

Home for Good Partnerships in Housing and Mental Health



THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Presented to OMSSA 2019 Policy Conference

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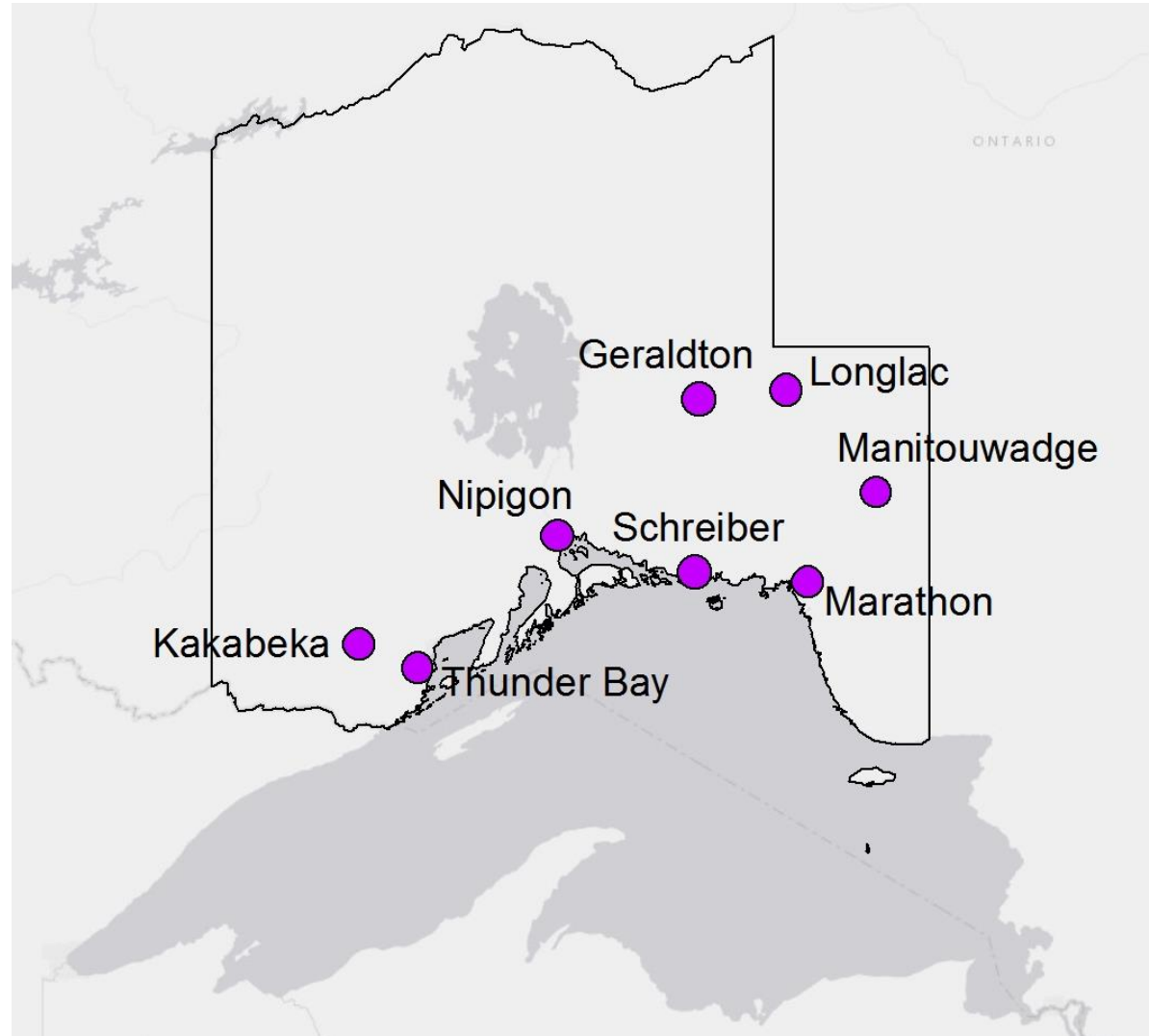


Presentation Objectives

- ❖ Housing and Homelessness in the District of Thunder Bay
- ❖ TBDSSAB – Dilico Anishinabek Family Care – St. Joseph's Care Partnership
- ❖ Home for Good Initiative
- ❖ Nuances of Collaboration
- ❖ Outcomes of Homes for Good



District of Thunder Bay



TBDSSAB

Housing Goals and Strategic Outcomes

- ❖ To effectively address the provision of Social and Affordable Housing through Direct-Owned Properties, and relationships with Housing Providers.
- ❖ To seek to meet the needs and well-being of tenants.
- ❖ To reduce homelessness and eliminate chronic homelessness.



Housing Services Act, 2011

- ❖ Eligibility for social housing is based on financial need.
- ❖ “Rent-g geared-to-income” assistance means financial assistance provided in respect of a household to reduce the amount the household must otherwise pay to occupy a unit.
- ❖ Focus on independent living.
- ❖ Does not include Supportive Housing, Retirement Homes, Nursing Care Facilities.



Housing Challenges

- ❖ Housing waitlist of 1,030 applicants
- ❖ High rates of domestic violence
- ❖ Increasing mental health and addiction issues
- ❖ Increased security costs
- ❖ Increase in damage repair
- ❖ Chronic Homelessness



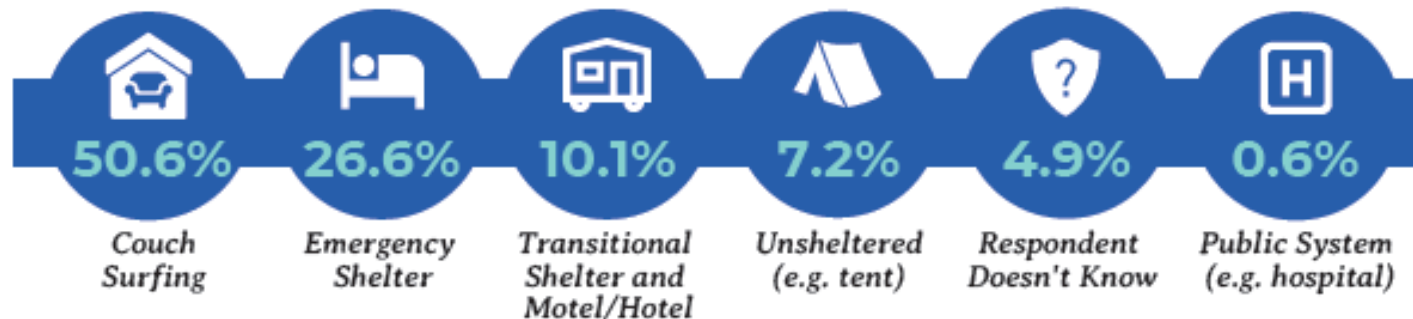
Homelessness – A Snapshot

THUNDER BAY POINT-IN-TIME COUNT 2018

July 2018

474 people experiencing homelessness were surveyed during a 24 hour period on April 21st & 22nd

Where are they staying?



Homelessness – A Snapshot

Who are they?

63.5% are male and 35.2% are female (0.9% did not respond*)



6.5% identify as LGBTQ (2.3% did not respond*)

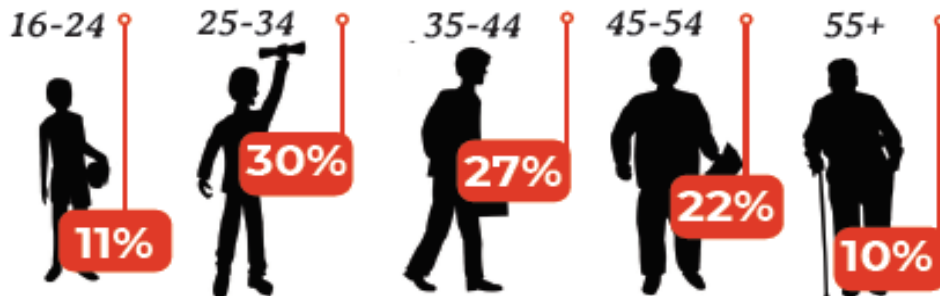


7.0% are veterans (0.8% did not respond*)



*Non-responses include don't know, decline to answer and unclear/blank responses

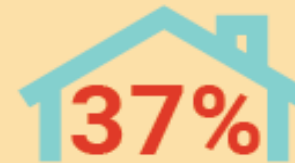
How old are they?



66%
identify as
Indigenous



61%
of respondents first
experienced
homelessness before
turning 25



37%
spent time in
foster care and/or
a group home



Homelessness In the District of Thunder Bay

- ❖ Survey 474 respondents - 2 days
 - ❖ 66% Indigenous
 - ❖ 7% Veterans
 - ❖ 6.5% LGBTQ2S
 - ❖ 37% spent time foster care and/or group home
 - ❖ 62% were not originally from Thunder Bay
 - ❖ 61% experienced homelessness before 25 years of age



Homelessness in the District of Thunder Bay

❖ Gender identification

- ❖ 63.5% male

- ❖ 35.2% female

❖ Common factors for homelessness

- ❖ 33% Addiction or substance use

- ❖ 12% conflict with spouse or partner

- ❖ 11% unable to pay rent or mortgage

- ❖ 9.9% unsafe housing

❖ Chronicity

- ❖ 59% 6+ months

- ❖ 21% homeless 3 or more times



Homelessness in the District of Thunder Bay

- ❖ Self reported health conditions
 - ❖ 70.9% Addictions
 - ❖ 48.9% substance use increased since being homeless
 - ❖ 45.4% mental health
 - ❖ 45.1 chronic or acute medical condition
 - ❖ 31% physical disability
 - ❖ 14.6% experience all four above



Unlikely Trio



THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD



ST. JOSEPH'S CARE GROUP



Anishinabek Family Care



Dilico Anishinabek Family Care

- ❖ First Nations governed
- ❖ Representative of 13 First Nations
- ❖ On-reserve & urban service delivery



Dilico Anishinabek Family Care

❖ Integrated Cultural Service Model

❖ Mental Health & Addictions

❖ CYMH

- ❖ Counselling, Psychiatry, Psychology, Psychometry, Parenting, Youth Addictions, Youth Outreach, Youth Mental Health Supports & Housing, Youth MH Residential Treatment

❖ Adult

- ❖ Addictions Treatment, Aftercare, Psychology, Counselling, Concurrent Disorders, Dual Diagnosis, Post-treatment Supportive Housing

❖ Health

❖ Child Welfare



St. Joseph's Care Group

- ❖ Addictions and Mental Health Services
 - ❖ Concurrent Disorders Rehabilitation
 - ❖ Mental Health and Addictions Outreach
 - ❖ Mental health Housing & Employment
 - ❖ Mental health Outpatient
 - ❖ Mental health Rehabilitation
- ❖ Employee Support and Assessment Services
- ❖ Long Term Care Services
- ❖ Rehabilitative care
- ❖ Spiritual care

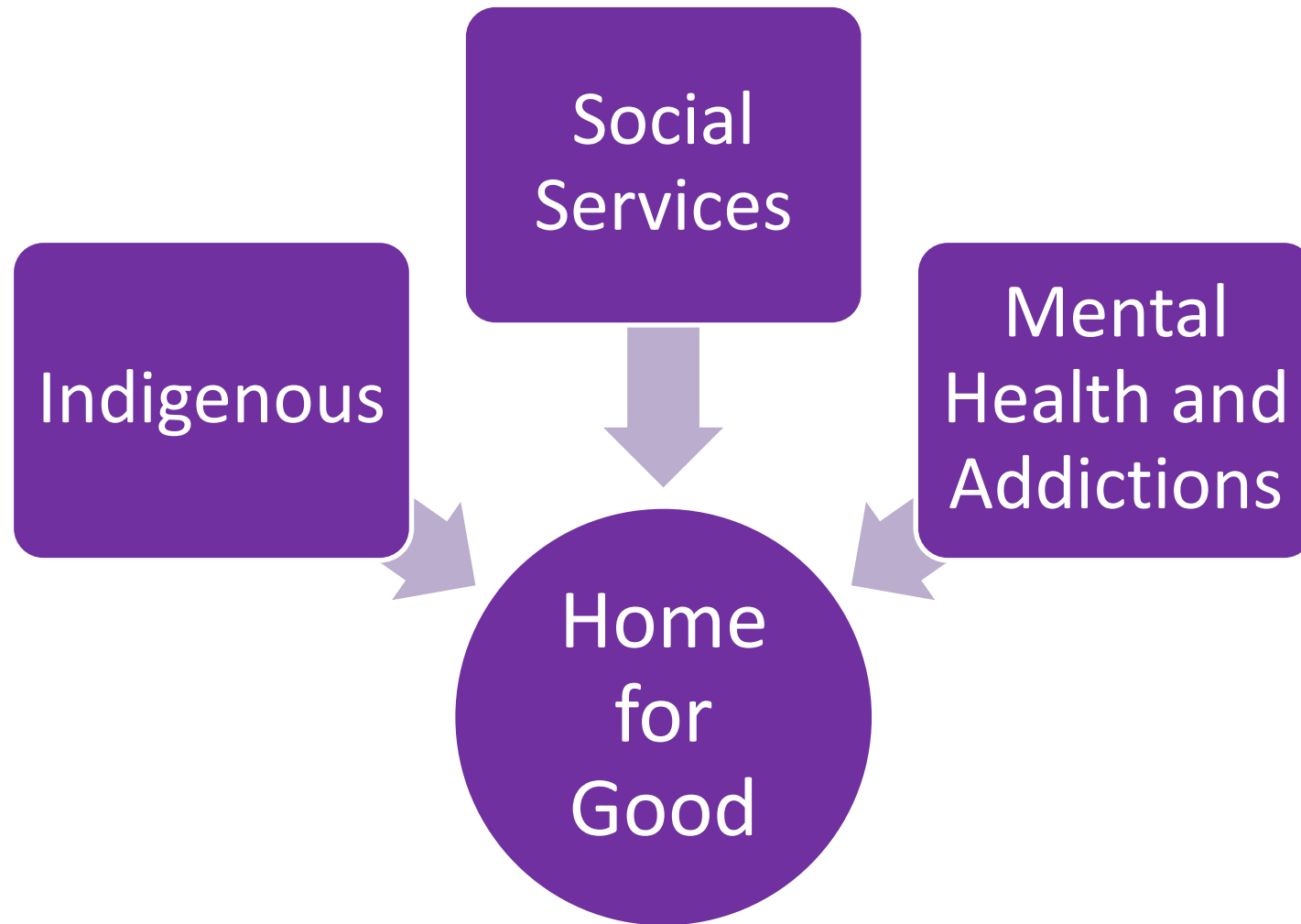


Home for Good Initiative

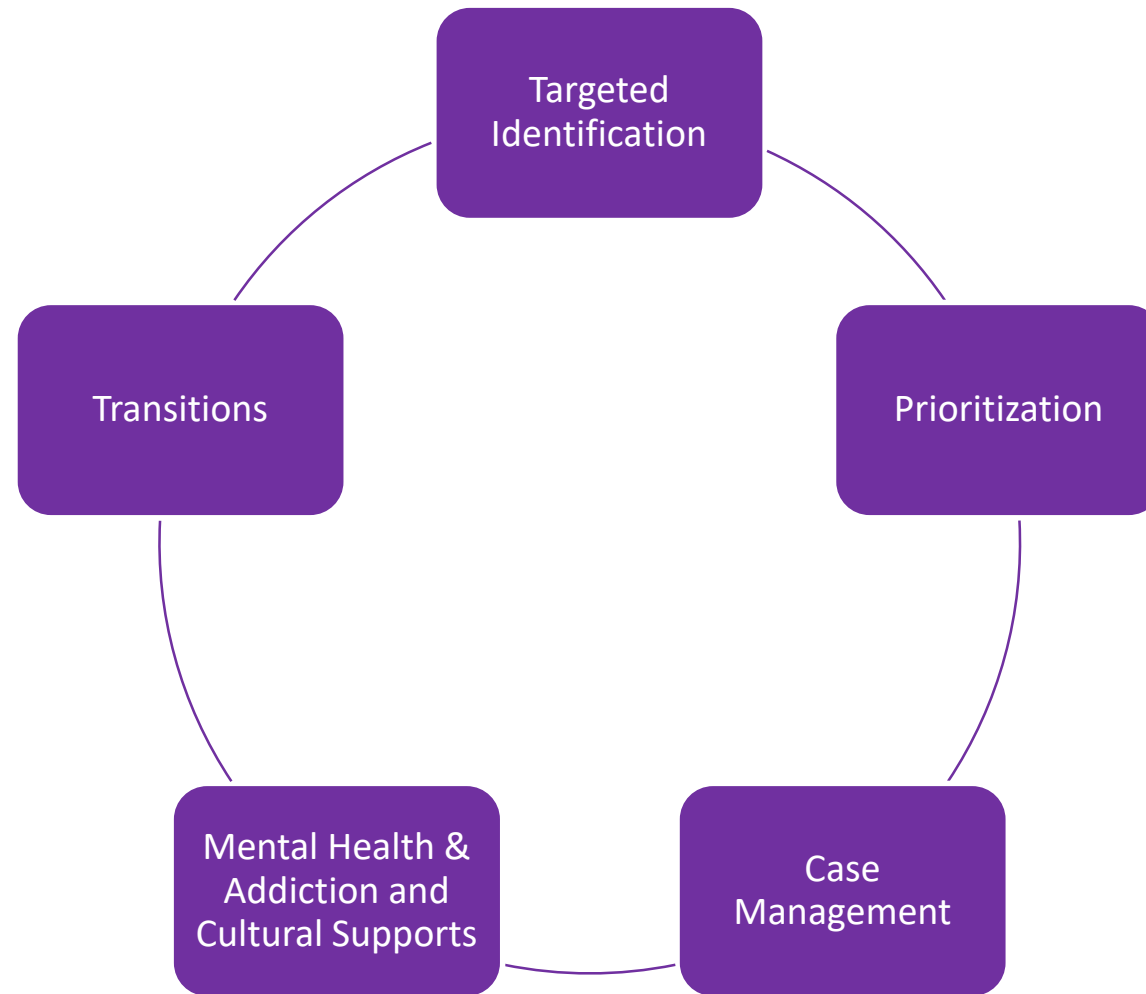
- ❖ Call for proposals 2017
- ❖ Creation of a tri-organization working group
 - ❖ Examine local needs and context
 - ❖ Examine relationship between housing instability and mental health and addictions supports/services
 - ❖ Leverage expertise of each organization
- ❖ Develop service model
 - ❖ Organization roles and responsibilities
- ❖ Create partnership agreements



Home for Good Structure



Components



Targeted Identification

- ❖ TBDSSAB Transitional Outreach and Support Team
- ❖ Dedicated staff to go out in the community to find homeless individuals to link with program
- ❖ Build relationships with various homeless population serving organizations



Prioritization

- ❖ Conduct an assessment of identified homeless using the Service Prioritization and Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT)
 - ❖ The SPDAT is an evidence-informed approach to assessing an individual's or family's acuity. The tool identifies the areas in the person/family's life where support is most likely necessary in order to avoid housing instability.
 - ❖ Potential for baseline evaluation
- ❖ Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) also conducts SPDAT assessments and will refer names to TBDSSAB.
- ❖ Individuals are placed on the High Needs – Homeless prioritization category where their SPDAT score is in excess of a predetermined level.



Case Management

- ❖ Trauma-informed
- ❖ Addictions and Mental Health knowledge and capacity
- ❖ Social Services knowledge
- ❖ Housing Sector knowledge
 - ❖ Processes
 - ❖ Legislation
- ❖ Solution-focused
- ❖ Motivational Interviewing strategies
- ❖ System navigation
- ❖ Conflict resolution
- ❖ Persistence



Supports

Mental Health and Addictions

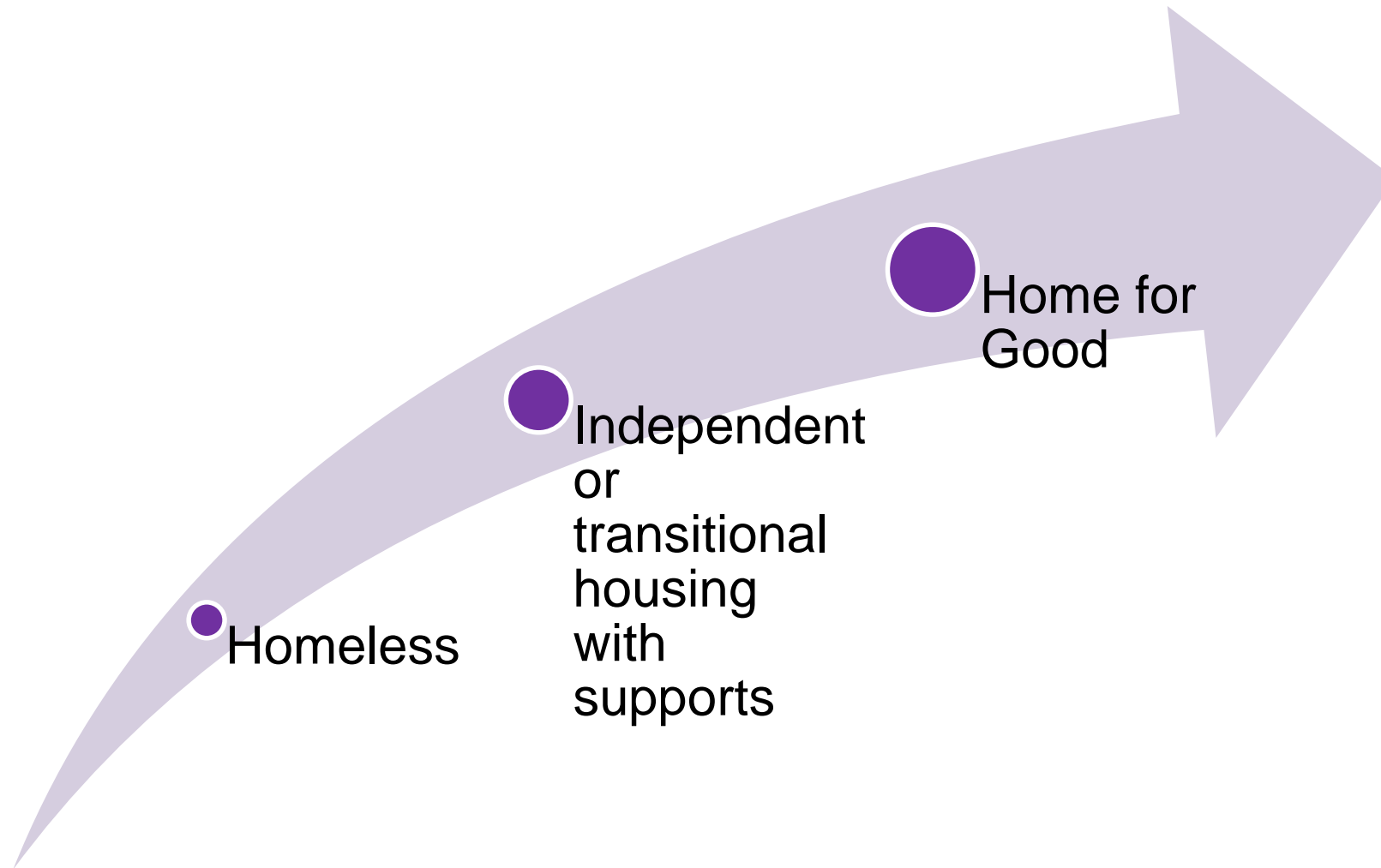
- ❖ Trauma-informed
- ❖ Local MHA system
- ❖ MHA assessment capacity
- ❖ Opioid capacity
- ❖ Crisis intervention
- ❖ Symptom management

Cultural

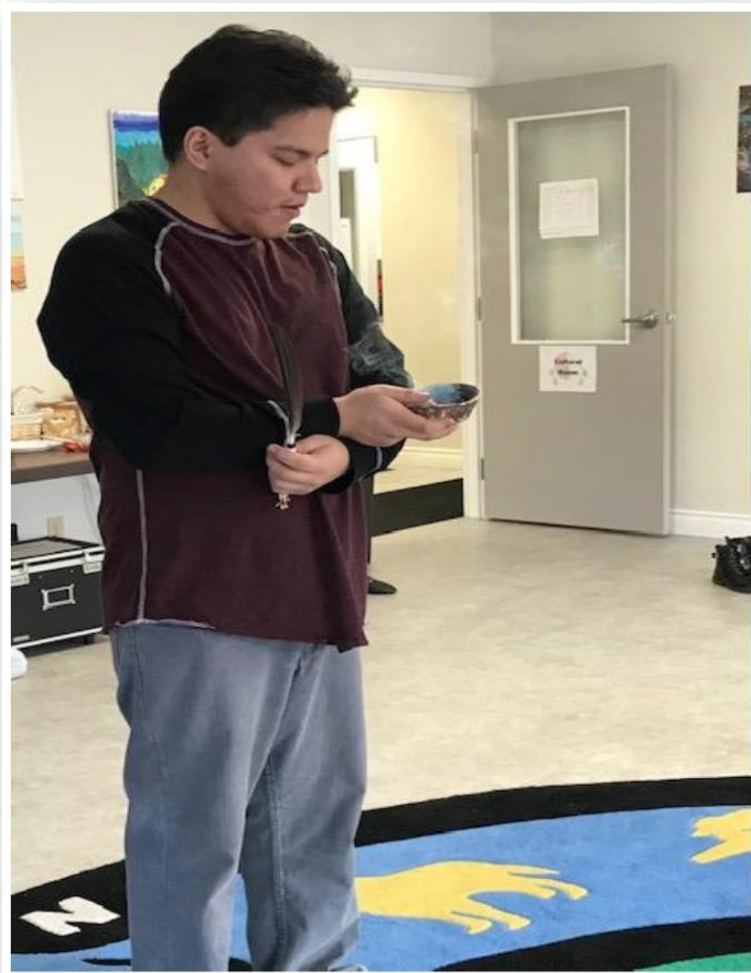
- ❖ Trauma-informed
 - ❖ Intergenerational
- ❖ Cultural capacity
 - ❖ Service rooted in customs, values, beliefs
 - ❖ Cultural identity building
 - ❖ Ceremony, traditional rights of passage, activities, access to Elders



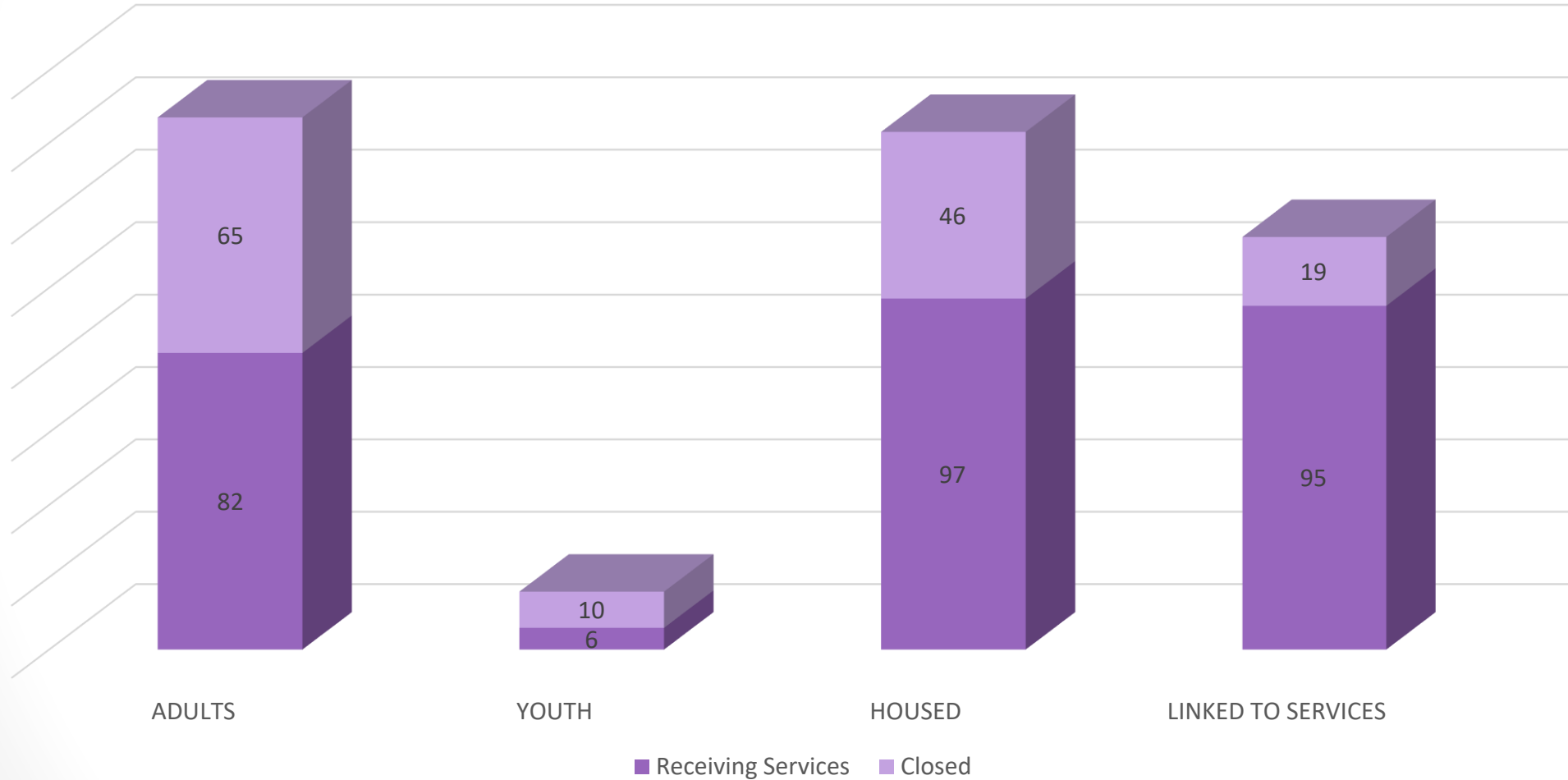
Transitions



Home for Good Success



Home for Good Serviced



Home for Good

Trends

- ❖ Addictions, Housing, Financial Problems have been the most presenting issues noted on referrals
- ❖ Clients housed in rent geared to income units

Pressures

- ❖ Low contact due to transient lifestyle
- ❖ Affordable housing on the decline

Next Steps

- ❖ Seek continued/permanent funding for existing program and expansion



The Lodge on Dawson

1460 Dawson Road, Thunder Bay



The Lodge on Dawson

- ❖ Provides transitional housing, supports and services to individuals struggling with chronic homelessness, addictions, and mental health challenges with the focus on stabilization in a trauma informed environment.
- ❖ Voluntary program
- ❖ 30 bed facility with shared accommodations
- ❖ Male and female adults (18+)



The Lodge on Dawson

- ❖ Medically stable
- ❖ Meet the criteria for high support housing needs (SPDAT)
- ❖ LOS: several weeks to months, depending upon individual needs (no longer than 364 days)
- ❖ Opened October - currently 15 residents housed



Staffing and Supports

- ❖ On site 24-hours, 7 days per week
- ❖ Nursing (RN, RPN), Community Support Assistance staff 24 hours
- ❖ Social Workers (Monday-Friday)
- ❖ Support of Physicians during designated Clinic times
- ❖ Supervisor
- ❖ Supports include Cultural activities, Leisure life skills, psycho-educational groups offered by partners and community resources



Questions/Comments



Contact

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