

**JOHN
BURTON**
ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH

www.jbaforyouth.org

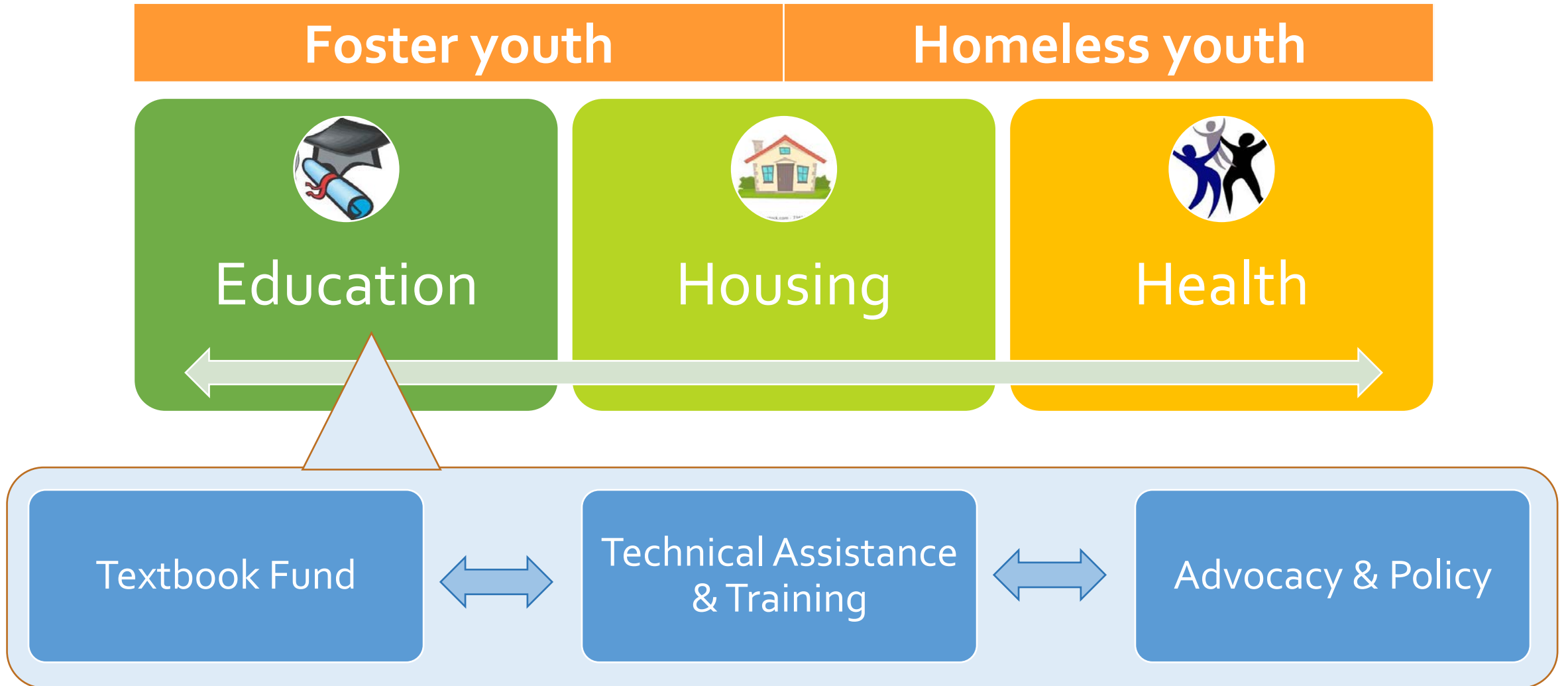
BRINGING STUDENTS HOME

Options for Addressing Homelessness
Among College Students

December 6, 2019



John Burton Advocates for Youth



Prevalence of Homelessness Among California's College Students – Community College

CCC's Students

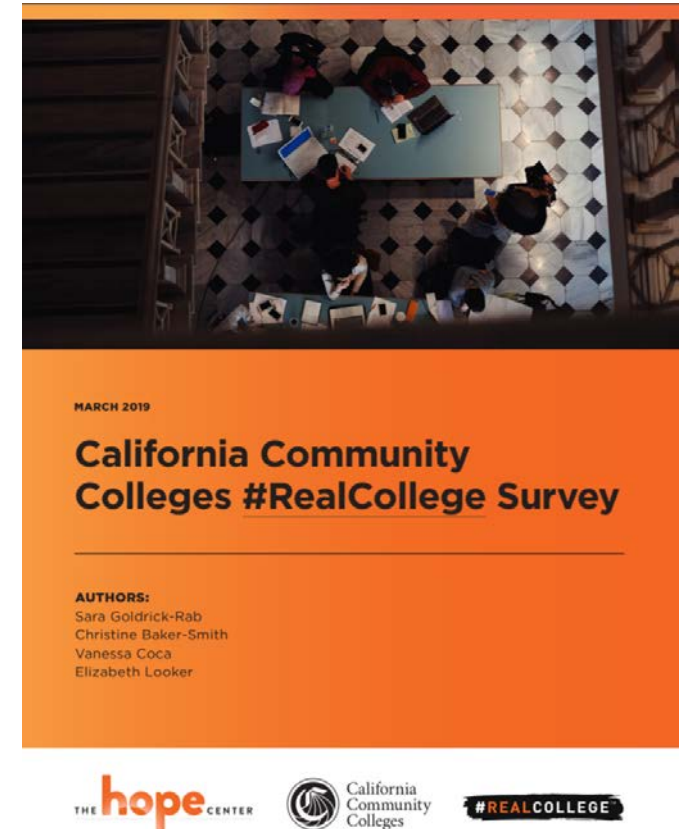
- **1 in 5** of CCC students experienced homelessness within the last year (60%)



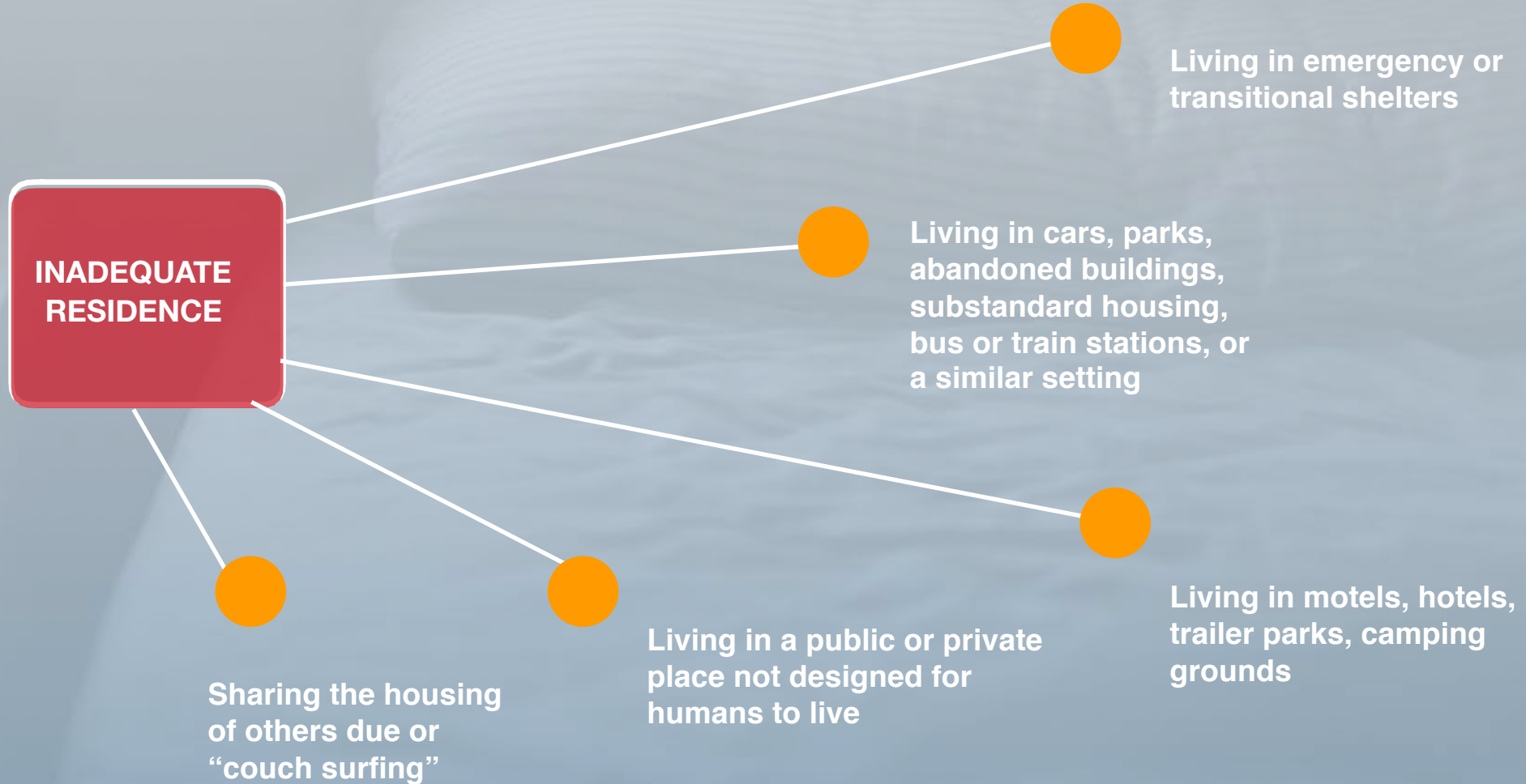
- **2 in 5** CCC students who have been in foster care experience homelessness (43%)



- **1 in 3** of African American students experience homelessness (32%)



Homelessness



Homelessness

Students may have a history of homelessness or may experience homelessness for the first time as college students - 47% of youth experience homelessness both with and w/o their families

Risk factors

- ~30% of foster youth will experience homelessness after foster care
- LGBTQ and gender non-conforming students
- Young parents
- Immediate or unexpected financial crisis
- Economic instability and lack of safety net

Addressing Homelessness Requires a Multi-Pronged Approach

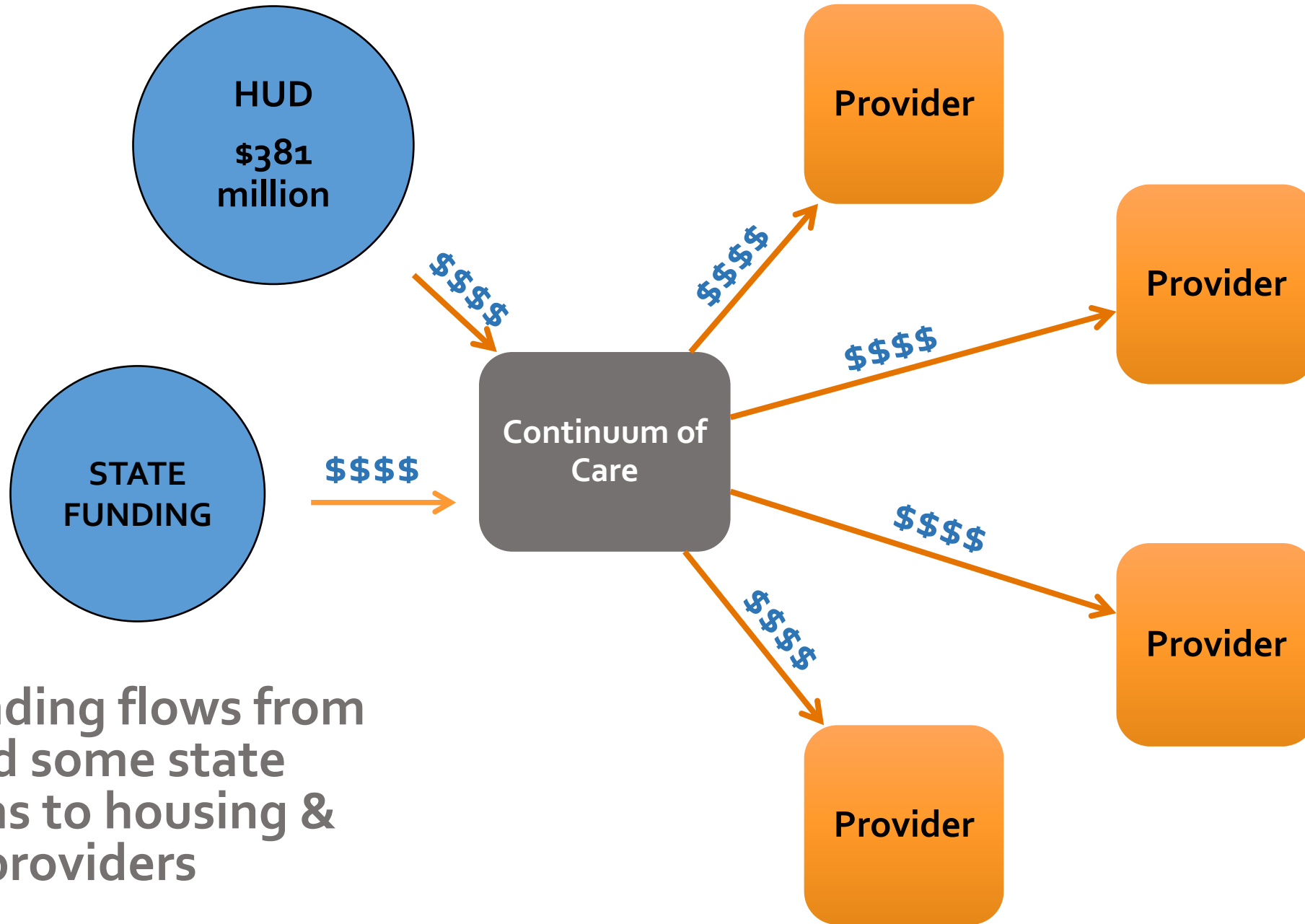


The Homelessness Response System

Continuums of Care (CoCs)

Continuum of Care (CoC) Basics

- Entity that receives and administers HUD funding
- Regional but not exclusively county-based
- 44 CoCs in California
- Primary vehicle for helping people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness
- Determines local priorities and makes funding decisions



How funding flows from HUD and some state programs to housing & service providers

HUD Housing Administered by Continuums of Care

Emergency
Shelter

Transitional
Housing

Rapid
Rehousing

Permanent
Supportive
Housing

Housing not
administered by
the CoC:

Housing Choice
(Section 8) Vouchers
& Public Housing

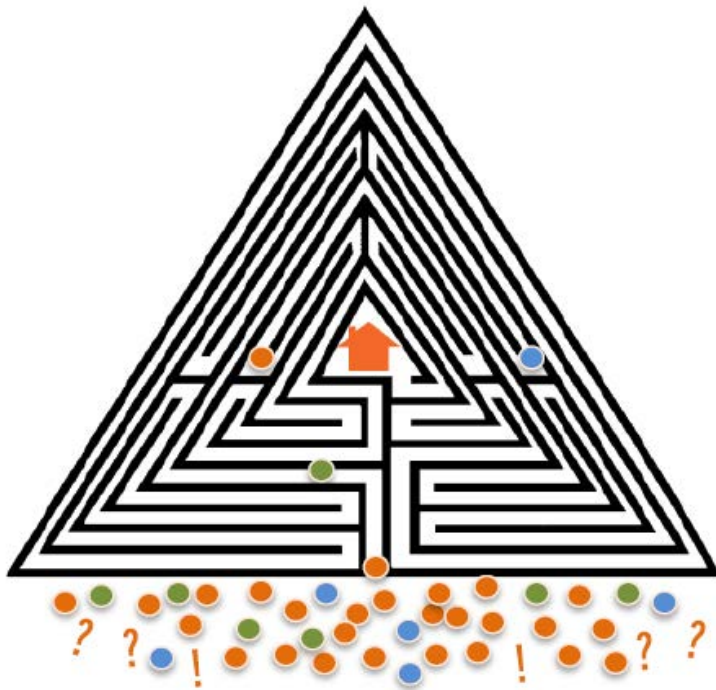
Permanent Affordable
Housing

THP-Plus (foster
youth)

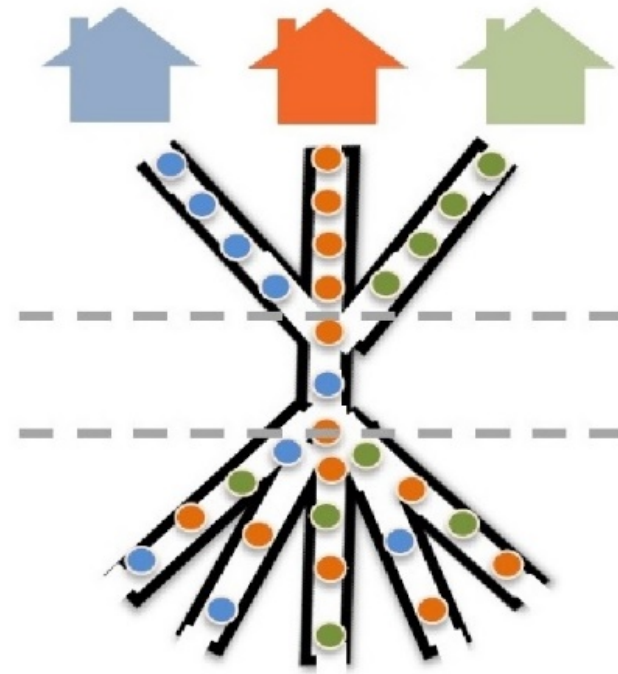
Runaway & Homeless
Youth Act (RHYA)

What is a Coordinated Entry System?

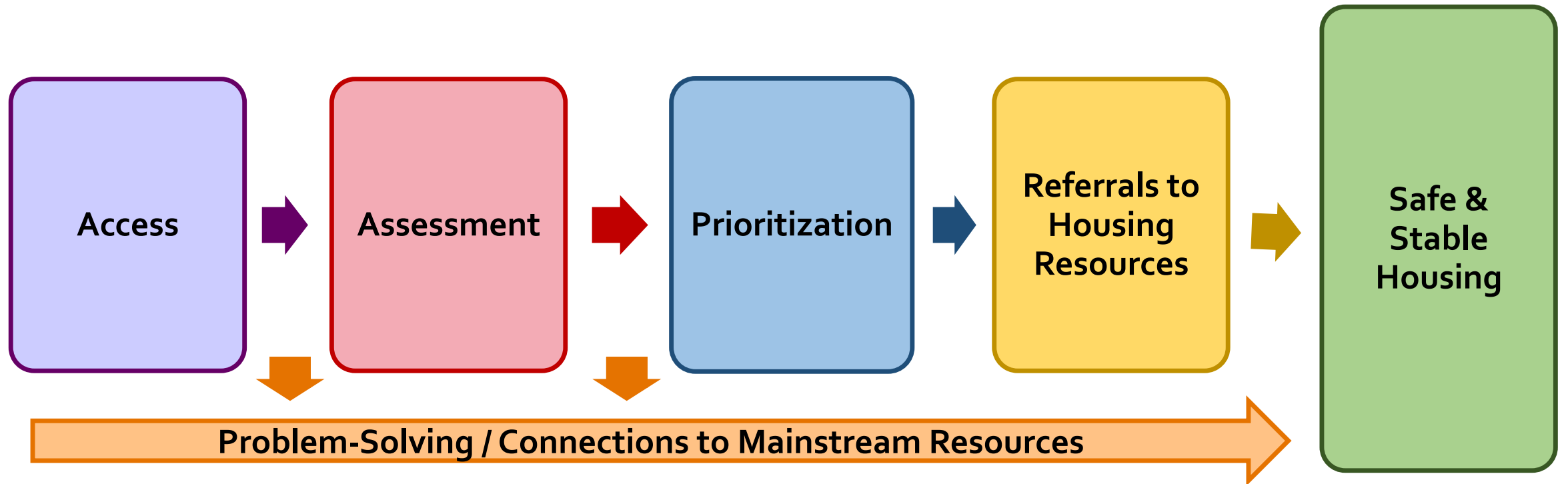
Without CES



With CES



How Does CES Work?



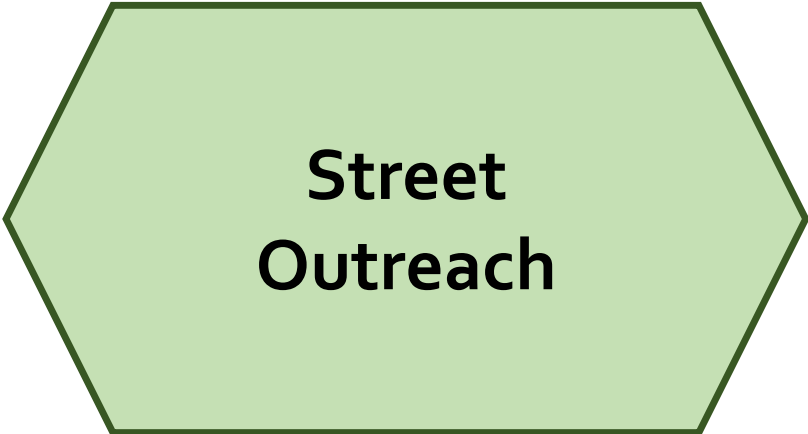
CES Access Points



**May be Single or
Multiple Points
of Access**



**Virtual or Phone
Access**



**Street
Outreach**



**Youth
Coordinated
Entry**

Eligibility & Prioritization for Housing Resources

- Eligibility
 - Must meet HUD Definition of Homelessness for federal programs
 - Additional Program Requirements (e.g., veteran status, senior, chronically homeless, families, serious mental illness, youth)
- Prioritization
 - Vulnerability: Chronic Homelessness, Disability, and other factors
- Youth-Targeted Resources

HUD definition: (1) Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate. nighttime residence, meaning: (i) living in a public or private place not meant for human habitation; (ii) living in a shelter.

Practical Strategies for Campuses

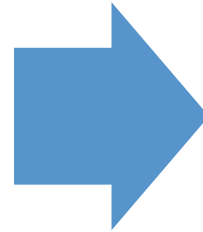
1. Make Referrals to CES

Know your community's coordinated entry access points

- Familiarize key campus staff with locations & phone numbers
- Are there youth-specific access points?
- What is the eligibility and referral process?
- Refer students in need of housing to appropriate access points
- Ensure that if students are current or former foster youth, they are referred to the child welfare agency or local provider.

2. Co-locate with a provider that assesses for coordinated entry.

Partner with the Continuum of Care or local provider to bring coordinated entry assessment on campus.



Provider with CES contract can assess students on campus and refer to housing and services.



3. Use touch points with students strategically.



When distributing emergency housing vouchers, ensure students are **connected to the local homelessness response system**.



When distributing any basic needs resources, ensure eligible homeless students are **completing FAFSA correctly** to get independent student status.



Post contact information in food pantries, support offices, health center, etc. for connecting with homelessness response system and homeless liaisons on your campus.

4. Get involved with CoC stakeholder meetings

- Opportunity to influence community priorities
- Stakeholder input was required for the HEAP planning process and open to the public.
- **Get involved before critical input periods if possible**



5. Participate in the Homeless Point-In-Time Count.

- “Snapshot” of people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January; administered by Continuum of Care in odd years
- Main source of data used by federal government to track the number, demographics & needs of people experiencing homelessness
- PIT counts determine federal funding allocations to address homelessness and impacts state funding as well

Ensure homeless students are included in PIT Counts

- Volunteer for the count
- Make sure homeless students complete surveys

6. Ensure your campus' financial aid policies address student homelessness.

Ensure financial aid administrators are well-trained and advised on how to make a homeless determination

Reevaluate Cost of Attendance based on individual circumstances

Prioritize special populations in timing of disbursements

Modify SAP appeals policy to make homelessness an extenuating circumstance

Resources

- Continuum of Care (CoC) Roster:
<https://www.jbaforyouth.org/coc-roster>
- Point-in-Time Count CoC Roster:
https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/pit_count_coc.pdf
- 10 Practical Strategies for Campuses:
<https://www.jbaforyouth.org/practical-strategies-for-campuses>

Resources

- 5 Guides to Help Homeless College Students (California Homeless Youth Project & SchoolHouse Connection):
<https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/5-guides-to-help-homeless-college-students-in-california>
- FAFSA Visual Guide for Homeless Youth (JBAY):
<https://www.jbaforyouth.org/fafsa-guide-homeless-students>
- THP-Plus roster for former foster youth:
<https://www.jbaforyouth.org/thp-plus-provider-roster>

Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) - 2018

Program Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$500 million one-time block grant to address homelessness
Funding Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funds distributed to 43 Continuums of Care and 11 Largest Cities• Each local agency developed a system to distribute funds to providers
Key Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least 5% of the allocation MUST be used to establish or expand programs to meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness
Student Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three housing providers received HEAP funds to implement college-focused rapid rehousing with local community colleges (San Joaquin Delta, Santa Rosa JC, Southwestern)• Imperial Valley College received a direct allocation for services

HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE, AND PREVENTION PROGRAM (HHAP) - 2019

Program Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$650 million one-time block grant to address homelessness
Funding Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funds distributed to 43 Continuums of Care and 13 Largest Cities and 58 Counties• Each local agency developed a system to distribute funds to providers
Key Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allocations are based on each CoCs proportionate share of the state's total homeless population based on the 2019 homeless point-in time count (PIT).• At least 8% of the allocation MUST be used to establish or expand programs to meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness

HHAP IMPORTANT DATES

HHAP TIMELINE	
Program Guidance	October 29, 2019
Allocations announced based on 2019 PIT count and NOFA released	December 2019
Deadline for jurisdiction to submit applications to State	February 15, 2020
Final date to award funds to jurisdictions	April 1, 2020
Deadline for program funds to be contractually obligated	May 31, 2023
Funds shall be fully spent	June 30, 2025

HHAP ALLOWABLE USES

1. Rental assistance
2. **Rapid rehousing**
3. Operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation shelters
4. Incentives to landlords, such as security deposits and holding fees
5. Systems support to create regional partnerships and maintain a homeless services and housing delivery system
6. Hotel and motel conversions
7. Prevention and shelter diversion to permanent housing
8. New navigation centers and emergency shelters based on demonstrated need

Core Components of “College-Focused Rapid Rehousing”

- **Housing navigation** or search assistance including
 - recruitment of landlords
 - identification of shared housing opportunities
 - support with housing application processes
 - credit counseling
 - facilitation of access to on-campus housing and facilitation of reunification with family members willing to provide stable housing



Core Components of “College-Focused Rapid Rehousing”

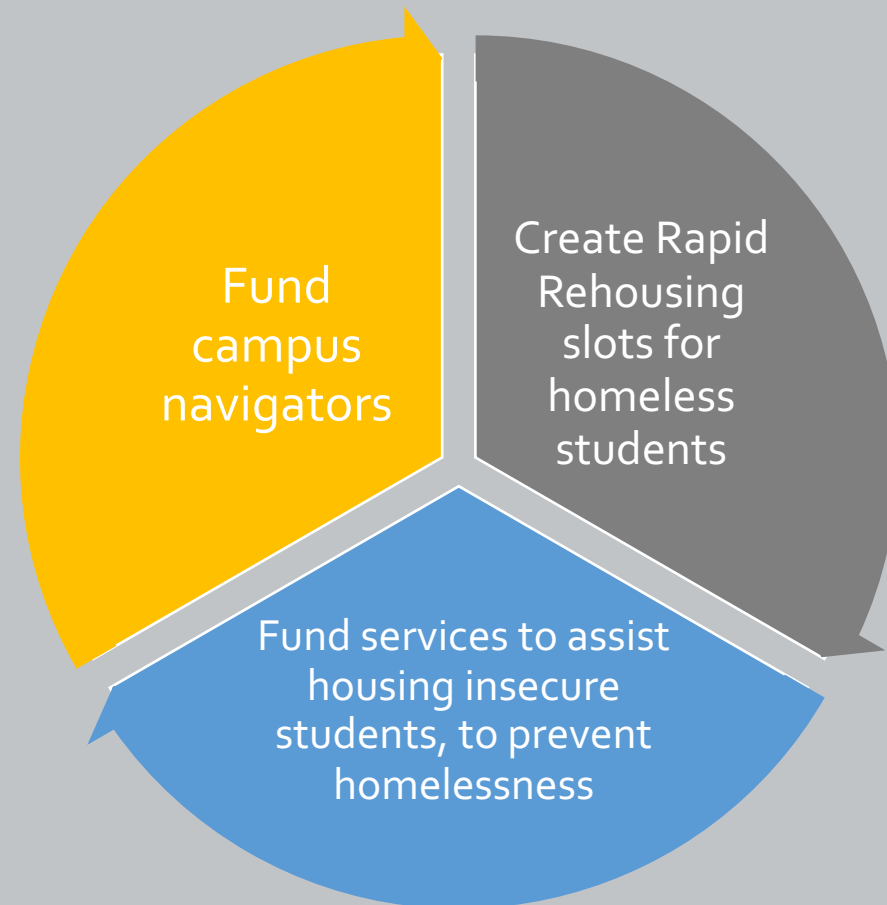
Housing-related financial assistance

- rental application fees
- rental subsidies
- security deposit assistance
- utility payments
- moving cost assistance
- interim housing assistance while seeking permanent housing

Housing stabilization services

- ongoing tenant engagement
- case management
- credit repair assistance
- employment support
- life skills training
- referrals to other resources

Step 1: For campuses, the first step is connecting with a housing provider that can apply for HHAPP



Consider partnering with organizations that have contracts with the CoC, County or City

- Existing contracts and relationships facilitate issuing funds.
- Getting a contract for the first time is difficult.
- May 2019 study found few HEAP recipients were first-time CoC grantees.



Step 2: Make contact with your local Continuum of Care, county and large city

CoC

- 44 Continuums of Care in California
- Distributes HUD funding and funding from CA Department of Housing and Community Development.

County

- 58 counties
- Each have a Department of Housing and Community Development.

Large City

- Anaheim, Bakersfield, Fresno, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Ana, and Stockton.

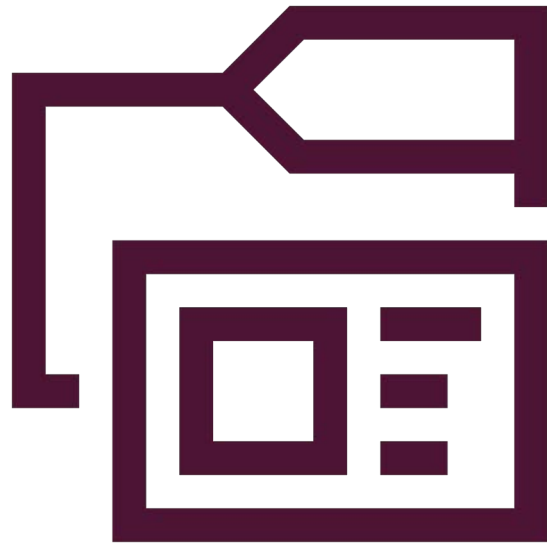
*Visit HHAPP webpage at www.jbaforyouth.org to find a contact for your CoC, County and Large City

HHAPP Considerations

- Move quickly with Large Cities
 - Their HEAP process included less formal stakeholder engagement and were more likely to sole-source that issue competitive NOFAs
- Clarify that 8% is a minimum, even if their PIT youth percentage is lower than 8%
 - With HEAP, jurisdictions with smaller allocations (under \$4 million) were more likely to allocate the minimum to homeless youth.
- Expect to have to educate your CoC, County and Large City on college student homelessness

Step 3: Prepare for the release of the NOFA

- Final release of HUD count likely in October or early November
- Application period will be during the holiday, when it can be hard to get things done - it's never too early to start
- Subscribe to receive notices at HCFC website
- Visit JBAY web page on HHAPP implementation - <https://www.jbaforyouth.org/hhapp/>
 - Fact sheet
 - FAQ
 - Continuum of Care, County and Large City contacts
 - % of homeless who are unaccompanied youth



LSS PARTNERSHIP WITH SAN JOAQUIN DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

UTILIZING HEAP FUNDS

PROCESS



Submitted RFP for HEAP to CoC for funds allocated for homeless youth



Planned to extend current housing program for TAY youth



Focused on homeless TAY at San Joaquin Delta Community College



Received funding and implemented program

Established referral process with Delta College and ID's space for LSS staff to meet with students on campus



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graph TD; A[Established referral process with Delta College and ID's space for LSS staff to meet with students on campus] --> B[Identified and trained a case manager at LSS who would guide these youth to self-sufficiency]; B --> C[Utilized established relationship with Guardian Scholars (foster youth) program on Delta's campus];
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Identified and trained a case manager at LSS who would guide these youth to self-sufficiency

Utilized established relationship with Guardian Scholars (foster youth) program on Delta's campus

IMPLEMENTATION

Created Release of Information (ROI) to build partnership with Financial Aid, EOPS, Counselors, Instructors, Tutors, Coaches, etc.



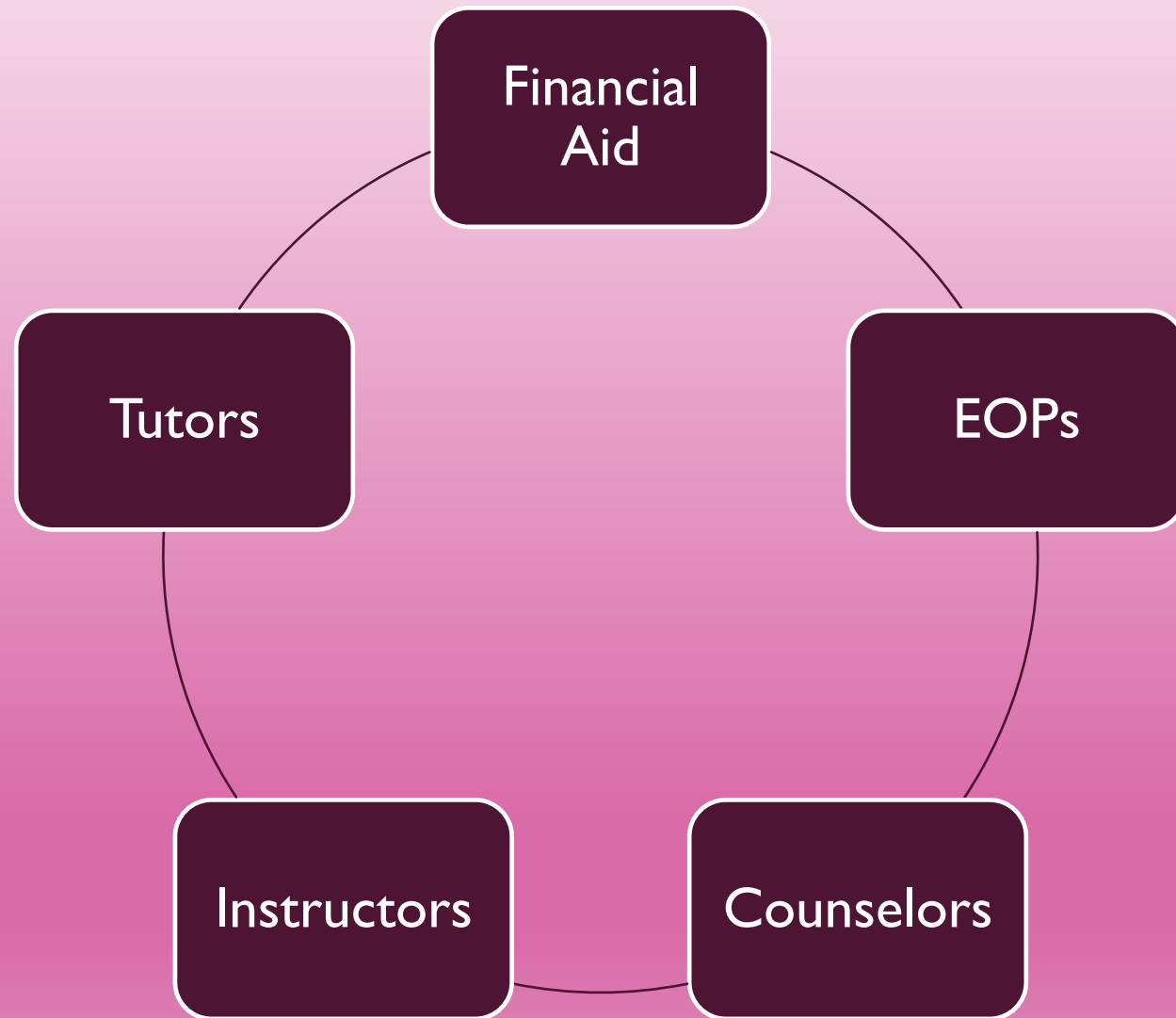
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graph TD; A[Created Release of Information (ROI) to build partnership with Financial Aid, EOPS, Counselors, Instructors, Tutors, Coaches, etc.] --> B[Communicated with established and new property managers about vacancies]; B --> C[Established procedures to intake youth for housing];
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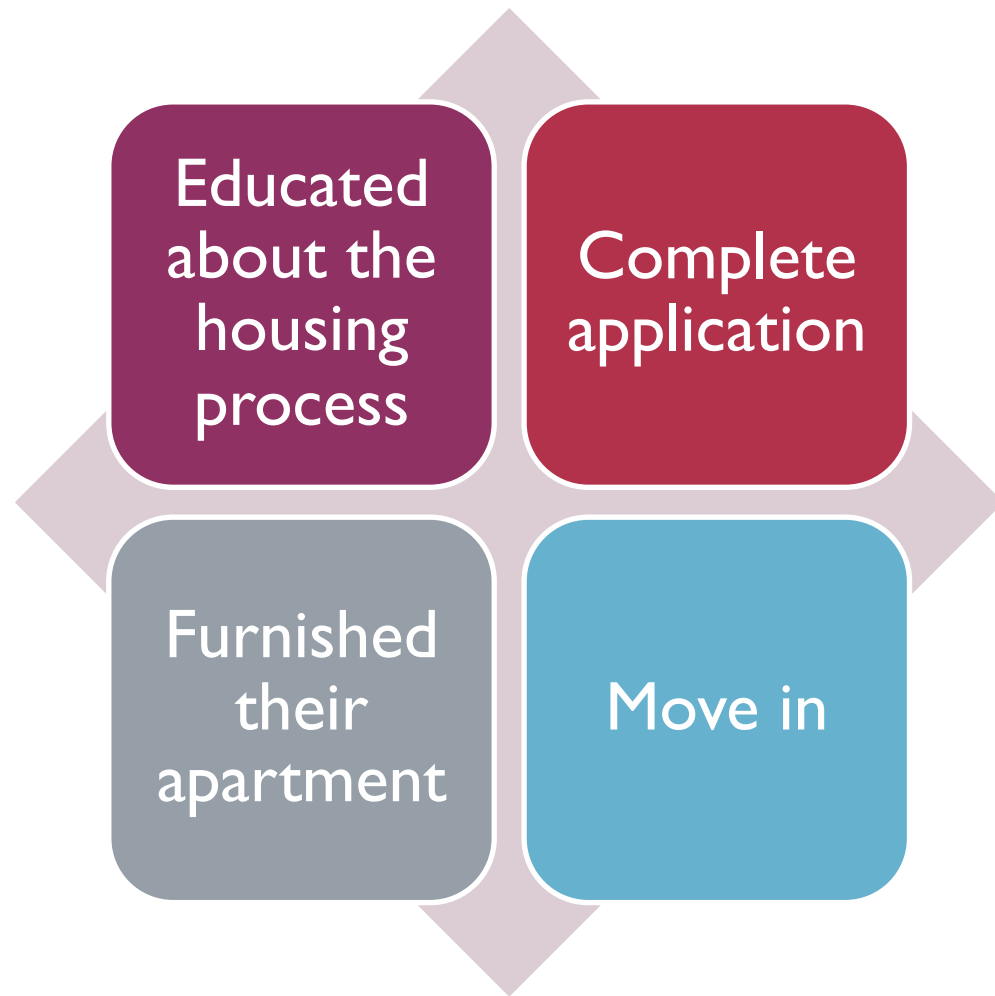
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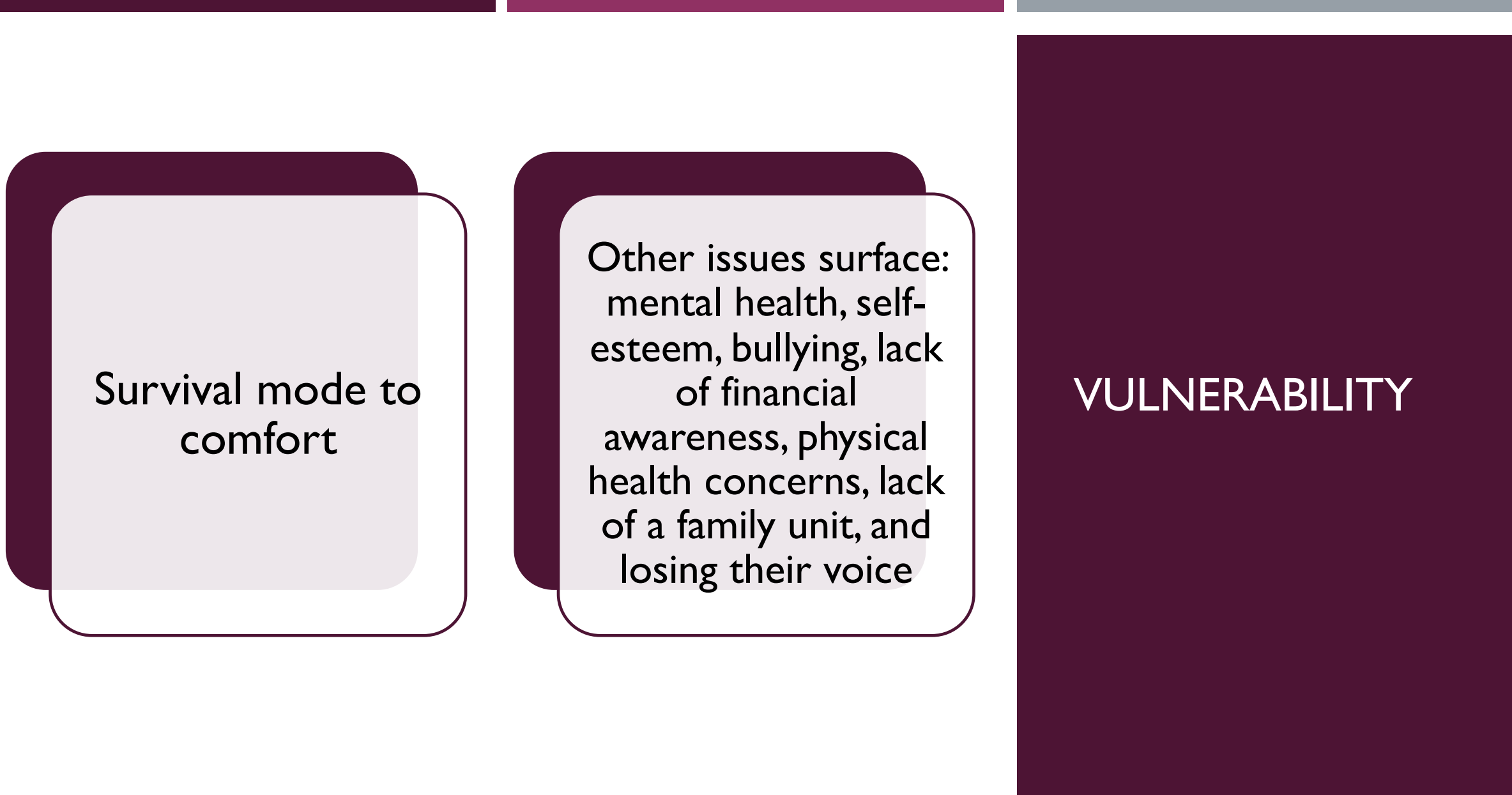
IMPLEMENTATION

Cycle of Support





CREATING
STABILITY



Survival mode to
comfort

Other issues surface:
mental health, self-
esteem, bullying, lack
of financial
awareness, physical
health concerns, lack
of a family unit, and
losing their voice

VULNERABILITY

WRAP AROUND SERVICES



Referrals and
resources



Being available
to listen



Team
approach