



# Developing Your Community Strategy to End Youth Homelessness: Case Studies and Tools from A Way Home Canada

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Planning Manager



# SESSION GOALS

1. Review Journey Youth Homelessness Sector
2. Identify Paradigm Shift in Our Work – Emergency to Prevention
3. Background for Saint John and St. John's
4. Identify Planning Skills Building Tools and Supports –
  - A Way Home Canada – YH Community Planning Toolkit
  - Systems Planning Collaborative
  - Homelessness Learning Hub
  - Resources



# A WAY HOME CANADA

National coalition reimagining solutions to youth homelessness through transformations in policy, **planning** and practice.

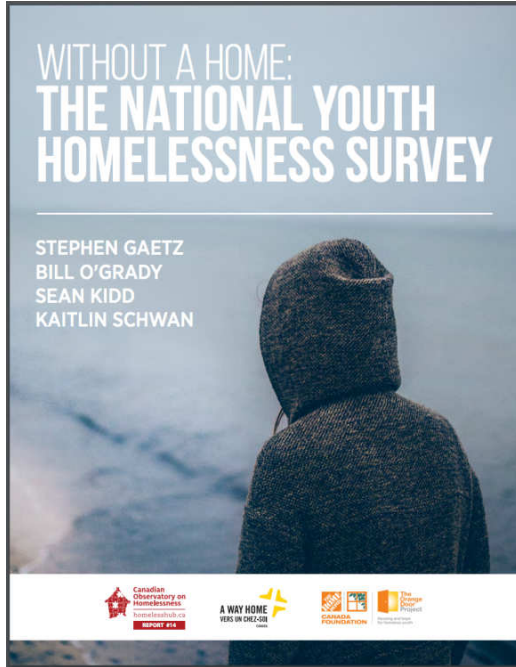
## AWH Members

- Canadian Observatory on Homelessness - COH
- The National Learning Community - LC
- Canadian Housing and Renewal Association -CHRA
- Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness - CAEH
- EGALE Canada
- Raising the Roof



# The Issue

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**

- Stephen Gaetz, Bill O'Grady, Sean Kidd & Kaitlin Schwan. (2016). *Without a Home: The National Youth Homelessness Survey*. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.

# 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 homeless strongly profess the need to shift to prevention.



# Responding to youth homelessness in Canada



# Where we want to get to ...



# Early Initiatives

## 2012 - 2015 – Mobilizing Local Capacity to End Youth Homelessness (MLC)

- IDEA -Apply community planning to prevent and end youth homelessness
- Community pilots – Kamloops, Kingston, Saint John, Brandon, Yellowknife and County of Wellington



# YH COMMUNITY PLANNING TOOLKIT

1

## GETTING READY

- » Background on this toolkit;
- » Introduction to youth homelessness and youth plans;
- » Essential elements of youth plans

2

## GETTING STARTED

- » Collective Impact and ending youth homelessness,
- » Determining community readiness,
- » Developing your backbone infrastructure and workplan

3

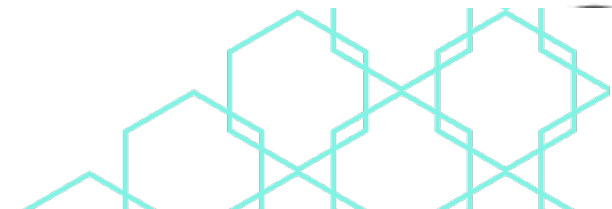
## GETTING GOING

- » Research, needs assessment, and data analysis,
- » Consultation approach,
- » Working with key stakeholders, including youth, government, etc

4

## GETTING IT DONE

- » Writing the plan,
- » Determining costs and performance measures,
- » Implementation considerations.



# COMMUNITY PLANNING TOOLKIT

- Resources **to develop a plan to end youth homelessness** in their communities
- Enables communities to **go further faster** in their planning and implementation efforts
- Build on **promising practices and plans** used in provinces, territories, states and communities across Canada and the U.S. to end youth homelessness
- Supports the development of **robust strategies and measurable targets**
- Toolkit not an end in itself – **technical support and expertise** (provided by A Way Home and planning experts throughout Canada)
- Emphasis on the importance of **Prevention and Housing First for Youth**



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## GETTING IT DONE

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# WHAT WE LEARNED

- **Grounding plan in evidence**
  - **Data driven solutions, Policy alignment, Plan alignment**
- **Systems planning and integration – looking outside the homelessness serving system**
- **Relationships – stakeholders, across systems and sectors, unusual suspects**
- **Indigenous relationships**



# WHAT WE LEARNED

- Lead with prevention and stable housing
- Grounding in Human Rights, Lived Experience
- Importance of selecting and resourcing effective backbone and systems leadership
- Real goal is implementation not the plan/report



# 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.

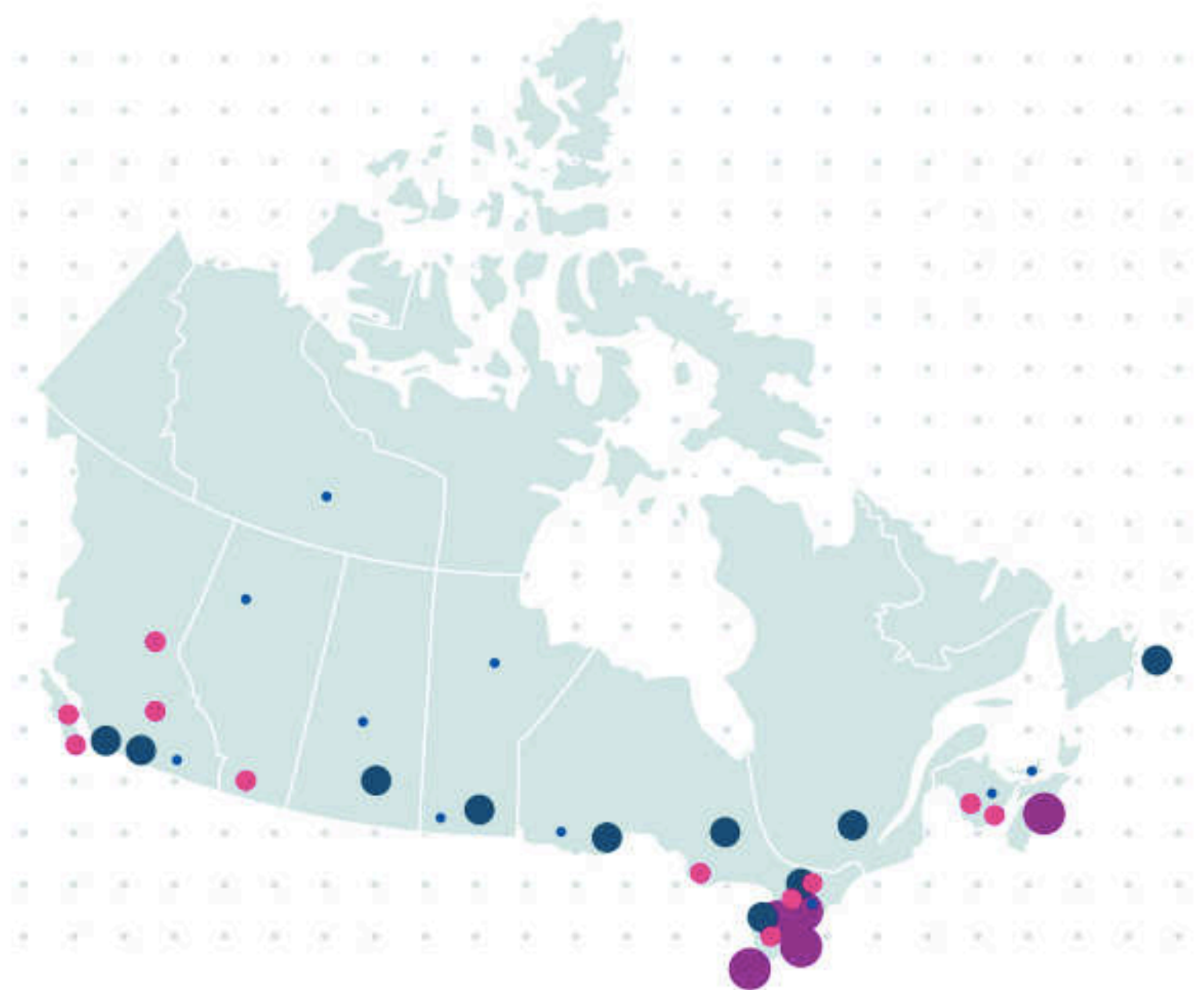


# SYSTEMS PLANNING TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS:

Community Progress and Priorities Across Canada



**SYSTEMS PLANNING**  
COLLECTIVE



# OUR GOALS

- Collaboration between A Way Home Canada, Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and Turner Strategies
- Dedicated to helping communities & governments prevent and end all forms of homelessness in Canada
- How? Supporting evidence-based systems planning, capacity building and technical assistance
- Collective progress towards ending homelessness



# COMMUNITY SYSTEMS PLANNING TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS:

## COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Participants identified needing more technical support, training, and resources around these priority areas.



Policy Development



Relationship/Trust-Building



Performance Management



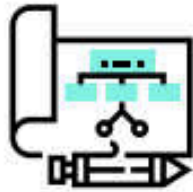
Financial Scenario Modelling



Government Relations



Private Sector Engagement



Systems Mapping



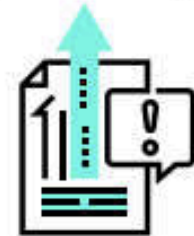
Systems Integration



Change Management



Actionable Data & Analytics



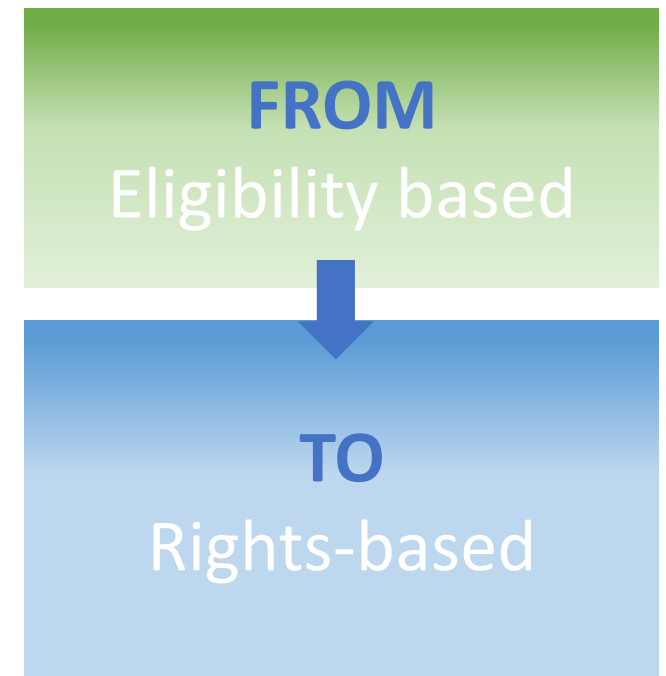
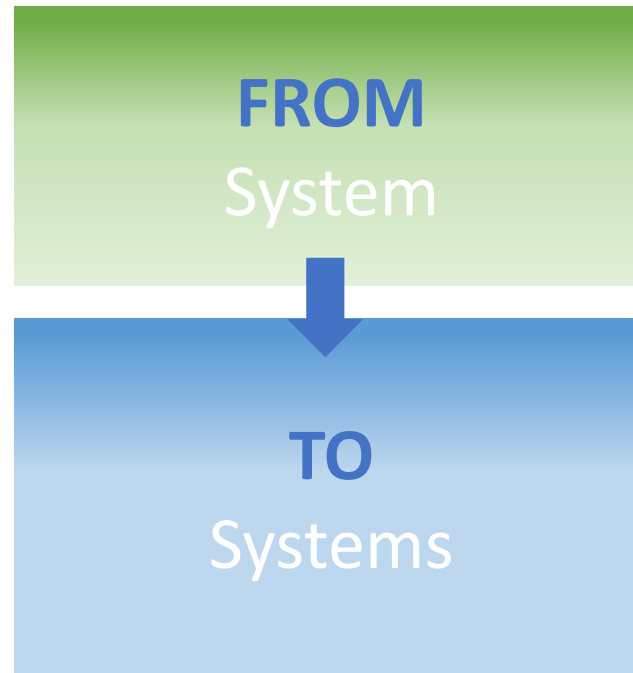
Creating Action Plans

# WHAT ARE WE HERE TO DO?

- Systems Planning Curriculum - modules, webinars, guides, infographics
- Wealth of information/expertise, supporting communities to do systems planning
- HelpSeeker, Systems Mapping, Webinars
- Designated communities, Non-designated communities, Indigenous leaders

# WHAT DO WE NEED TO CHANGE?

Systems work involves changing the way we have been working in order to change outcomes

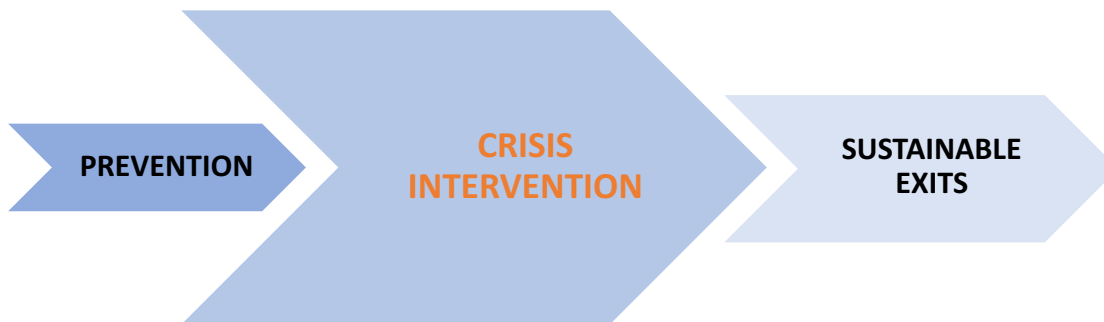


# WHAT IS THE CHANGE?

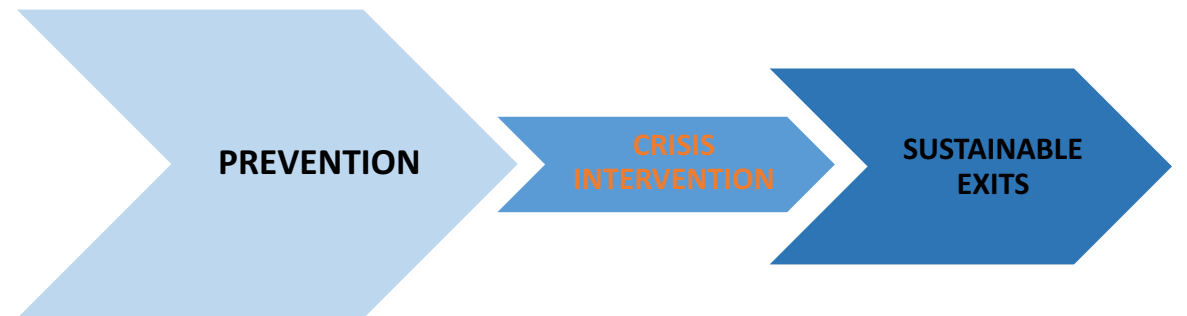
Agreed upon standards, policies and protocols to guide program and system operations **including:**

From emergency response and crisis management to prevention and sustainable homelessness exits.

FROM THIS



TO THIS ....



# AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

- Connect the dots across systems and agencies for those looking for help
- Ensure we are leveraging our resources and aligning to common objectives
- Community-based mechanism for governance, strategy, funding coordination, and service integration across systems



# A HOLISTIC, PERSON-CENTERED LENS

There are various interrelated domains impacting wellbeing, including basic needs like housing and income, and beyond - such as education and recreation. These domains are impacted by relationships, community, and societal contexts.



An integrated safety net ecosystem will need to work across these domains to achieve desired impact and overcome the current siloed approach.

# The Solution

**HelpSeeker** is a social innovation tech company based in Calgary that offers a platform to transform how social/health services are accessed and delivered.

**HelpSeeker** brings 3 key components into one multi-sided platform serving funders/government, service providers, and consumers.





***the* place for professional development and community capacity building resources for frontline service providers in Canada**

- **Register**
- **Take a Course**
- **Search the Library**
- **Ask an Expert**



# SYSTEMS PLANNING COLLECTIVE LEARNING MODULES

[Module 1: Preparing for Systems Change \(Basics\)](#)

[Module 2: Systems Planning 101 \(Basics\)](#)

[Module 3: Engaging Stakeholders \(Advanced\)](#)

[Module 4: Governance Models \(Advanced\)](#)



Policy tools

Planning & practice tools

