

True TRANSFORMATION  
comes through  
RELATIONSHIPS

YESS

youth empowerment & support services



## WE HAVE A NEW VISION!

To walk beside traumatized youth on their journey towards healing and appropriate community integration.

## WHAT WE DO

Based in Edmonton, Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS) provides immediate and low-barrier shelter, temporary housing, and individualized wrap-around support for youth ages 15–24.

We focus on working collaboratively with our youth-supporting partners on prevention and diversion out of homelessness. And ultimately, we aim to walk beside traumatized youth as they heal through relationships.

## Our Vision Through A National Lens

The National Mandate from *A Way Home Canada* and the *Canadian Observatory on Homelessness* is to focus much more on prevention and exit out of homelessness, to ensure we are not simply providing shelter but also working to eliminate root causes and helping youth build their own safe integration into community.

YESS has envisioned and designed its programming to follow this mandate and to ensure better success of community integration for youth.

# OUR VISION... AT A GLANCE

## National Focus

(from *A Way Home Canada* and the *Canadian Observatory on Homelessness*)

### Funding and Programming Priorities



## YESS Focus: Transition Through Trauma

### Youth Stages



### Current YESS Programs Areas:

#### Intake

- Nexus Shelter Program
- Harm Reduction Program

#### Crisis Management

- Youth Trauma Program
- Staff Wellness Program
- Armoury Resource Centre (ARC) Wrap-around Services and Drop-in Centre

#### Diversion and Prevention

- Shanoa's Place and Graham's Place Live-in Programs
- Art Therapy Program
- Employment and Life Skills Program

#### Community Integration

- Family Connections Program
- Apprenticeship Programs:
  - YESS Painting Ltd.

## Edmonton Youth-Supporting Agencies Programs (a sample)

**Fair For Youth** – Collaboration with EPS

**The Mustard Seed** – Neighbour Centre

**Boyle Street** – Youth Unit

**iHuman** – Links Mental Health Clinic

**Old Strathcona Youth Society** – Drop-in Centre

**Southside Primary Care Network (PCN)** – Medical Support

**Homeward Trust+E4C+JHS** – Youth Housing First

**iHuman** – Arts Programming and Drop-In Centre

**John Howard Society (JHS)** – Nova House and The Loft

**E4C** – The Hallway Café

**Boyle Street Ventures**

# OUR FOCUS

1. We focus on prevention and diversion out of homelessness

2. We focus on healing trauma through relationship

3. We focus on walking beside youth to minimize falling through gaps

4. We focus on collaboration (with everyone)

## What Does This Mean?



**We focus on prevention and diversion out of homelessness**

### What is prevention?

Prevention means providing proactive resources for youth and their caregivers before youth become homeless. To be effective, resources must work alongside similar programs provided by the network of organizations addressing homelessness to create a beneficial experience for anyone seeking preventative assistance.

### What is diversion?

Diversion means finding appropriate housing for youth before they become entrenched or as an exit out of homelessness. This may include continuing to connect youth with resources from the network of organizations addressing homelessness in Edmonton once they have been housed.



**We focus on healing trauma through relationship**

### What is trauma?

Trauma means any form of abuse, neglect, abandonment, or violent experience that has a negative impact on the physical, emotional, and developmental well-being of an individual. Among many other serious effects, trauma can have a lasting impact on the ability to develop healthy relationships.



**We focus on walking beside youth and minimizing barriers to resources**

### What are barriers?

Barriers are policies or expectations that put resources out of reach of those who need them. These restrictions often prevent people from seeking help.



**We focus on collaboration**

### What is collaboration?

Collaboration means working together with other organizations and in line with local, provincial, and national plans to create a holistic approach to addressing homelessness. Experience with youth who are in crisis means bringing their unique needs and specialized solutions to conversations and strategies about this population.

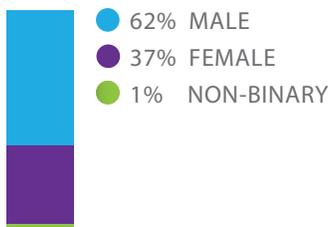
# OUR NUMBERS

YESS helps youth ages 15 to 24 who are experiencing difficult realities such as addiction, abuse, homelessness, etc. Our youth come from all cultures, economic backgrounds, religions, communities, sexual orientations, and gender identities. Our youth have had many traumatic experiences which, unaddressed, create self esteem, self worth, and self

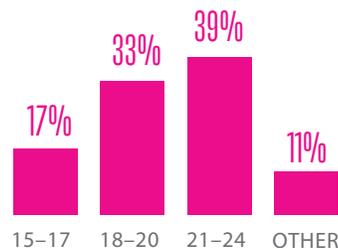
regulation issues. Often our youth are not connected with Alberta Children's Services, leaving them without resources or financial support. As a result, our youth are seeking guidance, stability, and a caring environment in which they can access the supports they need.

**Based on 781 unique youth served in Fiscal 2018**

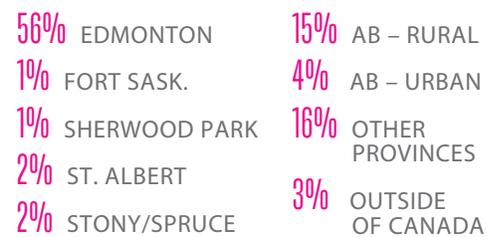
## GENDER



## AGE



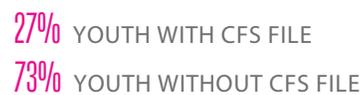
## GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN



## ETHNICITY



## GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



## MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS



## LGBTQ2S+



## Expenses

Chronically homeless people cost taxpayers directly and indirectly over \$100,000 a year per person (EndPovertyEdmonton 2015). Our costs per youth are a fraction of that amount (6%). Preventing youth homelessness is both a prudent investment and the right approach to ending the cycle of homelessness.

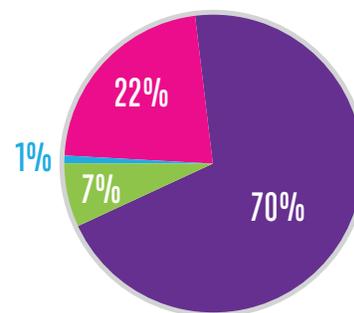
**\$6,051/year** AVERAGE COST PER YOUTH  
(781 unique youth served)

**\$80,493** FUNDRAISING

**\$364,516** ADMINISTRATIVE

**\$3,708,667** STAFFING (72 staff members)

## Funding



### FISCAL 2018

**\$3,009,390**

FUNDRAISING

**\$301,720**

UNITED WAY

**\$19,754**

GOVT. OTHER

**\$963,980**

GOVT. CONTRACT

## Operating Budget

**\$4.2 Million** 2019 FISCAL YEAR

**\$4.7 Million** 2018 FISCAL YEAR