

ROADMAP FOR THE PREVENTION OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS in Canada

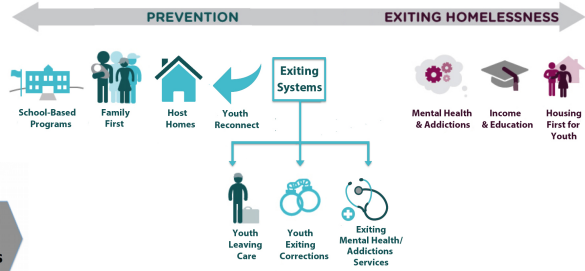


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www.homelesshub.ca

THE CONTEXT





Youth homelessness Prevention Framework

A WAY HOME VERS UN CHEZ-SOI CANADA



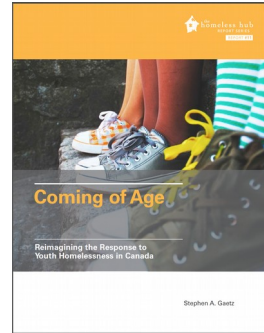
ROAD to

PREVENTION

PREVENTION!



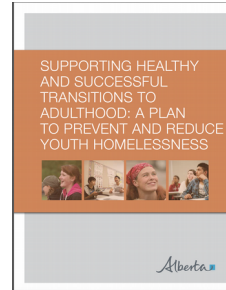
Boys and
Girls Clubs of
Calgary



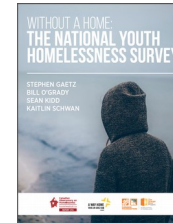
Coming of
Age report



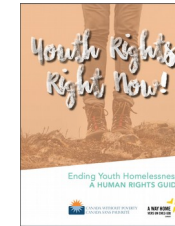
National Learning Community
on Youth Homelessness



Alberta's
youth plan



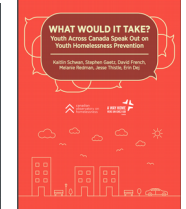
Without a
Home



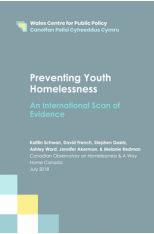
Youth Rights
Right Now!



Prevention
Framework



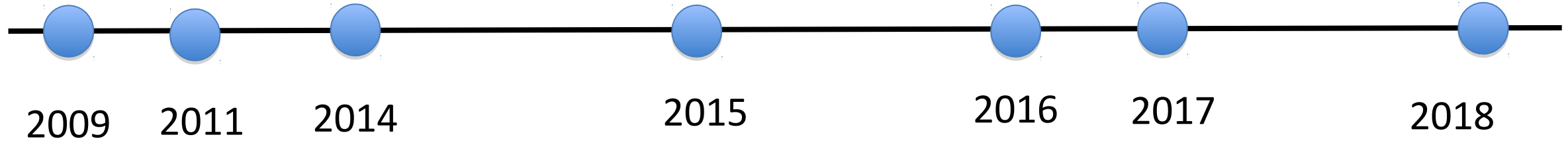
What would
it take?



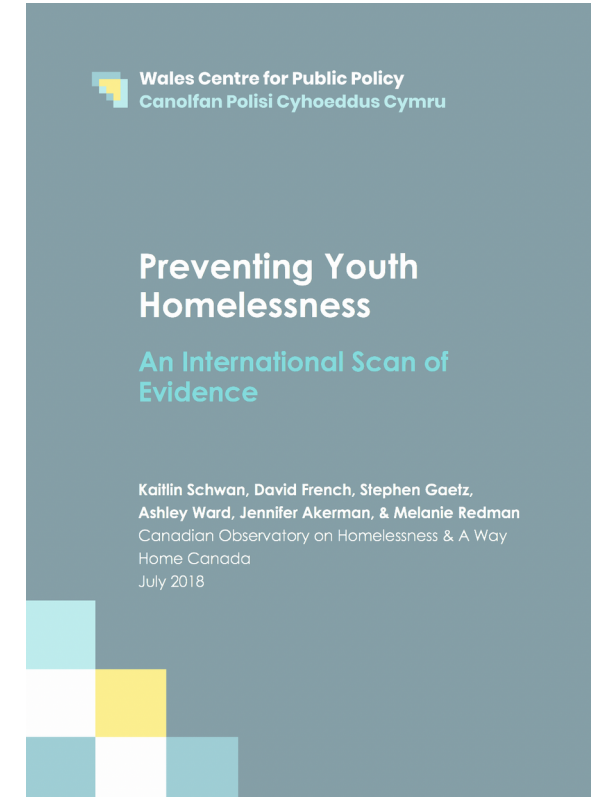
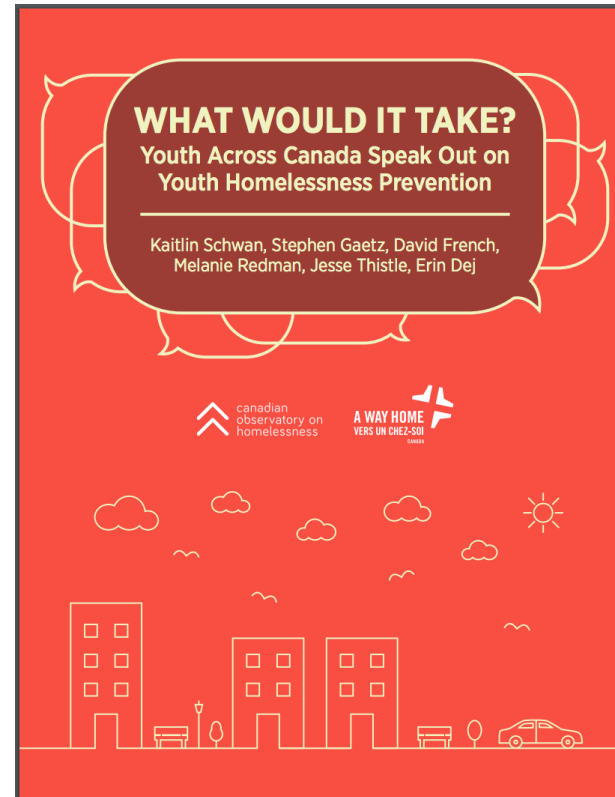
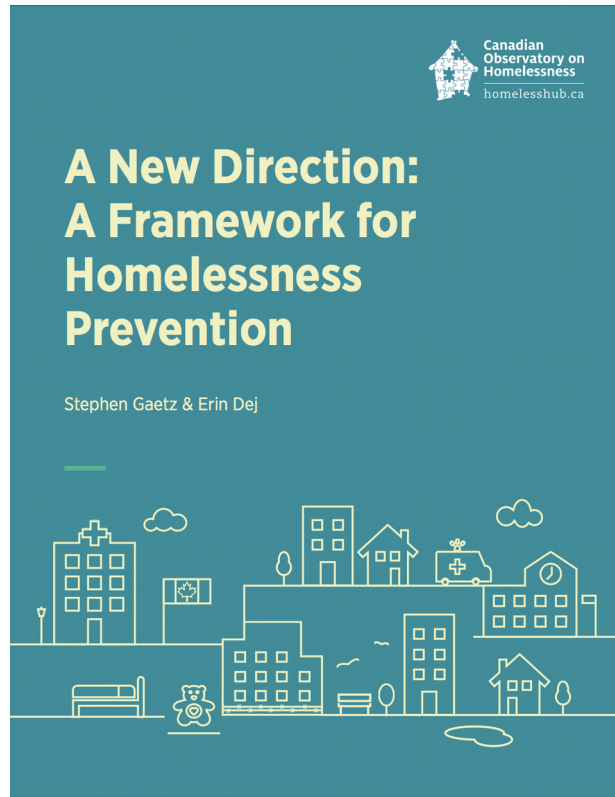
Wales report



MAKING
THE SHIFT

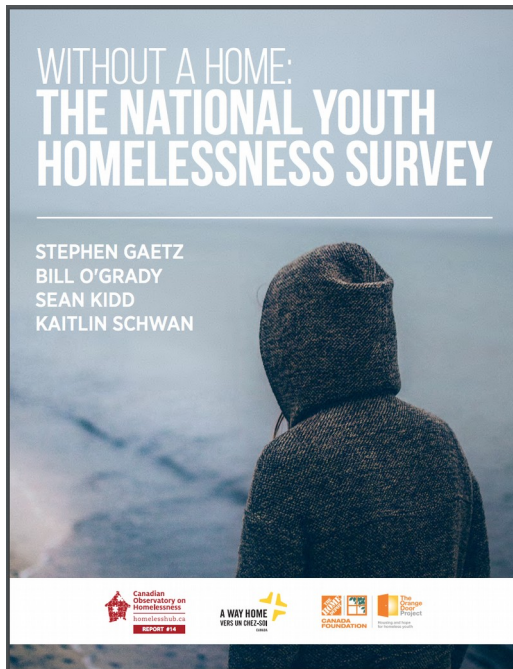


Doing the ground work



The Evidence

Survey Results from the first Without a Home study (2016)

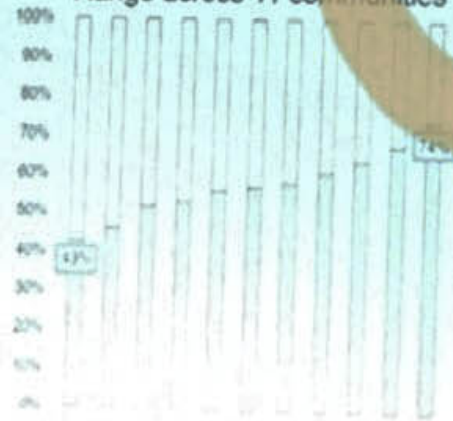


- **Overrepresented minorities:** LGBTQ2S – 29.5%; Indigenous 30.5%; Racialized, 28.5%
- 40.1% had **first experience of homelessness** before the age of 16.
- Homelessness **compromises health and well-being:** 85.4% had significant mental health problems, and 42% reported at least one suicide attempt
- 58% reported previous involvement with **child protection** (compared with 0.3% for housed youth)
- **NEET:** 50.5% not in employment, education or training
- **Criminal Victimization:** Exponentially more likely to be a victim of crime
- Vulnerability to **sex trafficking**

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.

Data 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 homelessness strongly profess the need to shift to prevention.

THE PREVENTION OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



Responding to youth homelessness in Canada



Where we want to get to ...



Defining Youth Homelessness Prevention

Youth homelessness prevention refers to policies, practices, and interventions that either (1) reduce the likelihood that a young person will experience homelessness, or (2) provide youth experiencing homelessness with the necessary supports to stabilize their housing, improve their wellbeing, reintegrate into community, and avoid re-entry into homelessness. Youth homelessness prevention thus necessitates the immediate provision of housing and supports for youth experiencing homelessness, or the immediate protection of housing, with supports, for youth at risk of homelessness. Youth homelessness prevention must be applied using a rights-based approach and address the unique needs of developing adolescents and young adults.

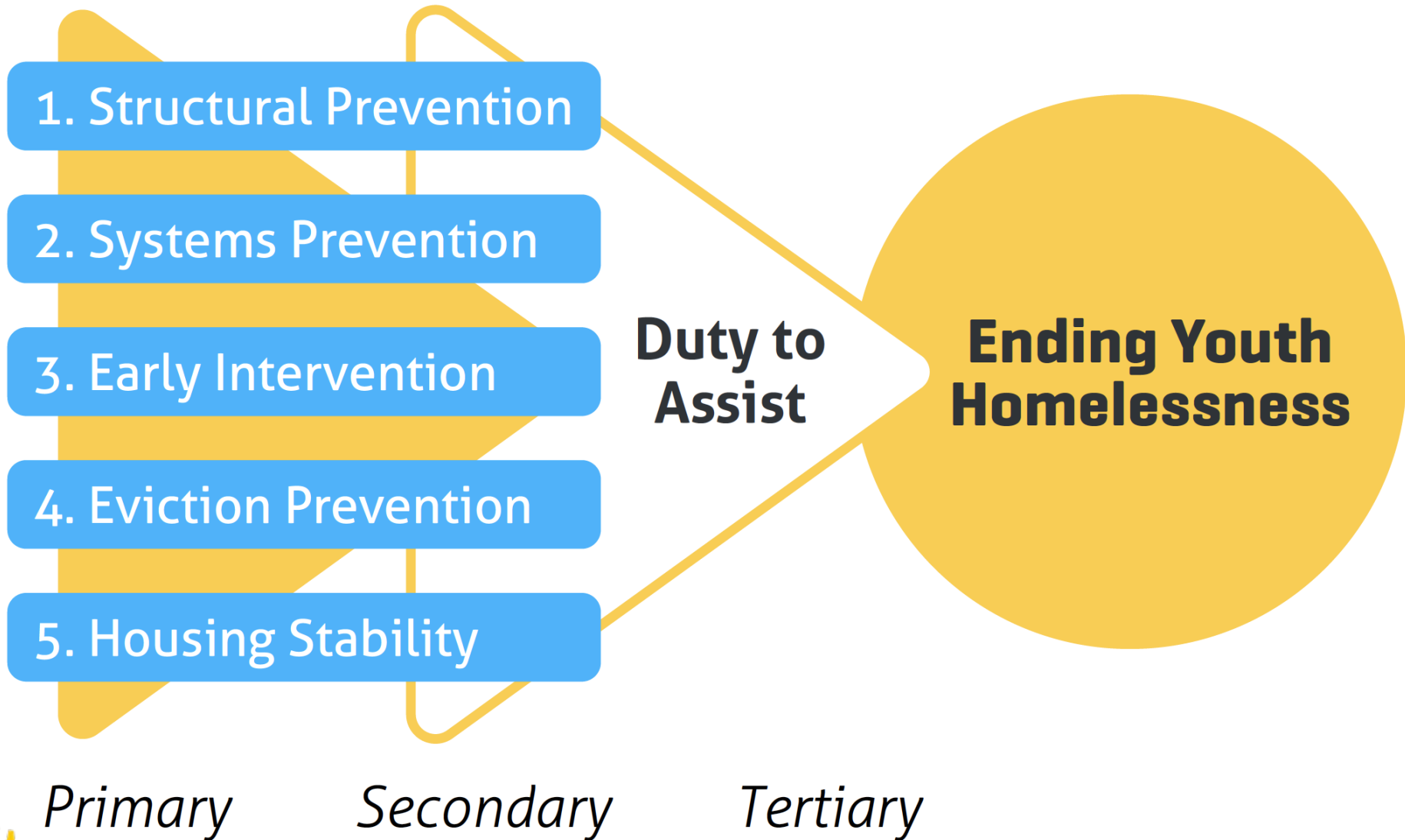
What it is NOT!

Prevention as a Fusion Policy issue

If higher levels of government provide a legislative and policy framework, as well as funding to support homelessness prevention, the homelessness sector and other community-based services will still have a key role in supporting marginalized and socially excluded populations.



Typology of Youth Homelessness Prevention

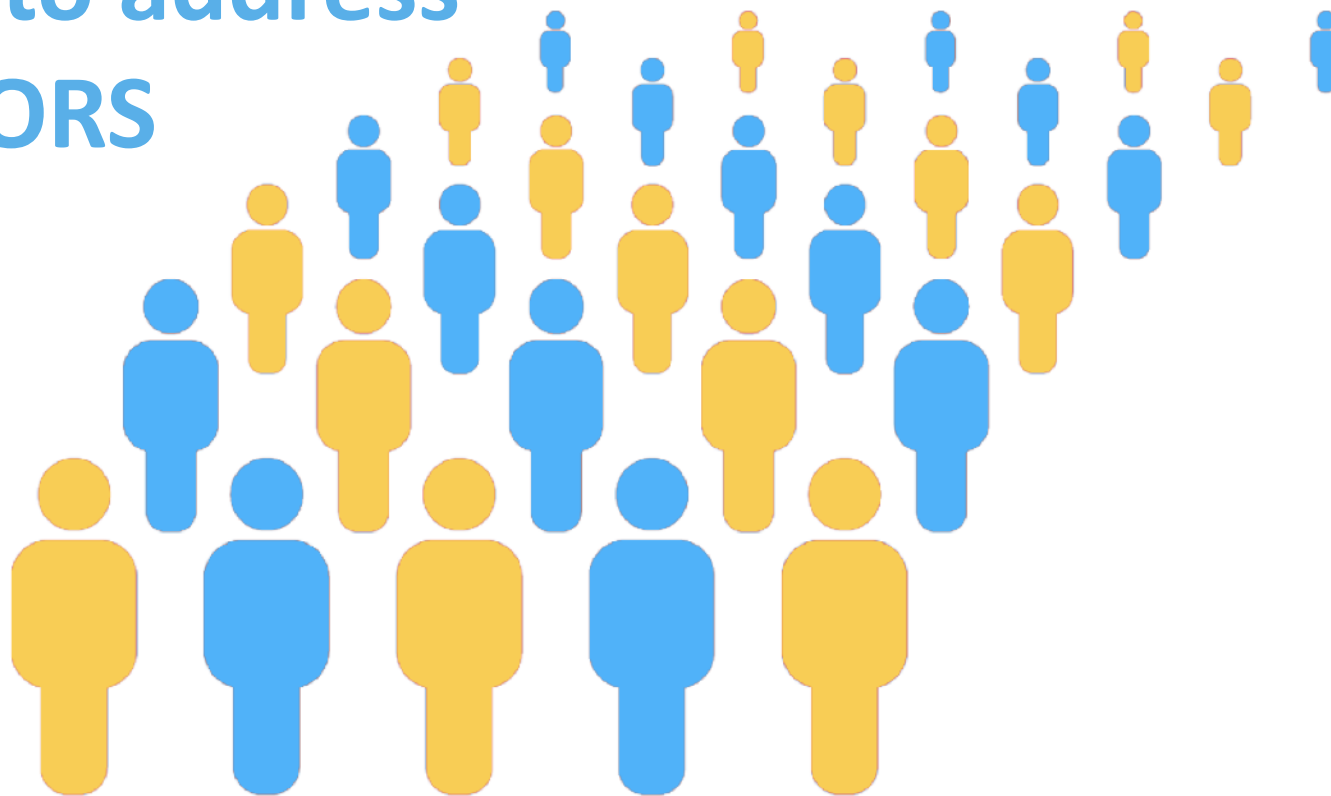


Structural Prevention:

*Working Upstream to
Address Underlying Causes
of Youth Homelessness*



Working upstream to address
STRUCTURAL FACTORS





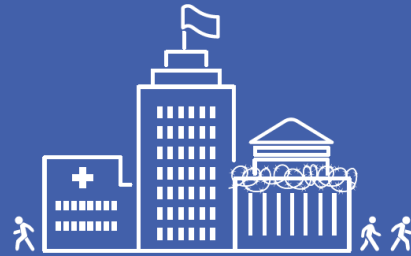
Structural Prevention

1. Poverty Reduction
2. Increasing the Availability of Affordable Housing
3. Addressing Inequity and Discrimination
4. Structural Prevention of Homelessness for Indigenous Youth
5. Breaking the Link between Youth Homelessness, Migration, and Displacement
6. Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences
7. Promoting Social Inclusion for All Youth
8. Youth Homelessness Prevention Legislation & Policy

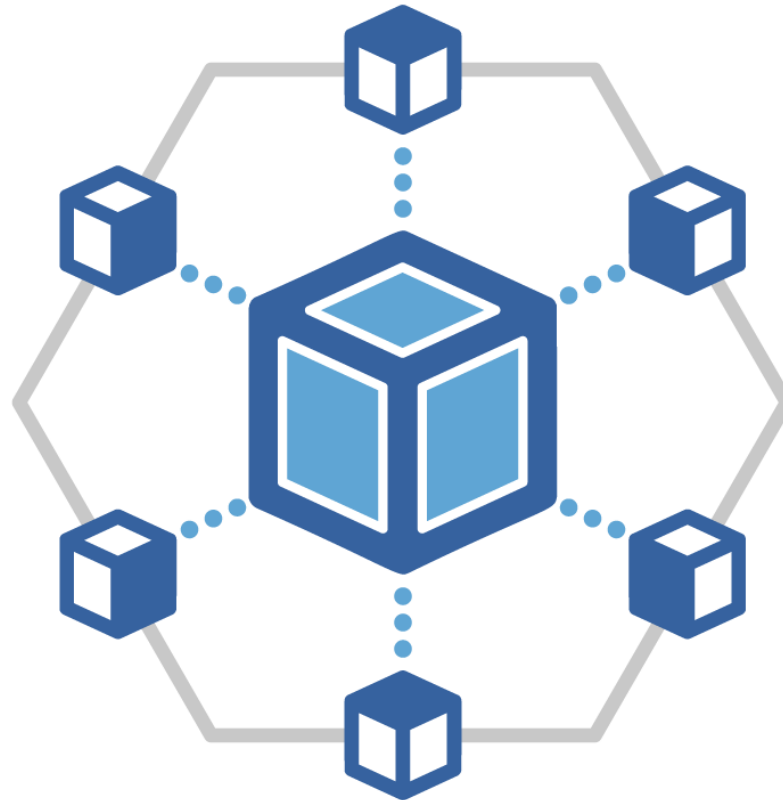
Systems Prevention:



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



How Public Systems Can be Reformed to Prevent Youth Homelessness



Systems Prevention:



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How Public Systems Can be Reformed to Prevent Youth Homelessness

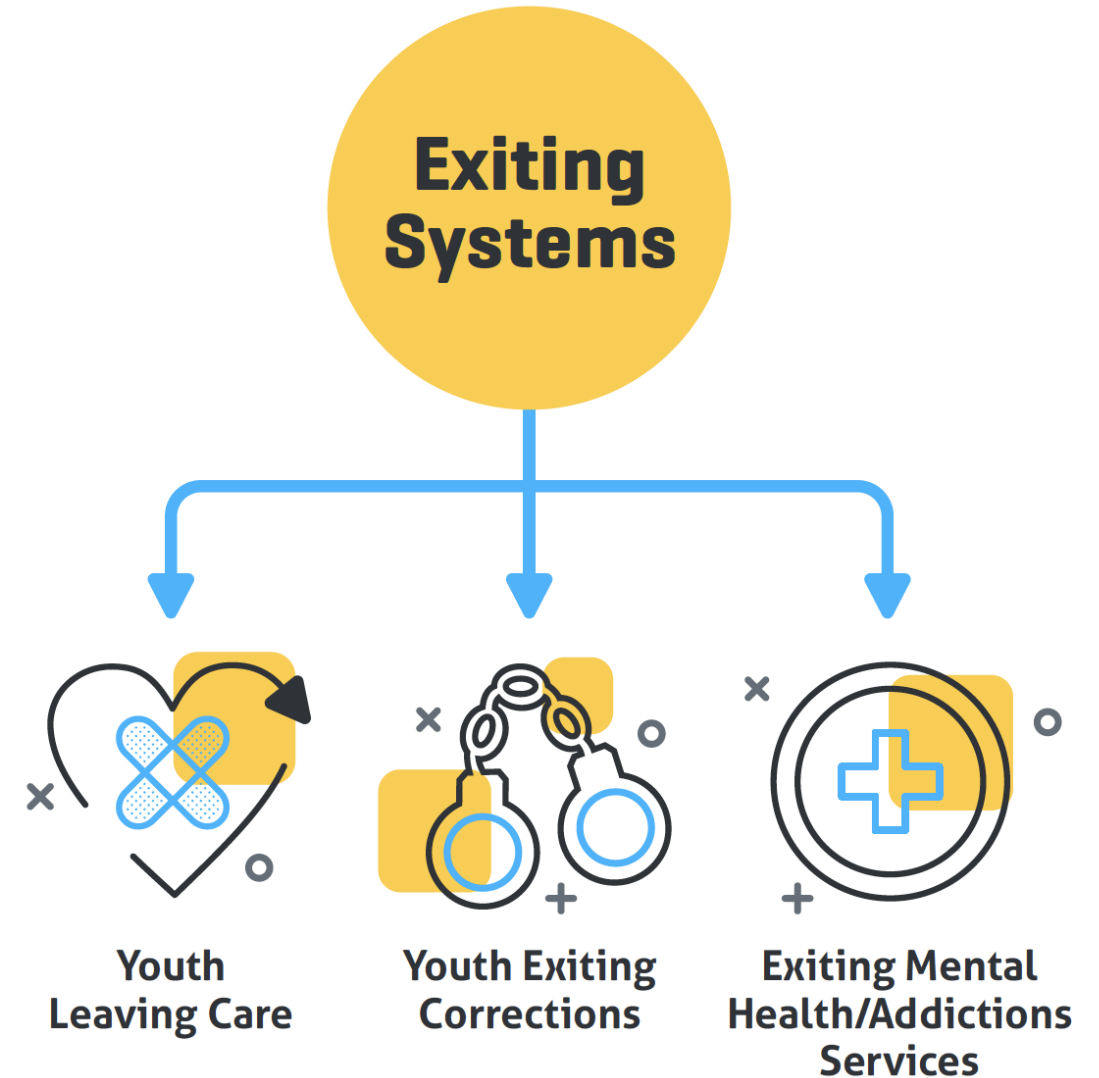
Systems prevention of youth homelessness involves identifying and addressing policies, programs, and practices within public systems that create barriers to young people's access to supports, and which expose young people to the risk of homelessness.

1. Transition Supports for Youth Exiting Public Institutions and Systems
2. Enhancing Youths' Ability to Equitably Access and Benefit from Public Systems, Supports, and Entitlements
3. Improving Youths' Experiences & Outcomes in Public Systems

a. SYSTEMS PREVENTION



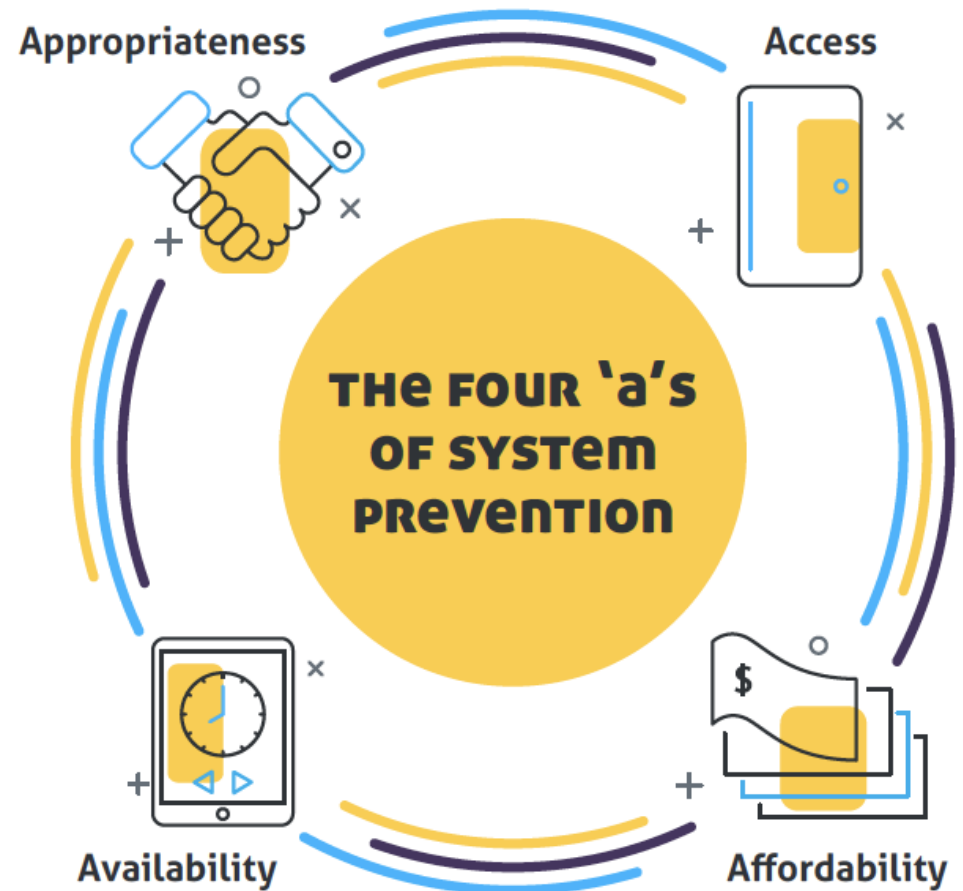
Transition Supports for Youth Exiting Public Institutions and Systems



b. SYSTEMS PREVENTION



Enhancing Youths' Ability to Equitably Access and Benefit from Public Systems, Supports, and Entitlements



c. SYSTEMS PREVENTION



Improving Youths' Experiences & Outcomes in Public Systems



- Tackling discrimination and inequity in public systems;
- Embedding youth choice, youth voice, and self-determination in public systems;
- Effectively preventing and responding to abuse and neglect in public systems, and;
- Addressing silos and gaps within and between government-funded departments and systems, and also within non-profit sectors.

Early Intervention:



*Targeted Supports for
Young People At Risk
of Homelessness*



**AT RISK OF
HOMELESSNESS**

**SYSTEM
of CARE**

- Integrated services, Integrated Systems
- Coordinated entry
- Case management

**PROGRAM
AREAS**

- Enhancing family and natural supports
- School-based early intervention
- Shelter diversion
- Housing led supports
- Preventing sexual exploitation and trafficking

Living With
Parents or Caregivers

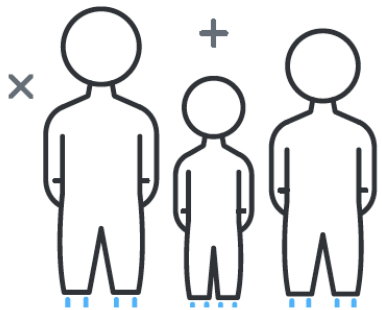
Living
Independently



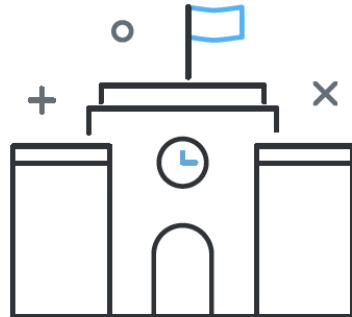


EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM AREAS

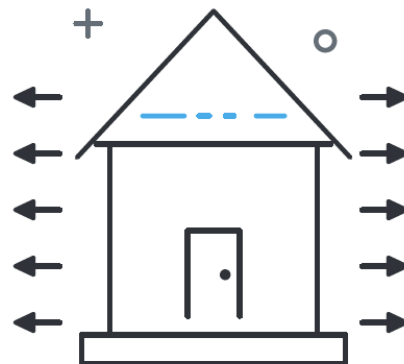
Enhancing **Family**
& **Natural Supports**



School-based
Early Intervention



Shelter Diversion



Housing-led Supports

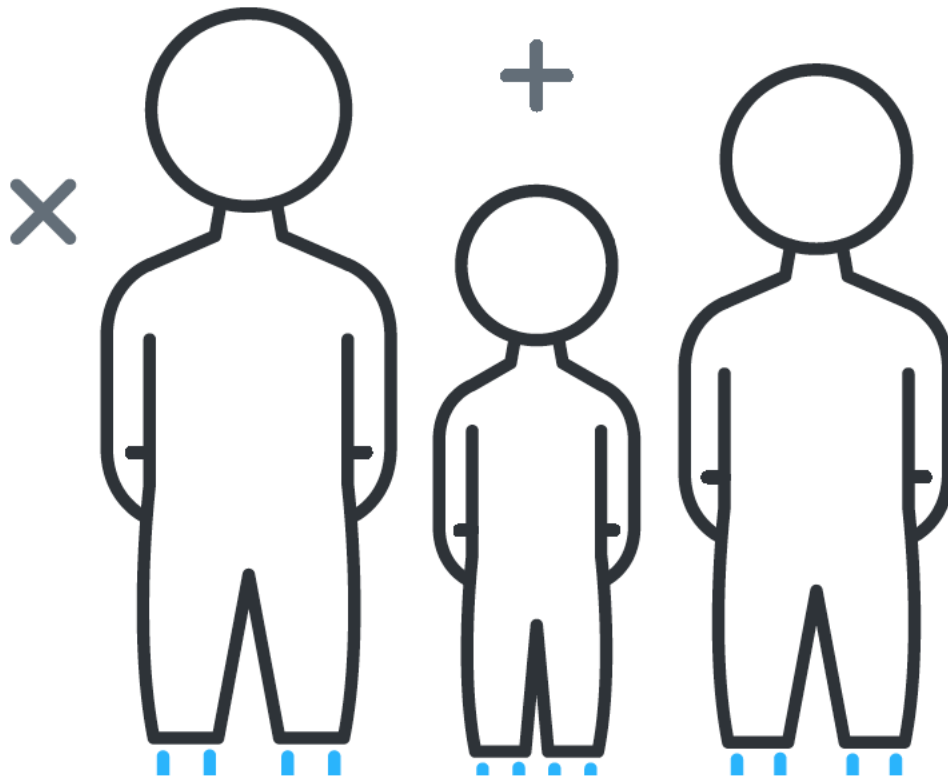


Preventing **Sexual**
Exploitation & Trafficking



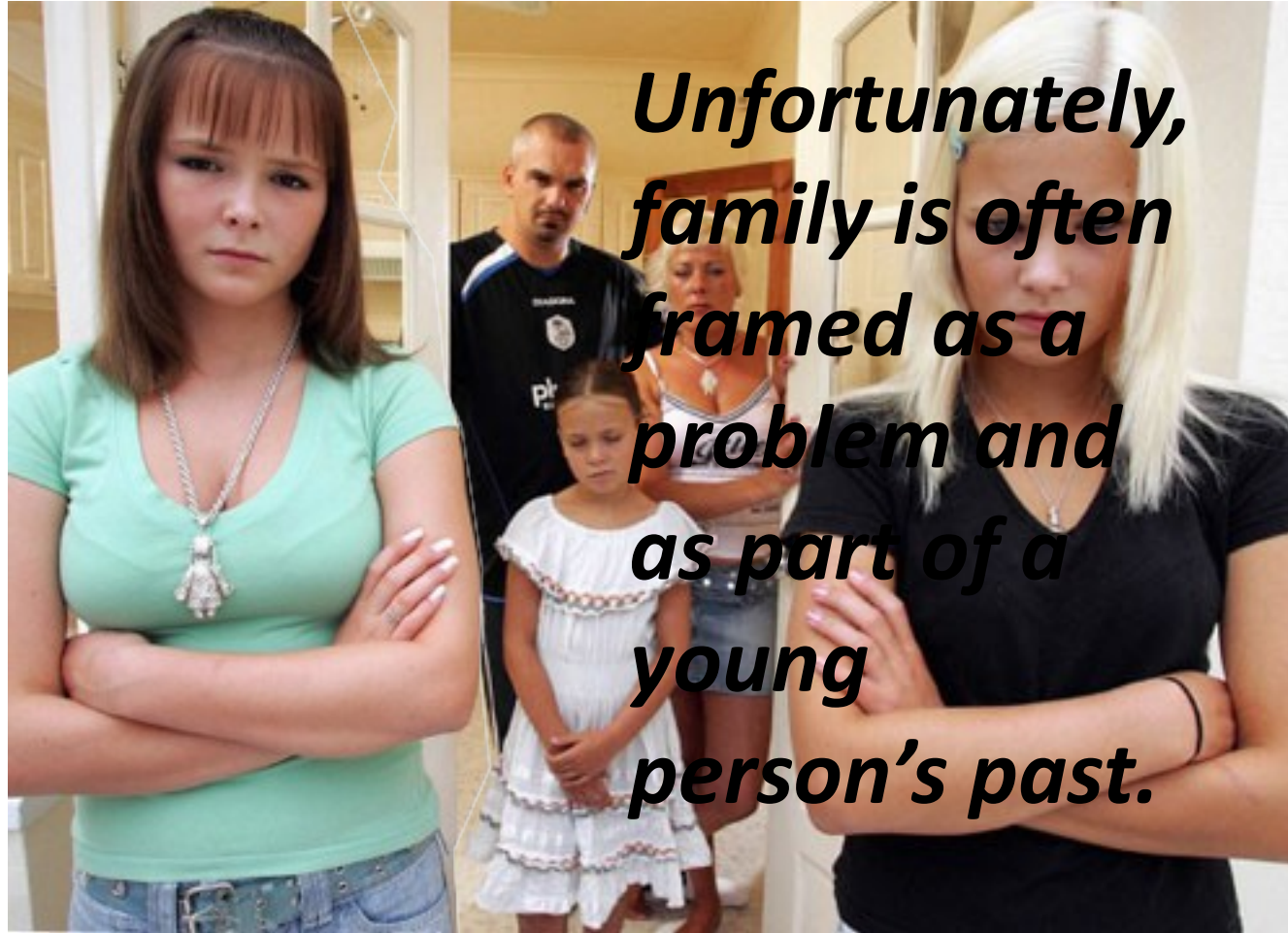
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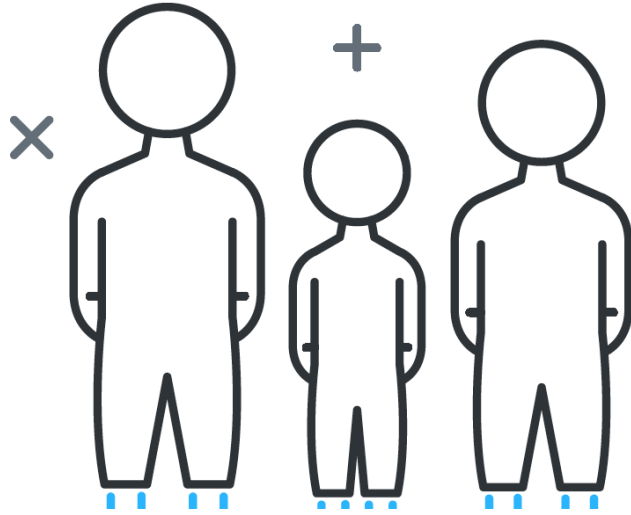
Enhancing Family and Natural Supports



“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





The underlying ethos of a FNS approach is that family and the support of caring adults is important to almost everyone, can be an asset that enhances young people's quality of life, and gives youth a sense of belonging, identity, security, self-esteem, and someone to rely on when problems emerge.

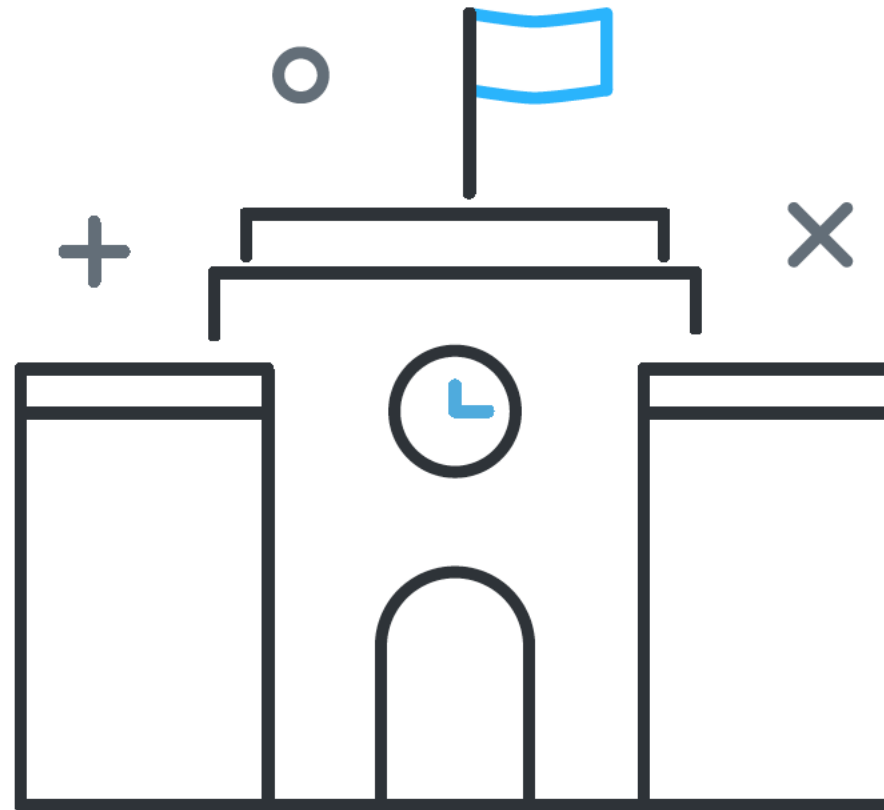
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SCHOOL-BASED Early Intervention



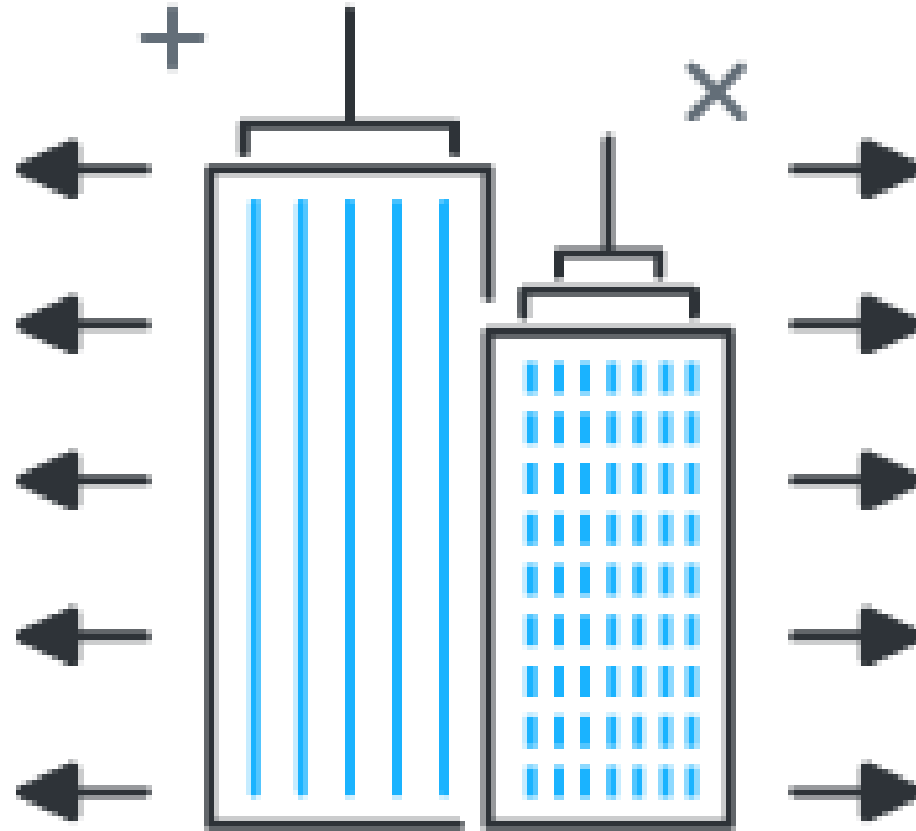
“Almost everyone has, like, the one teacher that they really trusted and liked, or the one school counsellor that was cool and not scary. So it would be nice if just they got this basic training and also like, signs to look out for. And like, how to approach a student and be like, “hey, you know, how’s everything at home, everything going okay?”

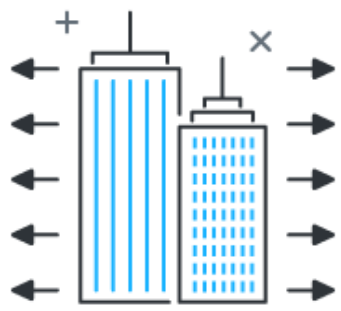
Vancouver Youth



3

Shelter Diversion





Shelter Diversion

Shelter diversion refers to efforts that support young people and their families in order to reduce the likelihood that youth will need to stay in emergency shelters. This means redefining the very role of such shelters.

- Ensure that all people who come into contact with the homelessness sector are assessed and provided with supports to either return home or move into housing with appropriate supports as quickly as possible;
- Adopt a client-centered case management approach for individuals and families that enter the system, and ensure they are tracked as they navigate their way out of the system;
- Fund and reward service providers for focusing on prevention and rapid rehousing as a service priority, and make the goal of emergency services a shorter experience of homelessness, and;
- Ensure systems of care are in place so shelter providers are able to implement successful diversion programs.

4 Housing-Led supports



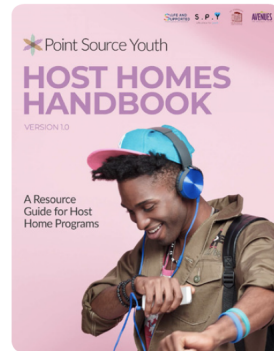


Housing-Led supports



Host Homes

Point Source Youth recently released its [Host Homes Handbook](#), an excellent and extensive resource that includes information on how to set a program up, the host and youth application process, training, and a budget template.



RAPID RE-HOUSING

RRH

5

Preventing Sexual Exploitation and 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).

V

Housing Stabilization

*for Youth Who Have
Exited Homelessness*

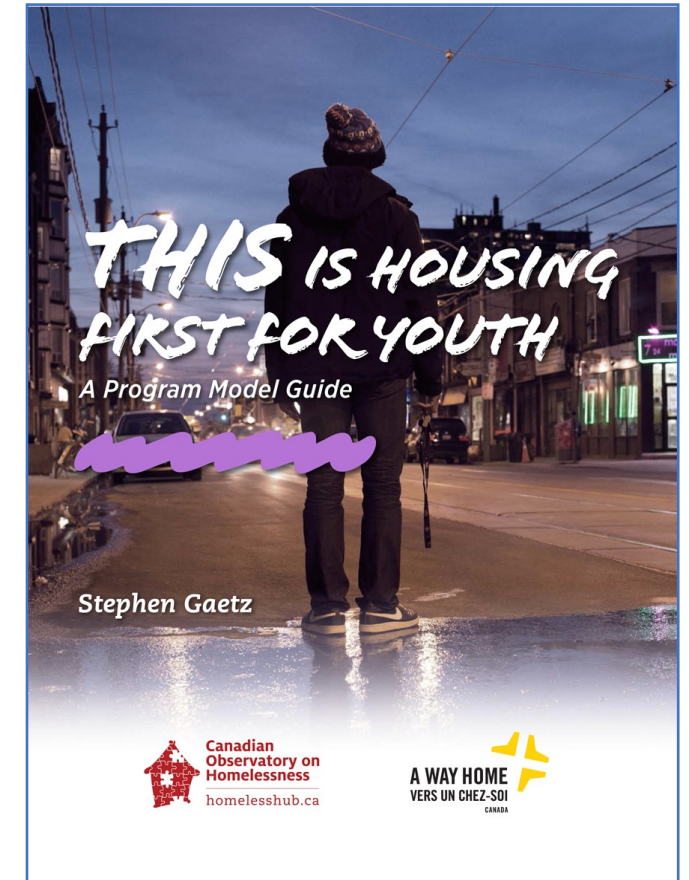


Core principles of **HF4Y** can guide approach to housing stabilization, regardless of the intervention



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



Areas of supports to enhance HOUSING STABILIZATION

(drawn from Housing First for Youth)



1. HOUSING SUPPORTS



2. HEALTH & WELL-BEING SUPPORTS



3. ACCESS TO INCOME & EDUCATION



4. COMPLEMENTARY SUPPORTS



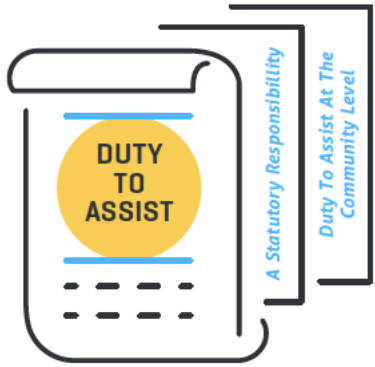
5. SOCIAL INCLUSION

DUTY TO ASSIST

Taking a Rights-Based Approach



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.



A **Statutory Responsibility** to Prevent Youth Homelessness

- Legislated requirement, State responsibility
- Retool the sector
- Fund prevention programs
- Promise of assistance to youth (13-25) within 14 days
- Place-based youth-centred



**MAKING THE SHIFT
TO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS
PREVENTION
IN CANADA**



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

Priorities of Reaching Home

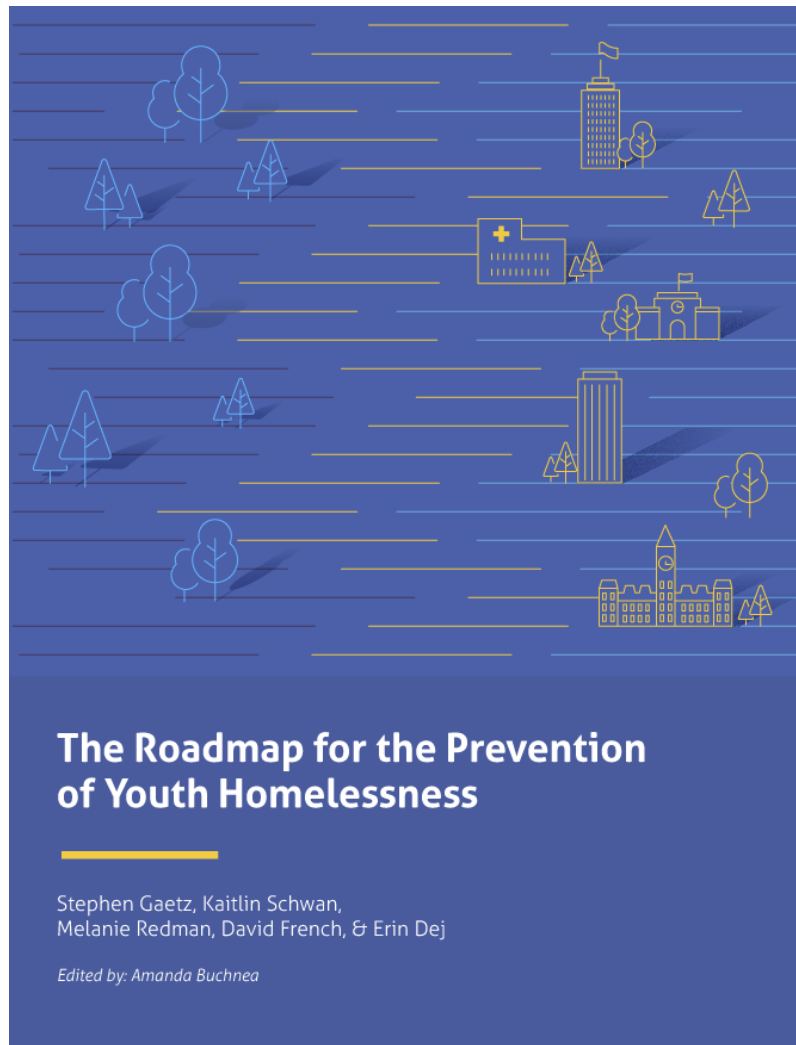
- chronic homelessness reduction (50% by 2027–2028)
- homelessness in community reduced overall
- new inflows into homelessness are reduced
- returns to homelessness are reduced

Making the Shift Youth Homelessness Social Innovation Lab



MAKING
THE SHIFT

- \$17.9 billion investment over 5 years
- conduct and mobilize research specific to youth homelessness prevention
- end goal is to achieve the best possible outcomes for young people and their families.



www.homelesshub.ca/YouthPreventionRoadmap



QUESTIONS?

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