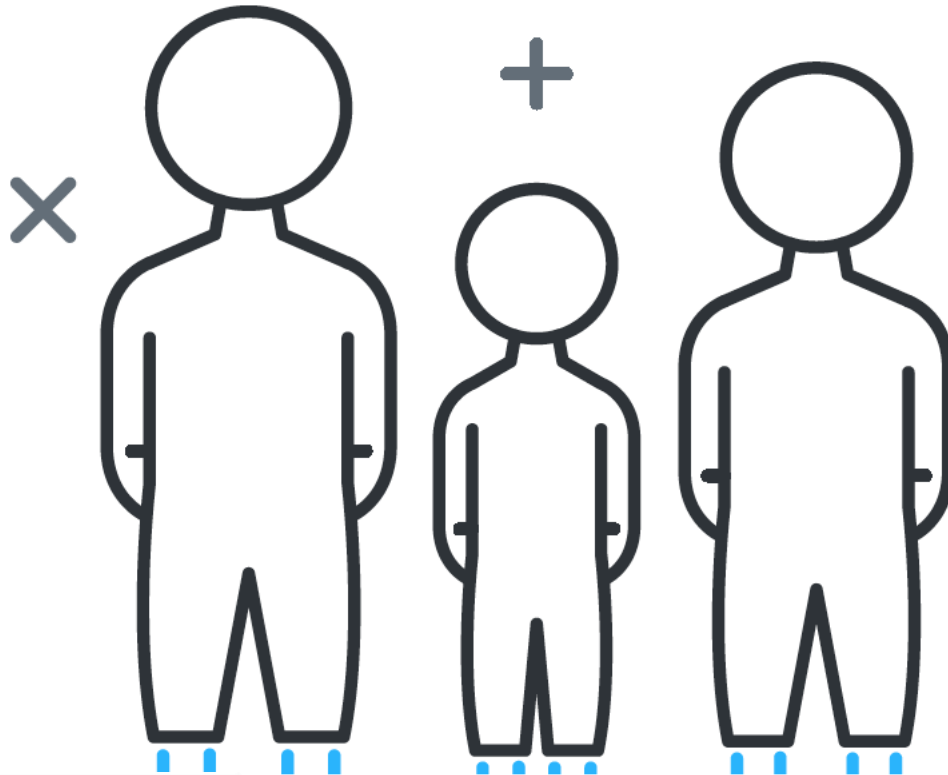
"My trauma led me down a wrong path, and I didn't know that I had … places where I could go to access help for that. And my family didn't know how to support me with my mental health. So they ended up giving up on me because they didn't know… how. And they didn't have… anyone show them or teach them how to take care of someone with those circumstances."

Kamloops Youth

Unfortunately, family is often framed as a problem and as part of a young person's past.
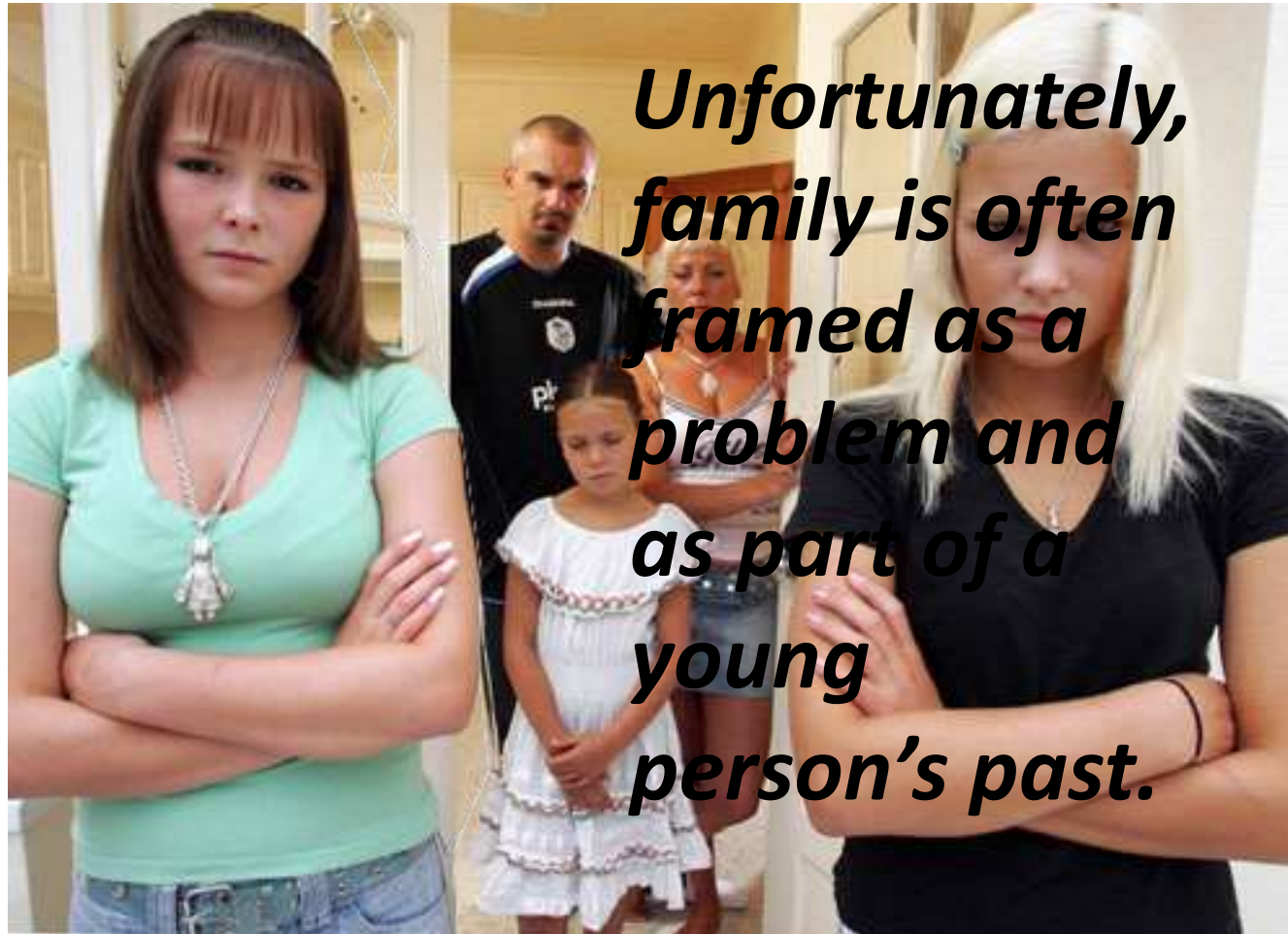
Youth Reconnect

Reconnect is an Early Intervention Program

- School / Community partnerships

- Students, teachers and families engaged

- At risk youth identified

Program goals

- Keeping young people 'in place'

- Youth driven, strengths-based approach

- Stabilizing living situation

- Supporting young people AND their families

- School engagement

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THE UPSTREAM PROJECT

3

Community of Schools and Services

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

'community of schools and services'

COSS Model

EARLY IDENTIFICATION

'population screening'

AIAD - Australian Index of Adolescent Development

LONGITUDINAL OUTCOMES MEASUREMENT

- reduced family conflict and homelessness

- reduced early school leaving

PRACTICE FRAMEWORK

- multi-tiered

- flexible

- dynamic over time

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PREVENTION
Demonstration Projects

- **Enhancing Family and Natural Supports**

- **Youth Reconnect**

- **The Upstream Project**
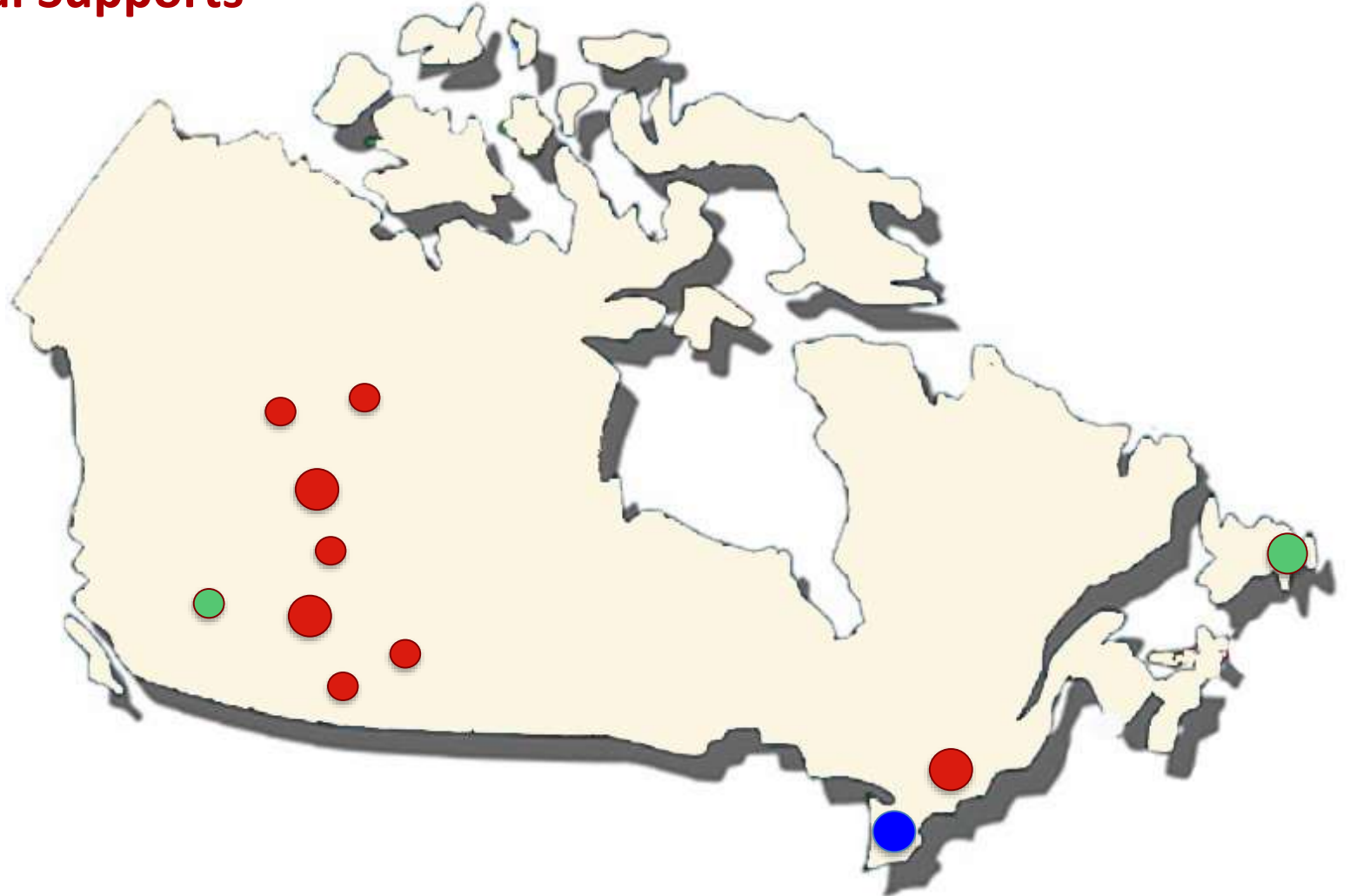
④ Housing First for Youth
Demonstration Projects

Ottawa - Housing First for Youth

Toronto – PREVENTION focus:
Housing First for Youth leaving care

Hamilton - Housing First for Indigenous Youth (An Indigenous led project)

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3

Dissemination, Uptake & Capacity Building

3.1 Resource & Content Development

3.2 Communications and Marketing Strategy

3.3 Supporting early implementation

3.4 Peer to Peer learning and community of practice

3.5 Training and technical assistance

4

Full Implementation
to foster scale and impact

4.1 Sector engagement re: Programs and Interventions

4.2 Community System Planning

4.3 Government relations strategy – policy & funding

4.4 Private sector & philanthropic engagement

4.5 Monitoring adaptation

The anticipated impact of addressing challenge(s)

Project Outcomes → **Research IMPACT!**

- Research demonstrating policy and practice effectiveness
- Uptake of better policy
- Uptake of better interventions
- Supporting communities to transition from crisis response to prevention and sustainable exits from homelessness
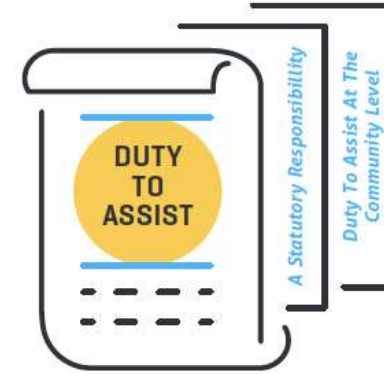
- **Reduction** in youth homelessness
- Enhanced housing stability, life changes & well-being
- Inclusion and strengthened natural supports
- Enhanced participation in employment, training & education

What the *FUTURE* looks like

DUTY TO ASSIST
Taking a Rights-Based Approach

DUTY TO ASSIST

A Statutory Responsibility

Duty To Assist At The Community Level

If the prevention of youth homelessness is to be grounded in a human rights approach, we must consider the positive obligations of governments and communities to ensure the rights of youth are protected. The fulfilment of young people's social and economic rights must include legal and practical mechanisms to seek assistance and redress in the event that their rights are or will soon be violated. Currently, there largely is no protocol or legal requirement to assist youth in distress outside of the child welfare context.
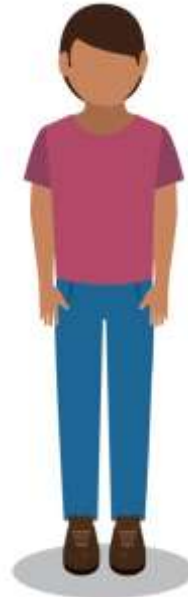
PATHWAY MAPPING

Teachers or counsellors

Doctor or nurse

Friends

Relatives
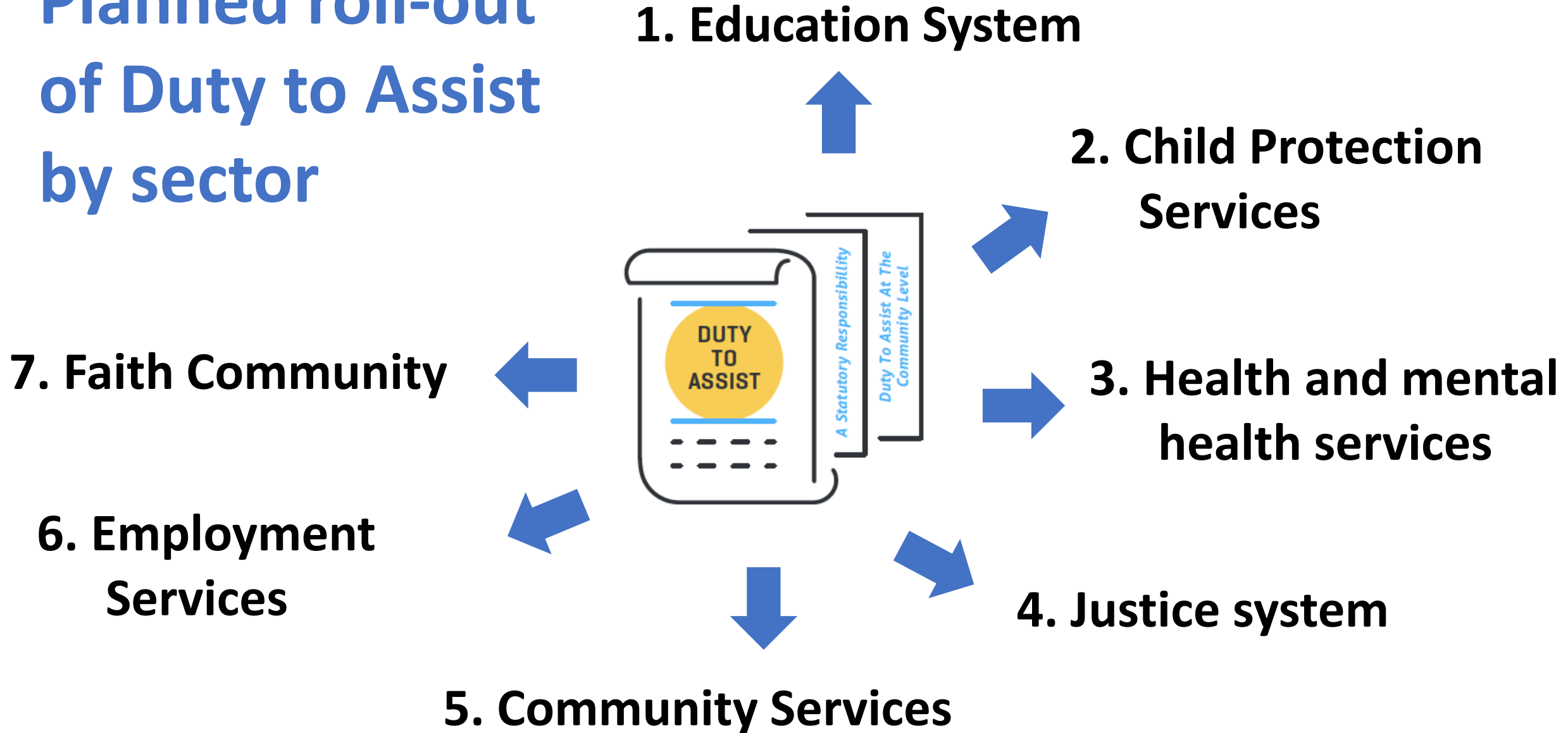
Coach or instructor

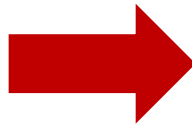Faith leader

Friend's parents or neighbors

Planned roll-out of Duty to Assist by sector

DUTY TO ASSIST

A Statutory Responsibility

Duty To Assist At The Community Level

1. Education System

2. Child Protection Services

3. Health and mental health services

4. Justice system

5. Community Services

6. Employment Services

7. Faith Community

Components of School-Based Duty to Assist

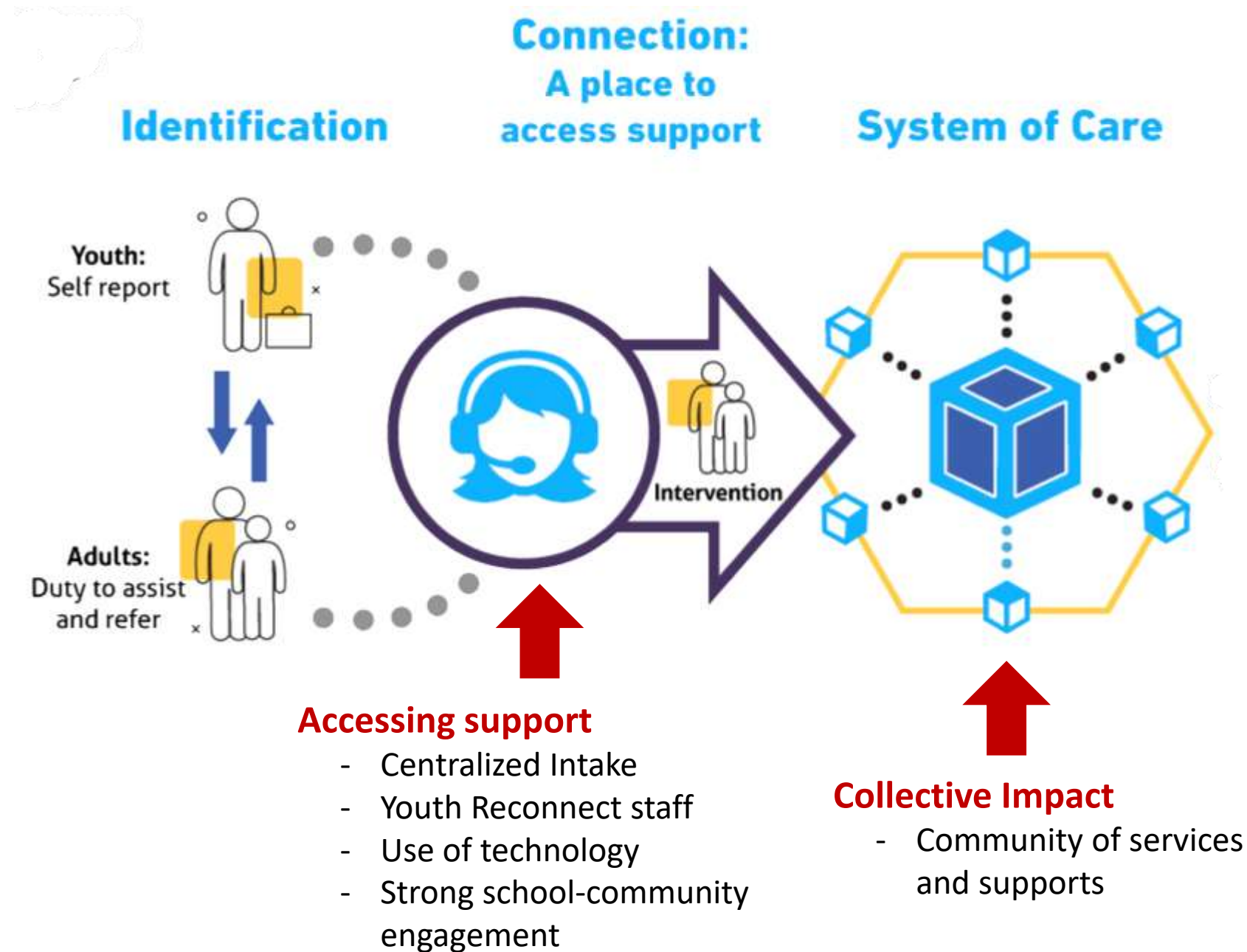**Supporting youth**
- Information
- Access

Supporting Teachers, counsellors and other staff
- Information
- Access

Identification

Youth: Self report

Adults: Duty to assist and refer

Connection: A place to access support

Intervention

System of Care

Accessing support
- Centralized Intake
- Youth Reconnect staff
- Use of technology
- Strong school-community engagement

Collective Impact
- Community of services and supports

Questions or comments?

NAL

YOUTH HOUSING IN FINLAND
Tiina Irjala 9.3.2020

ABOUT NAL

The Finnish Youth Housing Association (referred to as NAL in short or officially Nuorisoasuntoliitto in Finnish):

- is a non-governmental, non-profit organization established in 1971
- is a national umbrella for 23 local associations and 7 national member organisations
- owns a non-profit constructor NAL Asunnot and supported housing services providing company NAL Palvelut
- is funded by Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organizations (STEA) which works under Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. Funds are provided by Veikkaus Oy, Finland's state-owned gaming company.

NAL

NAL GROUP

The Finnish Youth Housing Association NAL

– promotes the interests of young people

– develops and coordinates work in local associations

NAL Asunnot Oy

– builds and rents out apartments for young adults

NAL Palvelut Oy

– produces social services

CORE ACTIVITIES

- Building and renting out apartments for young people between ages 18 and 29.
- Providing floating support.
- Developing and coordinating housing counselling.
- Influencing general housing policy.
- Promoting of interests of youth.
- Producing and sharing information and material, which concerns young people.

NAL

23 local associations

- provide services supporting successful transition into adulthood

- Housing counselling
- Floating support
- Rent debt counselling
- Group activities
- Activating resident activity
- Courses and orientation on housing

———

NAL

THE YOUTH APARTMENT:

- has affordable rent
- is well situated or well connected by public transport
- is small (mainly studios or 2 room apartments)
- has communal areas in the building, such as common room for hanging out, sauna and a laundry room.

NAL

HOUSING AND TENANCY IN NAL

4 725 apartments

2019: 1 026 new tenants

Of which 18 % homeless young people

NAL

Target group

- **Young people between the age of 18 and 29**, who are, or are trying to become, employed.
- Those who are in transition to independent living, have acute need of accommodation and have low income are a priority.
- The applicants need to fill the selection criteria of The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (ARA): need of accommodation, low income and low monetary assets.
- 15% of apartments are primarily reserved for tenants in need of special support.
- Fixed-term leases until the tenant turns 35. Leases can also be terminated by both lessor and tenant if necessary.

NAL

HOUSING YOUNG PEOPLE - CHARACTERISTICS

Life situations change: work, studies, relationships

Small and variable income

Lack of experience and skills for independent living (financial literacy, taking care of everything, knowledge of rights and resposibilities, following rules, cleaning, maintenance, getting along with neighbours)

Is everybody ready to live on their own – feeling of security, loneliness

NAL

YOUTH HOUSING PRINCIPLES

NAL

Responsible resident selection process

- those who have acute need of accomodation are priority

- BUT avoid segregation and consentration of social problems

NAL

Possibility of support, guidance and counselling

Early intervention and prevention

NAL

Participation in decision-making
in the housing community

Integration of those who need support into the "normal" housing community

- Normal leases

- No designated appartments

- 15 % of floating support clients in an appartment house

NAL

WHAT DO WE DO TO PREVENT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS?

Affordable housing

"in order to have housing for youth you have to construct housing for youth"

Advice and counselling to help tenants keep their appartments and to reduce the risk for the landlord.

Low treshold and very early intervention in rent debt situations prevent evictions.

NAL

EARLY INTERVENTION ON RENT DEBT SITUATION

1 - Housing counsellors have real time acces to rent debt numbers in real estate management system

2 – They contact tenants informally sometimes even before the payment reminder letter from the landlord

3 – Dialog and counselling on different solutions

4 – With the payment plan there is a comprehensive councelling on managing one's finances considering tenants financial situation

➡ Approx. 85 % of situations: TENANCY CONTINUES

___

NAL

CHARACTERISTICS AND BENEFITS OF HOUSING COUNSELLING

Feeling of security: there is always someone to contact

Presence in the house

Interviews and orietations: counsellors know the tenants

-> low threshold

Housing counselling reaches young people who are outside services

Early intervention and prevention

NAL

KIITOS!

NAL

Tiina Irjala
tiina.irjala@nal.fi

Care Experience & Homelessness

Interim Findings

Jemma, Angharad, Charlie & Chloe

End Youth Homelessness Cymru

@jemmabridgeman

Care Experience and Homelessness

- The Research and System Failures
- Not Ready at 18 and Employment
- Mental Health and Loneliness
- Local Connection and Workers who Care
- Next Steps
- Questions

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Homelessness Cymru

Methodology & Progress

- The research is funded by the Sir Halley Stewart Trust and Welsh Government

- Participatory research design with care experienced young people being recruited to support the research.

- Drop in sessions and group interviews have also been conducted.

- To date we have interviewed 26 young people who are care experienced and been homeless.

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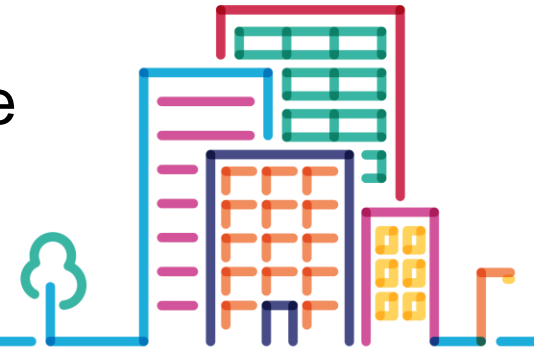
Systems Failures

- System Failures refer to situations in which inadequate policy and/or service delivery contributes to the likelihood that a young person will become homeless (Schwan et al, 2018).
- Experts suggest youth homelessness would drop significantly if government & community services coordinated and/or integrated to ensure transitions are seamless, rights-based and focus on housing stability (Schwan et al, 2018).

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Not Ready at 18

"When I was 18, (my social worker) was about 24, newly qualified, did everything by the book. Your 18th Birthday you're out, because you are ready to live on your own. I said 'excuse me where do you live?' 'At home with my parents'. 'So who are you, coming here telling me at 18 that I'm ready to live on my own, because I ain't".

Employment

"I want to get a job but I really want to get a house but I am stuck in the thing of I think I need a house so I will feel better myself to be able to get up and go to work but then I need a job to be able to get a house".

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Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing

"I only got that from my GP at 18 I was meant to be transferred from CAMHS. It was like. It just didn't happen. So, I had a rough patch. I was going through a rough patch and when I had just turned 19, I started getting all my stuff in order and everything. That's when I found out they didn't put me over. So, I was on a waiting list. I think I still am on the waiting list for the mental health team".

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Loneliness

"Not saying goodnight to anyone its heart wrenching…not knowing that just lying there and thinking I have no company I am on my own".
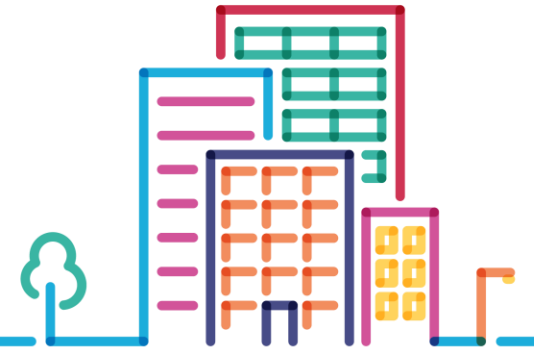
Additional Local Connection

"When I moved over here I didn't know anyone over here. I was a fresh face in (my local connection LA) I was getting looks left, right and centre and when I made friends I made friends with the wrong crowd and started getting myself into trouble".

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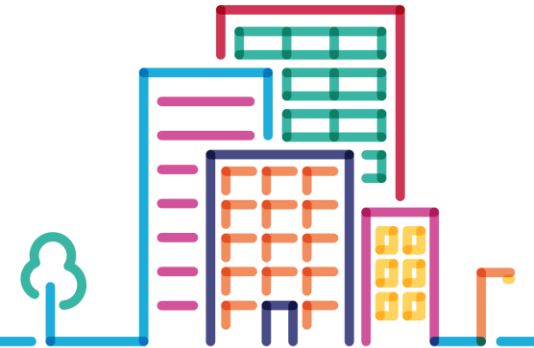
Workers who Care

"In every hostel there is this one person that everyone goes to. Like in every single hostel there is always one person who is always like caring and always likes to sort out these problems and talks to people".

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Where Next?

- The aim is to interview 30 young people who are care experienced and been homeless.
- We will survey practitioners to get their perspectives on systems failures that can lead to homelessness.
- The final report 'Don't Let Me Fall Through the Cracks' will be launched in April 2020.

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