



SOCIAL INNOVATION & YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

CHRA WEBINAR – SEPT 26, 2017

WHO WE ARE

- Non-profit, registered charity
- Founded in 1990
- Professional services agency
- Multiple service and housing sites in St. John's
- 1200+ youth served annually

Through innovative programming and social enterprises, we help at-risk youth secure stable housing, education and employment, while working toward family stability and better health.



WHO WE SERVE

We work with at-risk and homeless youth ages 16-29.

Common challenges we come across include:

- Family Conflict and/or Instability
- Disrupted Education
- Low Income and/or Poverty
- Marginalization and/or Discrimination
- Mental Health and/or Addictions Challenges
- Abuse and/or Other Forms of Victimization
- Experience with Child Intervention Systems



SOCIAL INNOVATION PROJECT

Three Key Ideas Guiding the Project

- Youth homelessness is distinct from adult homelessness.
 - The causes of youth homelessness are wide ranging and complex, with challenges often beginning early in life. Our work must reflect this complexity.
 - An innovative response to youth homelessness embraces partnerships, new ideas, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of outcomes.
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CORE OBJECTIVES

- 1. Break inter-generational cycles of homelessness within vulnerable young families.**
- 2. Create low-barrier, high-support employment opportunities for at-risk and homeless youth.**

Designed to fill gaps in services and address leverage points.



FAMILY STABILITY

1. Break inter-generational cycles of homelessness within vulnerable young families.

67% of the youth we work with have past or present involvement with the child protection system.

Average age of a young person's first experience with homelessness in St. John's is just 16.

Momma Moments Program

- Proven model
- Wrap-around support
- Inter-generational impact (intervention + prevention)
- Integrated with all other CFY services

Family Reconnect Program

- A core recommendation in the Housing First Framework for Youth
 - Stabilizing support networks, reducing isolation
 - Integrated with all other CFY services
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TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

2. Create low-barrier, high-support employment opportunities for at-risk and homeless youth.

4.8% of the youth we work with have completed high school.

76% of the youth we work with are unemployed.

Centralized Employment Support Program

- Pre-employment and on-the-job
- Skills development and GED
- Wrap-around and tier-based support
- Integrated with all other CFY services

Social Enterprise

- Diverse employment sectors
 - Sustainable job creation
 - Designed for at-risk youth
 - Transitional space
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PROJECT OUTCOMES & EVALUATION

The Numbers. How many...

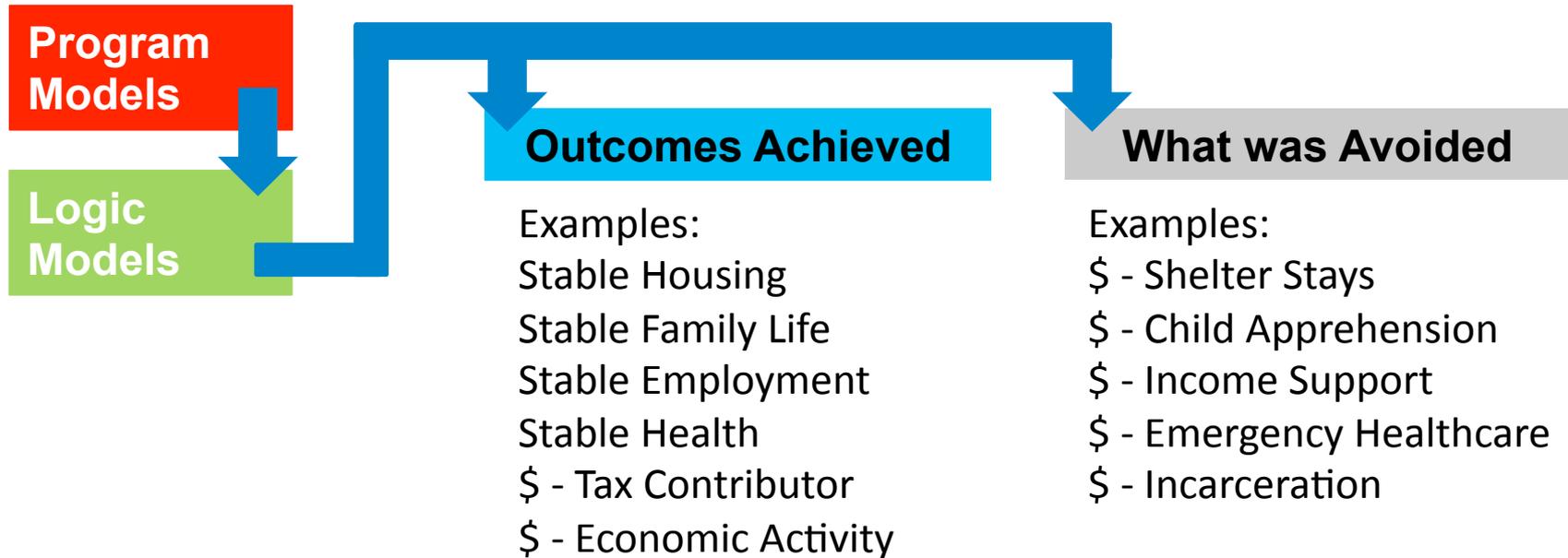
- Completed GED
- Secured stable housing
- Are no longer receiving income support
- Participants in each program
- Completed pre-employment training
- Reconnected with family
- Young mothers secured employment
- Etc.

What Else? How can we measure and evaluate system-based, broader societal?

- Hours of youth employment generated
- Improvements in mental health
- Increase in individual support networks
- Reduced shelter use
- Etc.

SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Mapping intended outcomes AND avoided negative outcomes with financial proxies.



This approach acknowledges the cost of doing nothing, and highlights the cross-societal impacts and costs associated with youth homelessness.

SROI is an additional tool meant to compliment existing impact reporting.

PROVINCIAL EXPANSION

What we know

- Youth accessing CFY services come from all over NL
- Best practice: services and interventions closer to home

What we're doing

- Learning: rural communities, different challenges, different opportunities
- Program expansion & a provincial plan to end youth homelessness

What does this look like

- 6 sites within the next 3 years
 - Model can vary: capacity-building, writing funding applications together, satellite operations, etc.
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