



- If you discover a youth to be homeless at any time, call 2-1-1 to obtain assistance and provide them with resource information on 211
- In case of emergency, call 911
- 211 is a free and confidential service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- 211 will follow the guidelines set out by the Youth Homelessness Protocol to assist the youth in acquiring immediate shelter needs

## ABOUT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

- Youth are considered to be homeless if they lack stable, permanent, acceptable and safe housing
- Youth homelessness is often invisible. Youth often 'couch surf' or stay with friends or family temporarily, often moving from one place to the next
- If a youth does not receive appropriate support, they will likely become homeless several times during their lifetime. By preventing homelessness we can prevent the cycle of poverty that often follows

The Community Action Network for Children & Youth Elgin is a group of service providers who are committed to working together to find solutions and take action on issues that affect children and youth in Elgin County.

For more information visit [www.CANelgin.org](http://www.CANelgin.org)

### COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK

for CHILDREN & YOUTH ELGIN



Funded by:



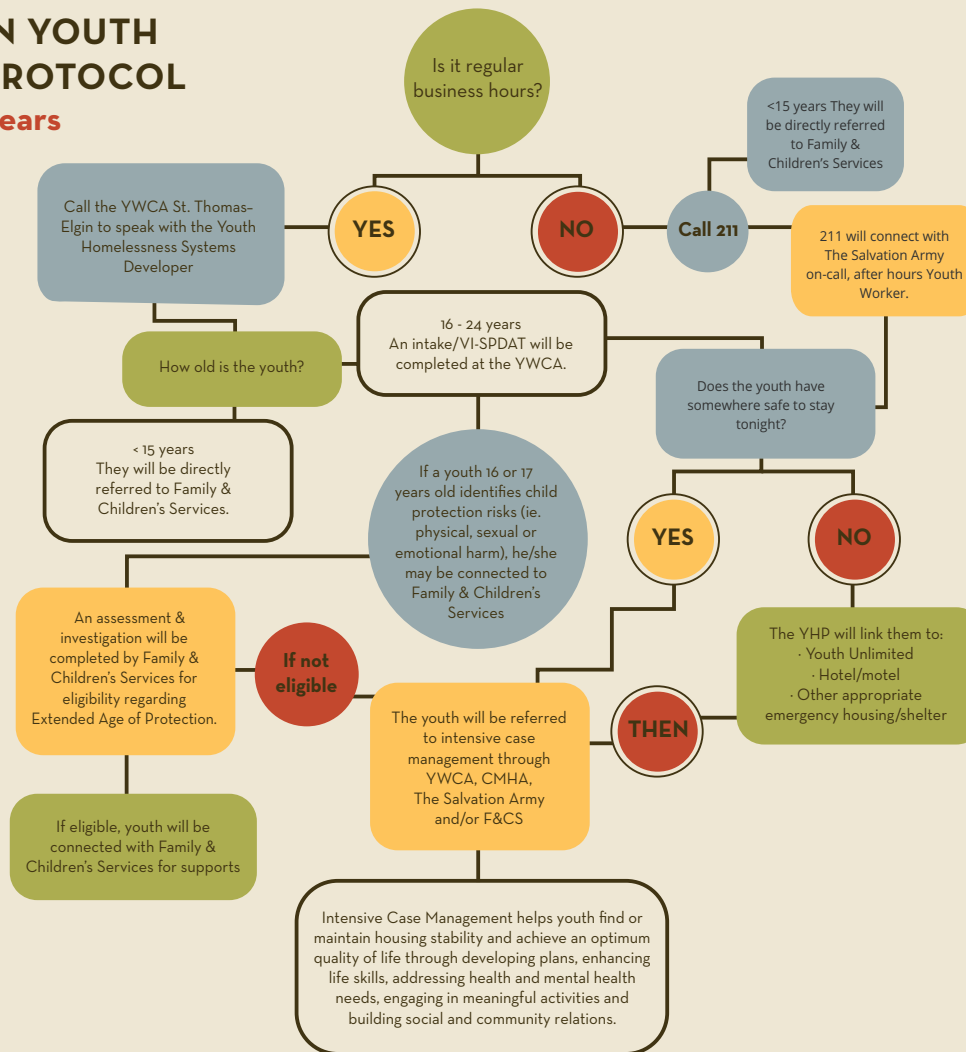
## taking action on YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



# ST. THOMAS-ELGIN YOUTH HOMELESSNESS PROTOCOL

For youth ages 16-24 years

To be followed when a youth is experiencing a housing crisis and is currently homeless or will be homeless the next 48 hours.



## INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

- Youth can be connected with case management through the YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin, CMHA Elgin, The Salvation Army-Community Alternatives for Youth, and/or Family & Children's Services St. Thomas-Elgin
- Housing Based Case Managers can help clients find or maintain their housing and achieve an optimum quality of life through:
  - Developing plans
  - Enhancing life skills
  - Addressing health and mental health needs
  - Engaging in meaningful activities
  - Building social and community relations

## VI-SPDAT AND SPDAT ASSESSMENT TOOLS

- Both of these tools are used in the protocol and are evidence-informed approaches to assessing an individual's acuity
- The tools, across multiple components, prioritizes who to serve next and why, while concurrently identifying the areas in the person's life where support is most likely necessary in order to avoid housing instability

## SYSTEM MATCHING MEETINGS

- Bi-weekly the protocol partners will meet to discuss:
- New youth entering the protocol
  - Openings/availability of housing
  - Access to shared resources through the protocol
  - Problem solving and troubleshooting about specific situations (including changes to risk of homelessness)

## OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES OF THE PROTOCOL

- Diversion from the system whenever possible
- Harm reduction approach
- Informed consent & confidentiality
- Responsiveness and immediacy of services whenever possible
- Family reunification whenever possible
- Youth centred
- Collective impact approach