

# Using social innovation to build the case for youth homelessness prevention

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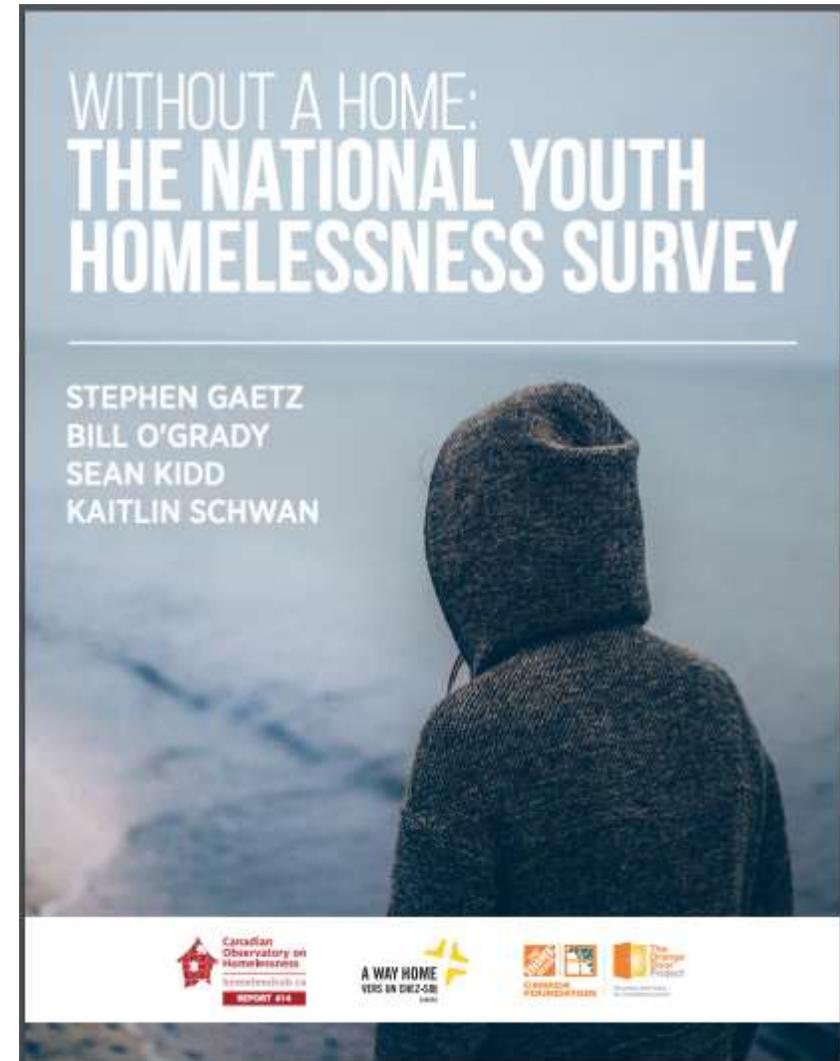
The problem we're trying to solve w/ MtS

**Youth Homelessness** is a seemingly intractable problem in Canada



# What do we know about youth homelessness?

- First experience of homelessness
- Child protection services
- Foster Care
- Mental health and well-being
- Sexual and physical violence
- Human trafficking
- Irreparable damage



## 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, 2SLGBTQ+, 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.

# Current response in Canada...



The change we want to see...



# The Challenge

- In Canada and the United States, the prevention of homelessness is an afterthought
- There is little homegrown knowledge about how to implement prevention
- Funding and infrastructure not in place to support a shift to prevention
- Lack of community capacity to successfully implement prevention
- Opportunity cost: Doing prevention means stopping doing something else



# Addressing the Challenge

The *shift* to prevention requires:

- **Policy and funding** is aligned to support prevention
- Knowledge base about **how to do prevention** is developed
- Evidence for effective prevention is developed
- **Capacity building:** local government and not-for-profit sector are supported to make the shift
- **Need to shift hearts and minds:** Just do it!



# What is a Social Innovation Lab?



# What *is* Making the Shift?

**Our work focuses on a singular goal:**

to conduct and mobilize quality research that supports governments, communities and service providers to make the shift from managing the crisis of youth homelessness, to a focus on prevention and enabling sustainable exits from homelessness.



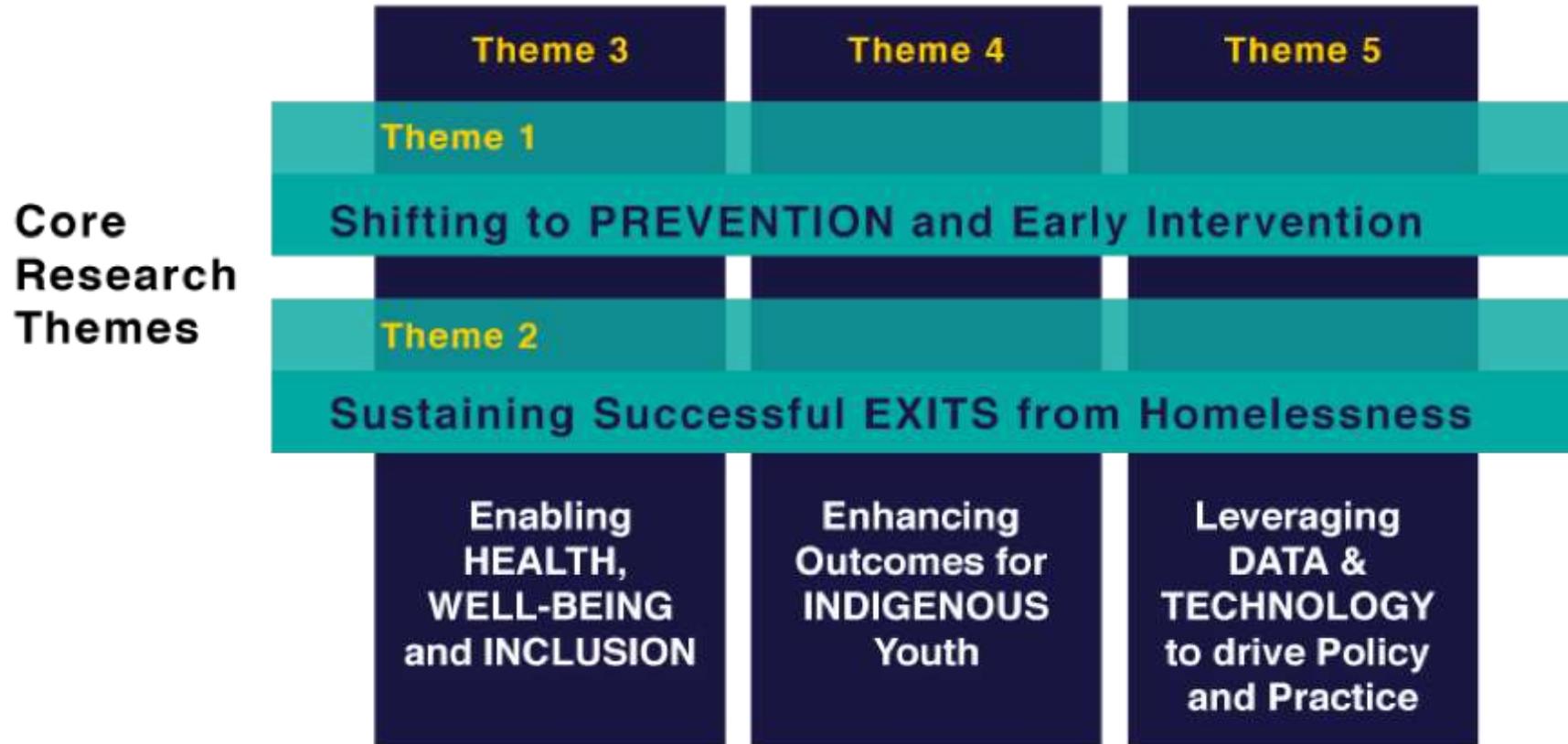
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# MtS Research Program

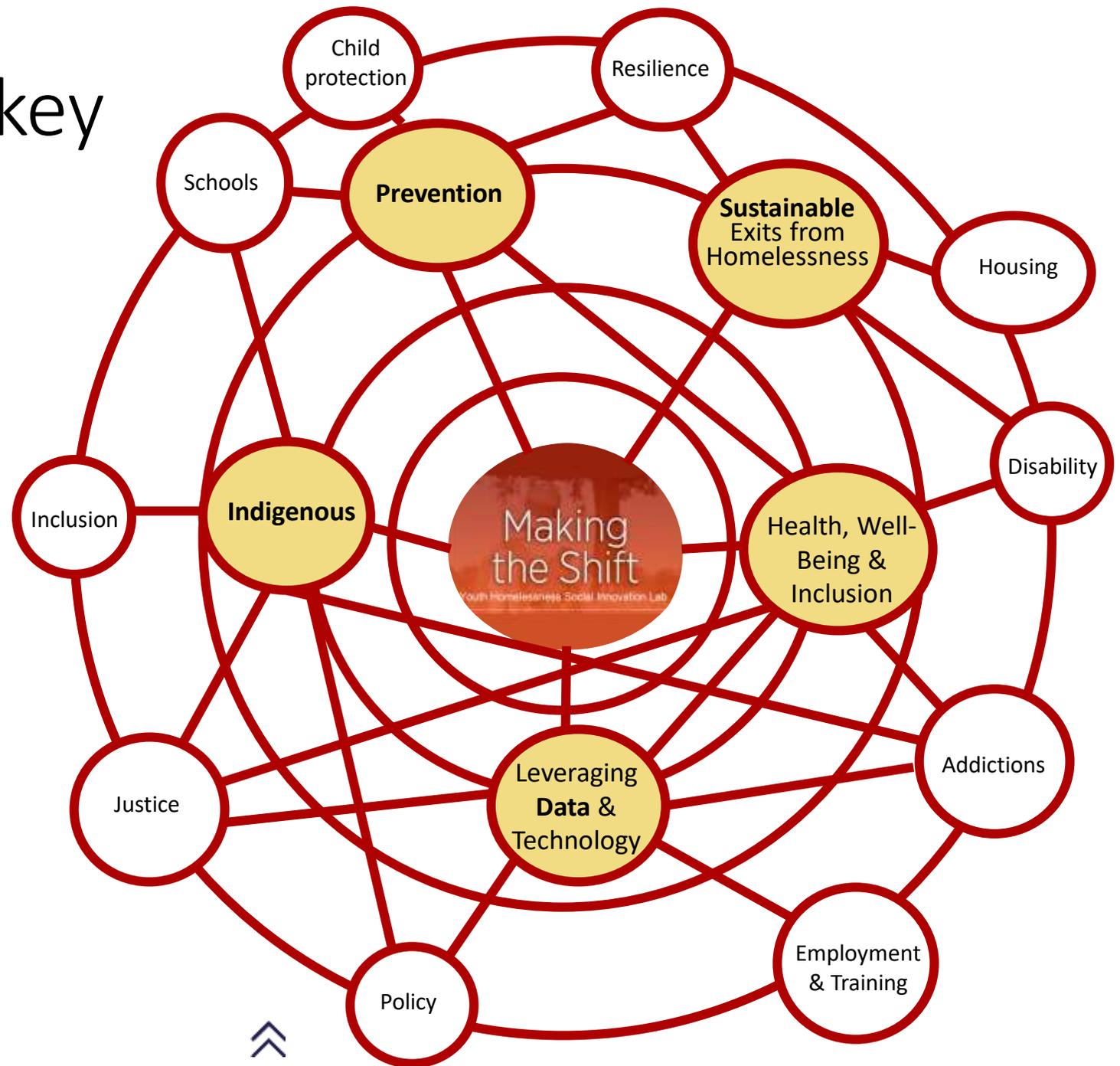
## Research Theme Areas



## Crosscutting Research Themes

# Collaboration is key

- Researchers
- Research networks
- Partnerships



# Research Projects Funded and Supported by Making the Shift

MtS-funded research projects showcase the power of collaboration between researchers and practitioners in identifying innovative, impactful, and comprehensive solutions to youth homelessness.



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# Call for Proposals

- First Open Call for Proposals (2019)
- Covid-19 Special Call for Proposals (2020)
- Second Open Call for Proposals (2021)
- Data and Technology Call for Proposals (2021)
- Open Call with Priority Areas (2022)
- Indigenous-led Funding Stream (2022) – COMING SOON!

**INVESTMENT - \$9,120,149**



# MtS Demonstration Projects

Blend experimental program delivery with research and evaluation

## **RESEARCH:**

- Qualitative and quantitative methods
- Outcomes tied to services and supports
- Randomized control trial (HF4Y)

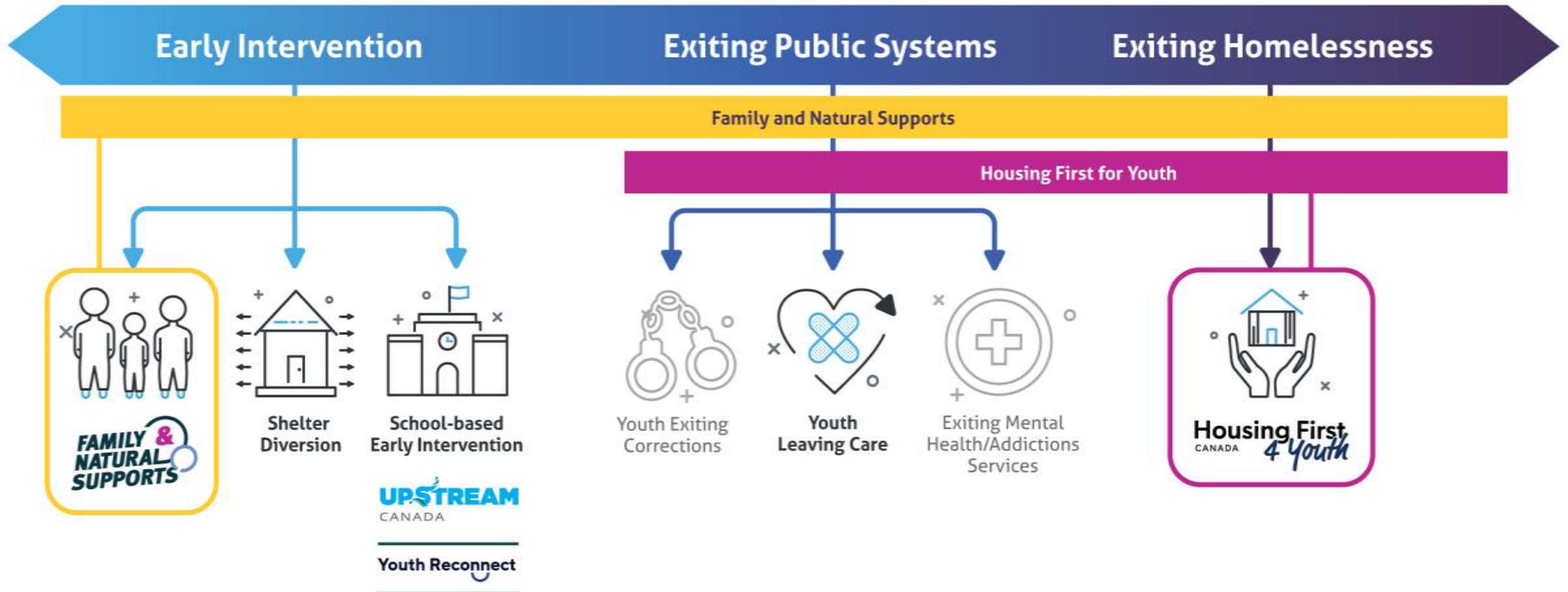
## **EVALUATION:**

- Developmental
- Outcomes



# Preventing Youth Homelessness

## What you can do in *your* community



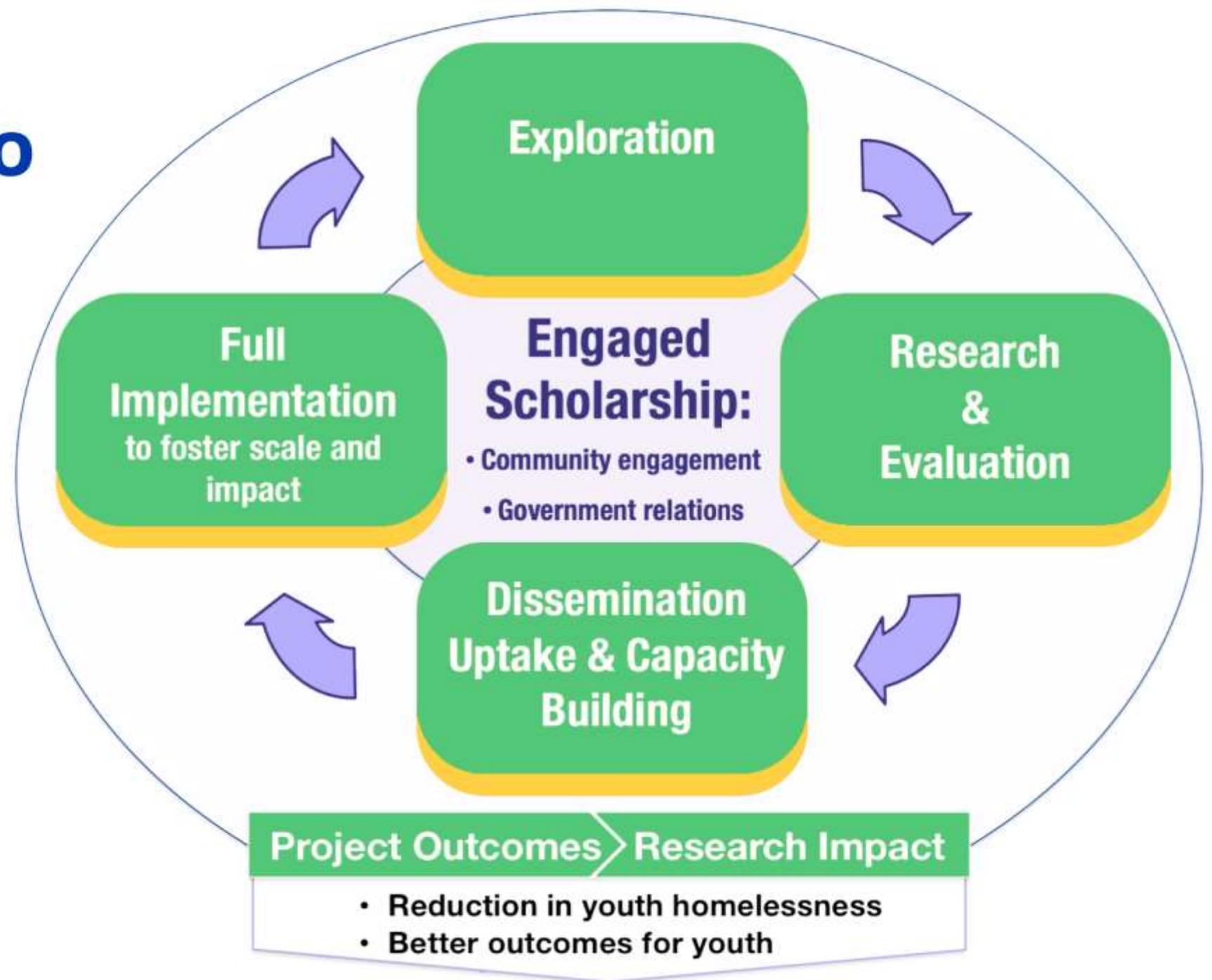


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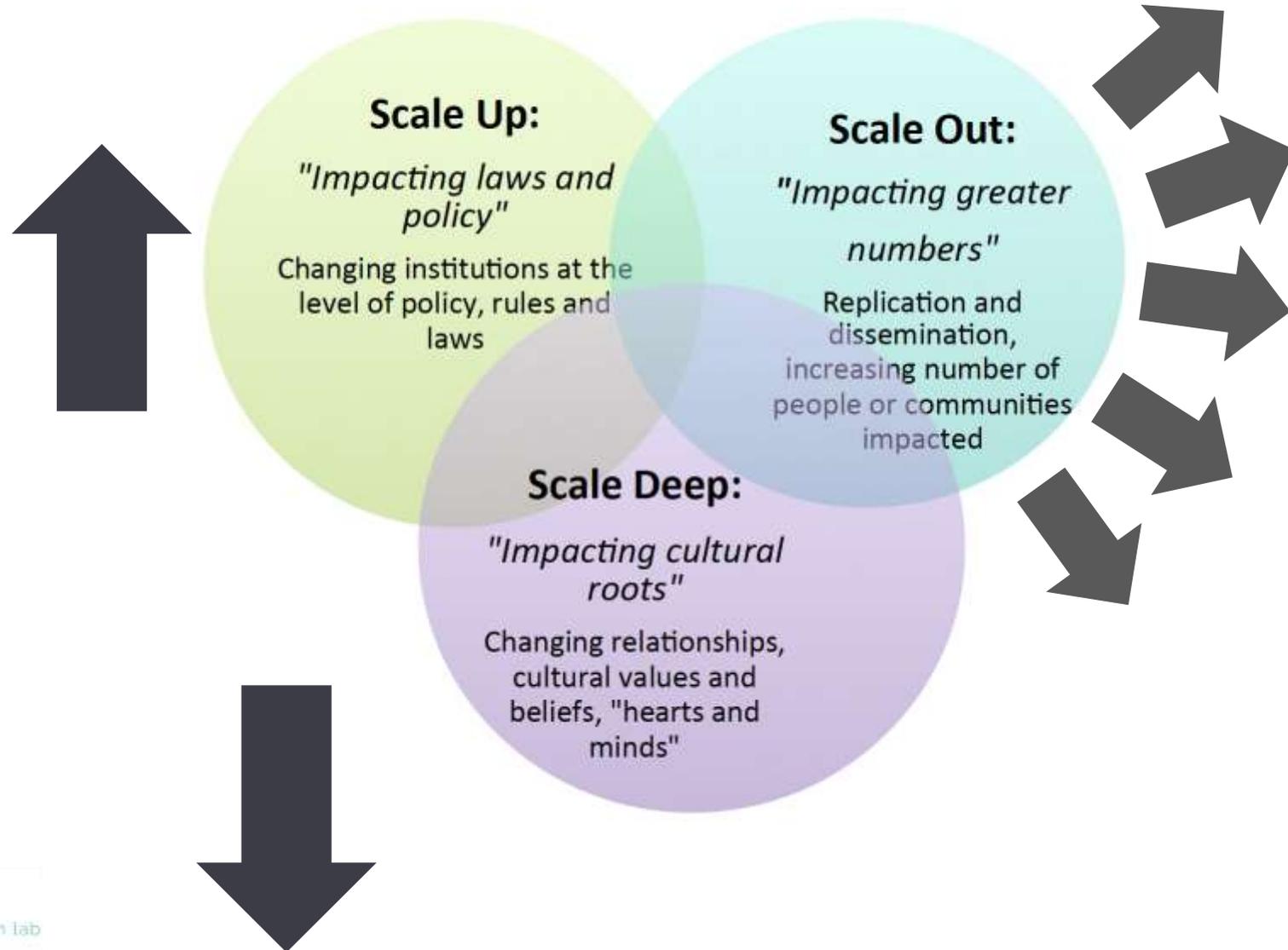
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# Knowledge Mobilization

# Research to *IMPACT* Cycle



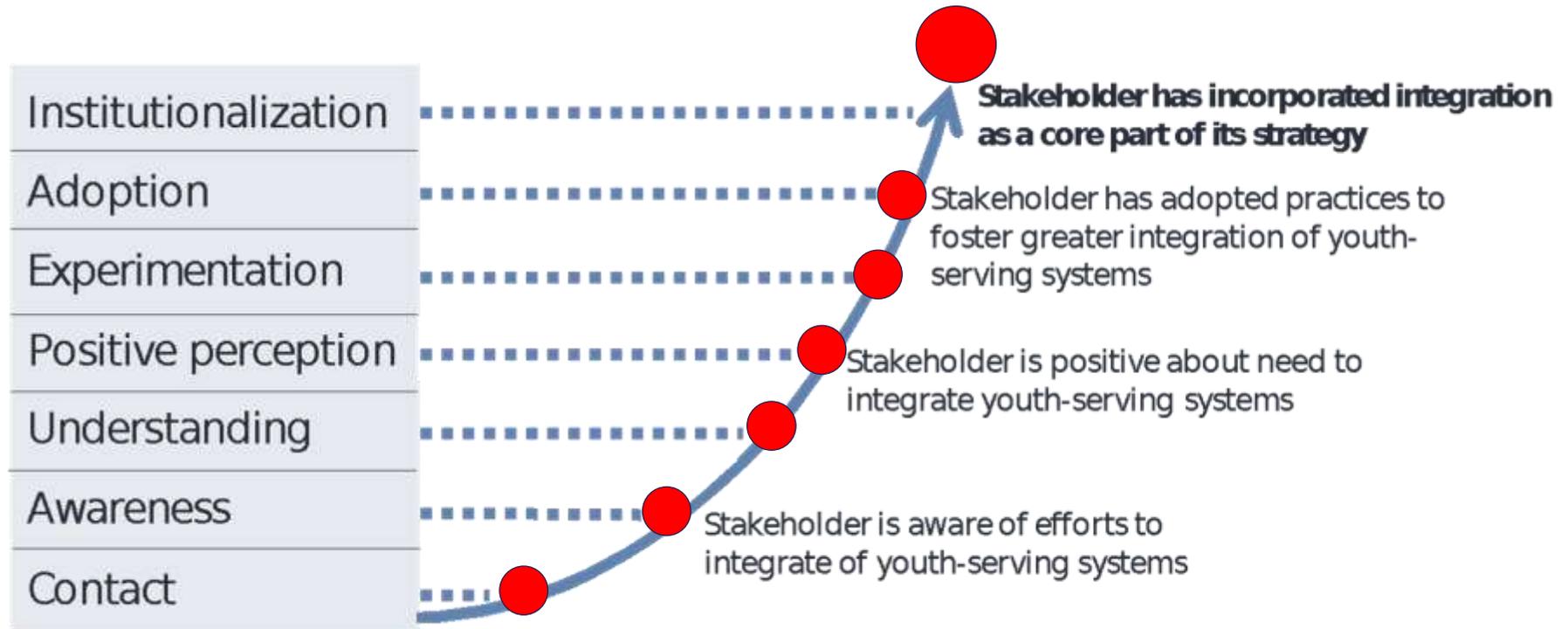
# Take innovation *to scale!*



# Our task:

## *Influencing a move up the Commitment Curve*

- Reflects change that may happen among or within organizations
- The commitment curve is a way of assessing the commitment of stakeholders to changes in policy and practice.



# COH Knowledge Mobilization Strategy



# COH Knowledge Mobilization Strategy

- Homeless Hub
- Social media / newsletters
- Resources (reports, program model guides, infographics)
- Training and technical assistance (Homelessness Learning Hub)
- Events
- Systems Planning Collective
- Government relations



# QUESTIONS?

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