

Centralized Diversion Fund

Day 1: Diversion Philosophy

Introductions: Name, Pronouns, Community, Organization

What is your experience with diversion?





Diversion Philosophy



- Context
- Centralized Diversion Model
- Housing First
- LGBTQ and Racial Justice

Diversion Skills



- Diversion Conversations
- Creative housing solutions
- Hot Tips

Accessing the Diversion Fund

- Practice
- Eligibility
- Making a CDF Request
- Data
- Next Steps

Agenda

Welcome and Framing

CDF & ACI: A love story

Basics of Diversion and the Centralized model

Philosophy of Diversion

- Core Beliefs
- Racial and LGBTQ Equity
- Diversion as a justice-centered practice
- Housing First

Closing, Next Steps and Sneak Peeks

Overall Goals:

1. We all understand the basics of the CDF
2. Center the spirit of Diversion





Things to note...

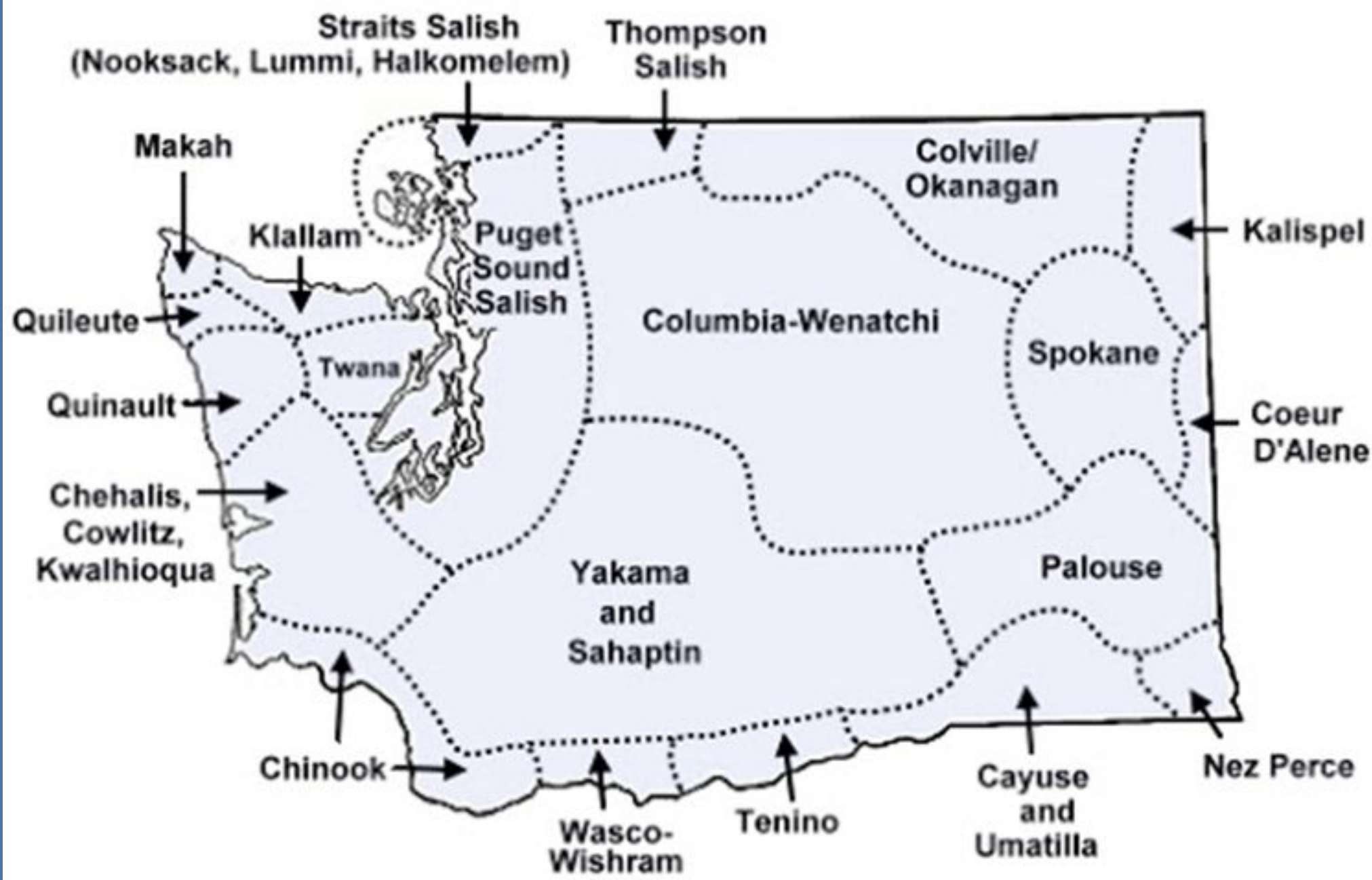
- All four Anchor Communities are participating today!
- Each community has some specific nuances.
- We have different levels of knowledge here.
 - Some folks have been youth service providers for years.
 - Some folks have worked with youth for years, but never the homelessness 'system'.
 - Some folks have experience with diversion, some don't.
 - We ALL have expertise to bring to this space.
- This is the first time I am doing this training!
- This is a pilot.

BRACE YOURSELVES



VIRTUAL DISCUSSIONS ARE COMING

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**





Quick Silent Reflection

- Why do you work with young people?
- What brings you to the training today?
- You can use pictures, words, whatever.

ACI and CDF: a love story



A WAY HOME
WASHINGTON

By the end of 2022, four communities in Washington state will **end** youth and young adult homelessness.

Yes To Yes.



A WAY HOME
WASHINGTON



Pierce

Yakima

Walla Walla

Spokane



Anchor Community Initiative

Reducing Inflow

- Reduce the number of young people entering the system

Expediting Outflow

- Identifying immediate housing solutions outside of the homeless housing system

Integrating with the work of the Anchor Communities

- Core Team Meetings
- By Name List/Case Conferencing
- Coaching Support

Days

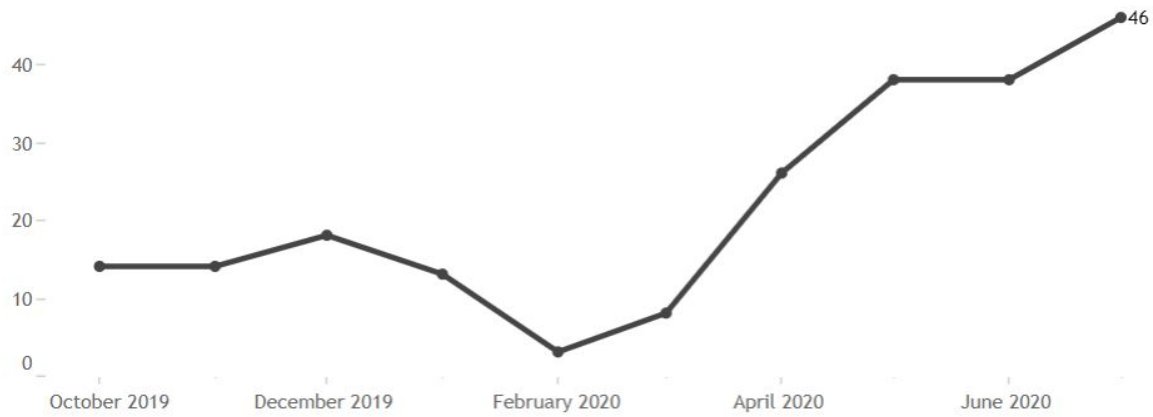
11%
3 mth Data Reliability

54
Actively Homeless

Total Actively Homeless Youth & Young Adults

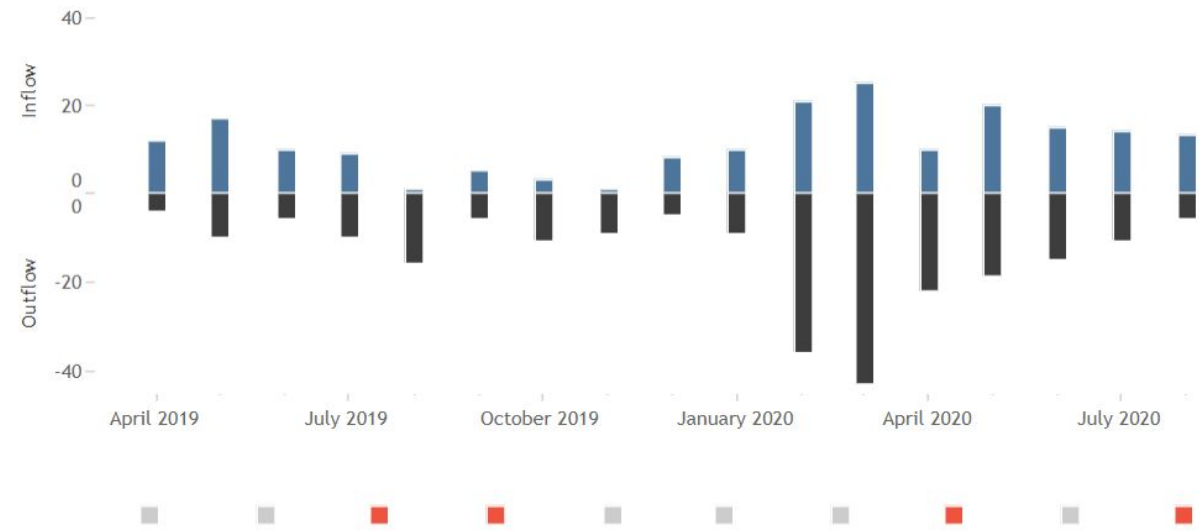
Select a living situation

Total



Monthly Inflow & Outflow

Red square at bottom indicates Inflow exceeded Outflow





Community Reducing Goals

- **Pierce County** will reduce actively homeless # by 20% & will reduce # of Young People of Color actively experiencing homelessness by 30% by March 2021
- **Spokane** will increase their housing placement rate for QTBIPOC by March 2021*
- **Yakima** will reduce unsheltered homelessness by 10% by Oct 12, 2020***
- **Walla Walla** will increase their housing placement rate by 40% by March 2021

What is Diversion?

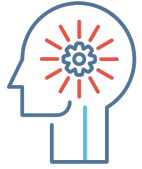
Creative conversations
about housing solution
and flexible funding
when needed.



A WAY HOME
WASHINGTON



Diversion



Exploratory, strengths-based conversation to brainstorm practical solutions for people to resolve their experience of homelessness quickly and safely outside of the homelessness system.



Focused on helping people get past the **immediate barriers** they face in obtaining safe housing.



Generates **creative ideas** to identify realistic options for safe housing.



Housing options are identified based on the **person's own available resources** rather than those of the homeless response system.



The goal is to become housed right away (within about **30 days**).



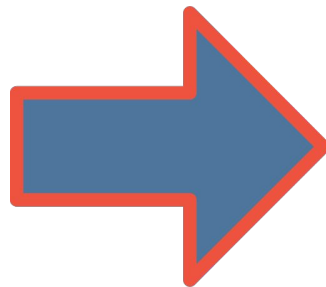
One-time **financial assistance** when needed.



Spirit of Diversion

Person-centered and strengths-based approach that assists an individual or household to quickly secure a **permanent** or **temporary** housing solution outside of the homeless response system.

- Crisis resolution
- Client choice
- Equity
- Progressive engagement



- Flexibility
- Creativity
- Immediacy

How can we get
someone housed
tomorrow?





Centralized Diversion Model



- **No wrong door.**
- **Can support young people before they enter the 'system'.**
- **Community program, rather than program in the community.**



Moving from “My Client” to...



#OurClient

Temperature Check

Use the Chat!

- **What questions do you so far on centralized diversion?**
What is confusing/needs clarifying?



Who is Eligible?

- Age 12-24
- Unaccompanied or at imminent risk of becoming unaccompanied
- Experiencing a housing crisis:
 - Literally homeless
 - Staying in shelter
 - Unstable situations: Doubled up/couch surfing
 - Unsafe situations: Fleeing DV or trafficking situation
 - Imminent risk of becoming homeless (under AWHWA's definition)
- Has a plan for being housed outside of the homelessness system within ~30 days

Not Eligible: young people staying in homeless housing programs.

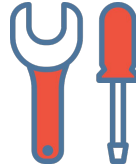
**CDF Funds
can be
used to...**



Eliminate a barrier to housing.



Create a new opportunity for housing.



Make existing housing safer or more tenable.



Resolve a conflict that was threatening housing.



Result is a client being housed permanently or temporarily outside of the homelessness system.

IF WE PAY FOR THIS



**WILL IT RESULT IN THE YOUNG
PERSON BEING HOUSED IN 30 DAYS?**



Building Yes-to-Yes communities

- AWHWA wants to prevent and end **unaccompanied** youth and young adult **homelessness** across WA.
- We value:
 - Ending, not just responding.
 - Justice – to end homelessness, we need to end disproportionality too.
 - Data – we need to know our impacts, pivot and learn.

IM SO EXCITED

TO START ACCESSING THE CDF!

imgflip.com

Agenda Check-in



Welcome and Framing



CDF & ACI: A love story



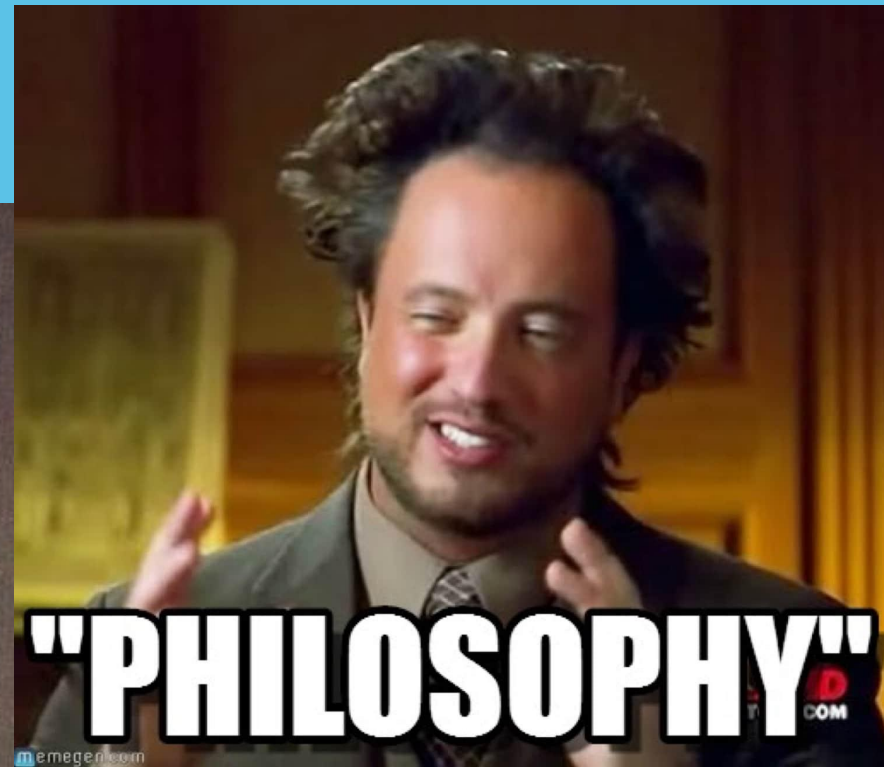
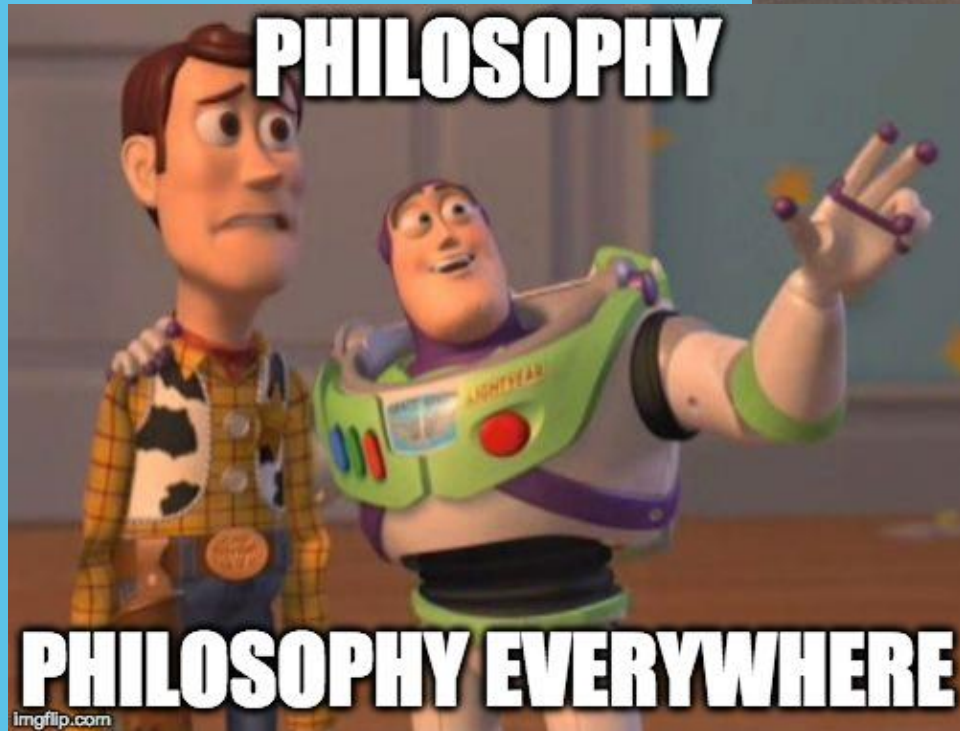
Basics of Diversion and the Centralized
model



Philosophy of Diversion

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Closing, Survey and sneak peeks



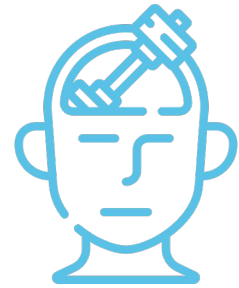
A group of five fluffy puppies, likely Golden Retrievers, are resting on a wooden floor. One puppy is lying on its back on the right side, looking towards the camera. The other four puppies are lying on their sides, mostly facing away from the camera. The scene is dimly lit, and the text "Break Time!" is overlaid in the center.

Break Time!

**Diversion
allows us
to...**



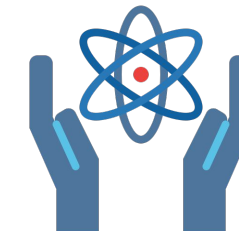
**CENTER JUSTICE IN
SERVICES**



HONOR STRENGTHS



EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES



BE CREATIVE

Diversion is the idea that providing people experiencing housing instability with support to find housing **outside** of the system will mean fewer people experiencing homelessness.

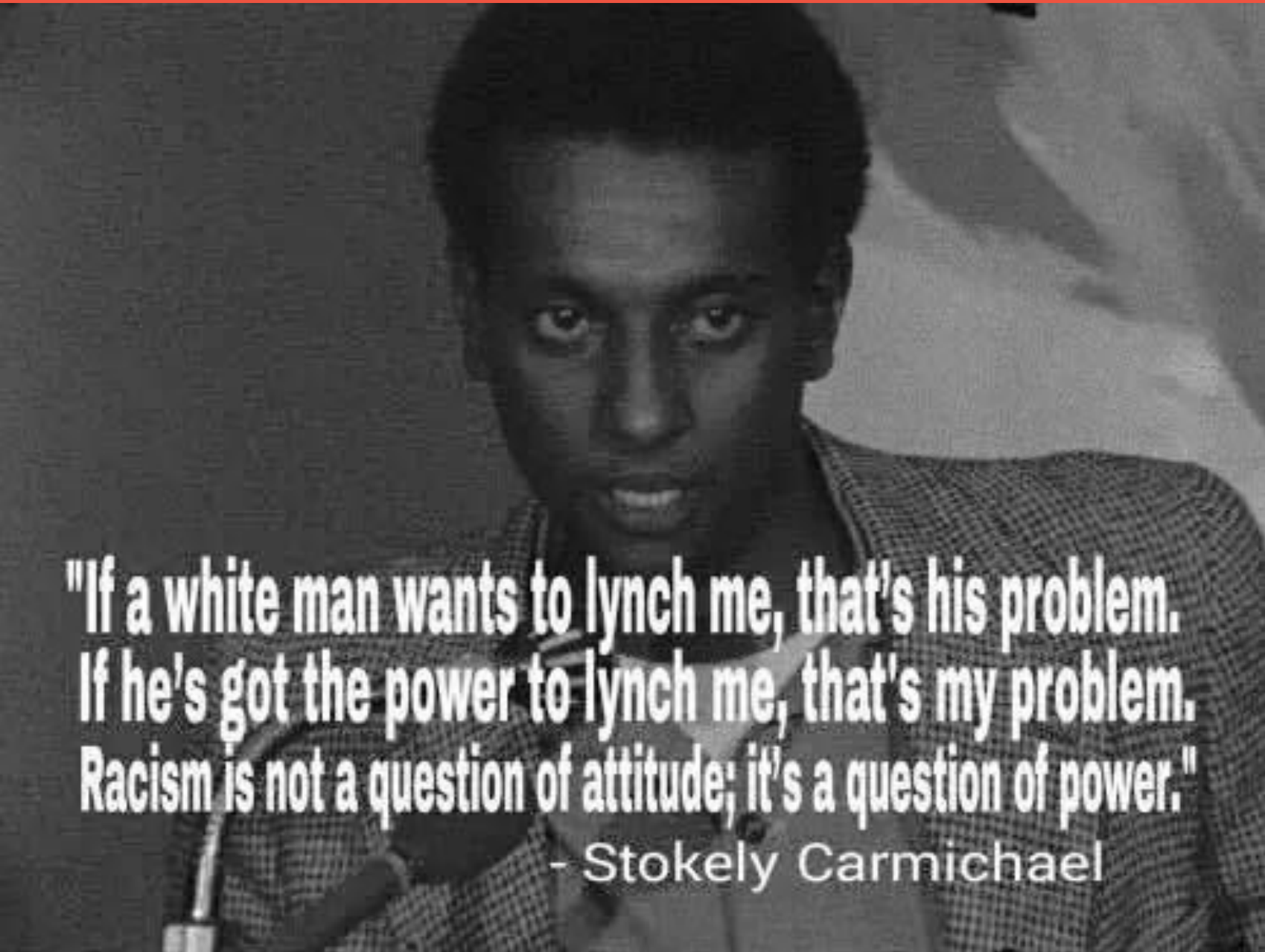


Beliefs underlying Diversion

- Everyone **deserves** housing.
- People have deep wells of resources and **potential** already within them.
- Not everyone needs an entire suite of services to be able to be housed – people can be housed **outside the system**.
- People need and want different things, and have **different** perceptions of what housing will work for them.
- Rejects the idea that people experiencing homelessness are in that position due to fundamental **flaws**.
- We as service providers actually **don't have all the answers**. Working with young folks should come from a place of partnership & trust.
- We need to actively center **justice**.

“A huge percentage of the stuff that I tend to be automatically certain of is, it turns out, totally wrong and deluded.”

- David Foster Wallace, This is Water

A black and white portrait of Stokely Carmichael, a prominent leader of the Civil Rights Movement. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a patterned jacket over a collared shirt. He has a serious expression and is looking directly at the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.

**"If a white man wants to lynch me, that's his problem.
If he's got the power to lynch me, that's my problem.
Racism is not a question of attitude; it's a question of power."
- Stokely Carmichael**

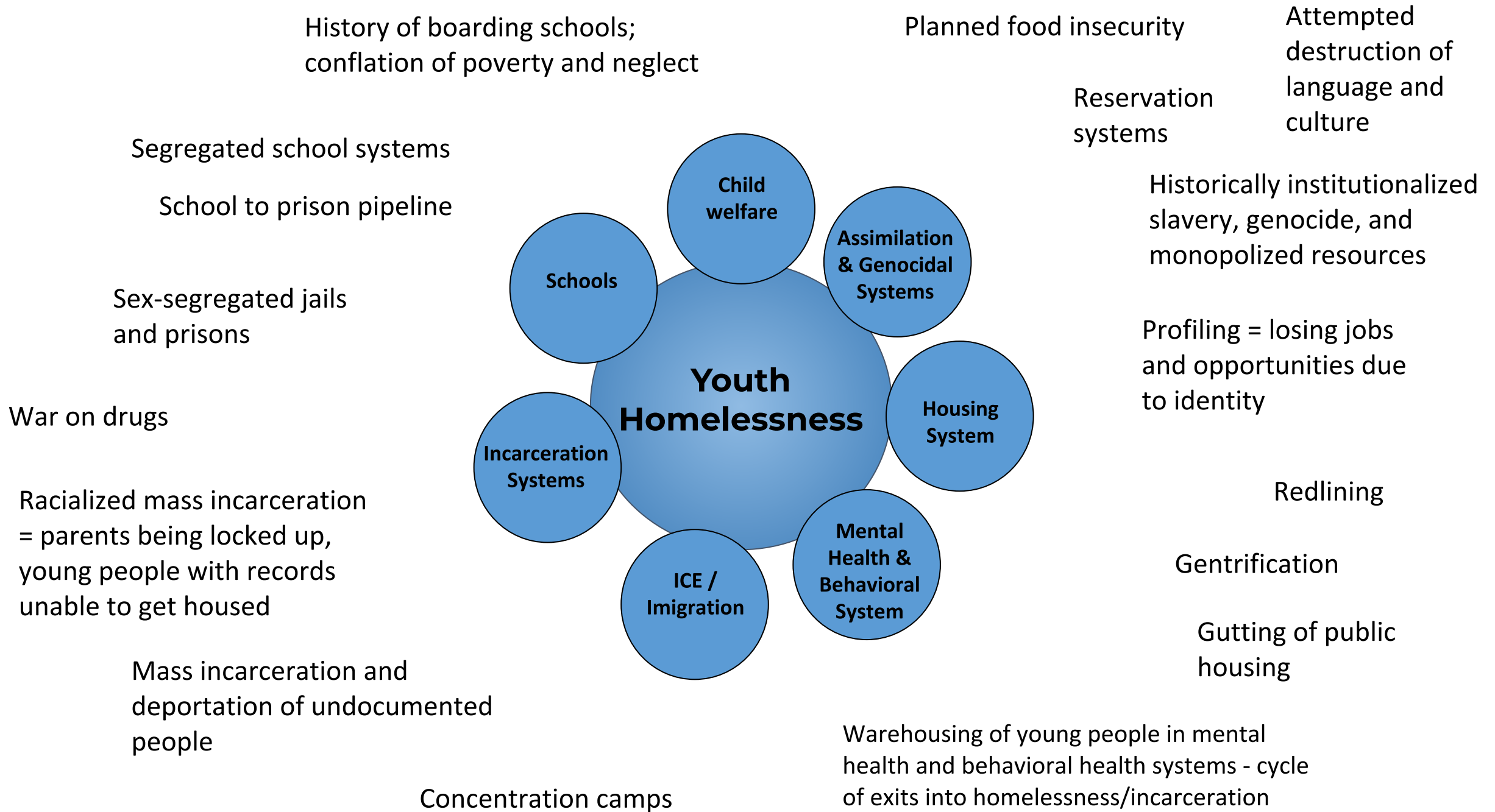


All systems young people experience are manifesting through the lens of...



- Racism
- Adulthood
- Capitalism
- Homophobia
- Sexism
- Colonialism
- Orientalism
- Xenophobia

...aka white supremacy



Systemic oppression means that even if there was no “racist” or “homophobic” people in a system, the system would **still be racist and homophobic.**



Diversion as a justice-centered practice



- We are not gatekeepers, we are thought-partners
 - Young people should have the power.
 - Bringing people in, not screening them out.
- \$\$ is not the only source of value.
- Removing suspicion and centering trust.
- Doesn't require young people to interact with a system.
- **Everyone deserves housing.**

“Theory is not inherently healing, liberatory, or revolutionary. It fulfills this function only when we ask that it do so”

-bell hooks, Theory as Liberatory Practice



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Reflection Time!

1. What is **sticking out/resonating** most about the second half of this training so far?
2. Why are we talking about centering justice so much?



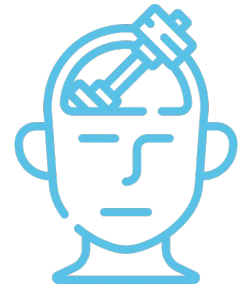
Things to remember

- Enforce an anti-racist/anti-homophobic space.
- Offer Diversion to **everyone**.
- We don't know what young people can achieve.
- Get out of young people's way.
- Center trust.
- Believe young people know what they need.
- Focus on strengths to come up with solutions.

**Diversion
allows us
to...**



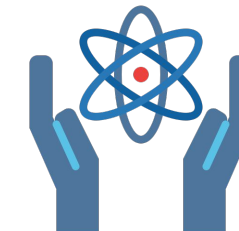
**CENTER JUSTICE IN
SERVICES**



HONOR STRENGTHS



EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES



BE CREATIVE

**Tell me about
this person...**



Tell me about
their **strengths**





Honoring Strengths

- Recognizing that everyone has **strengths**
- Strengths and behavior are **different**
- Every young person is **awesome**

“They size you up the second you walk in and they turn you away in their mind the second they see you”.

-Focus group participant

What does **housing** or
home mean to you?

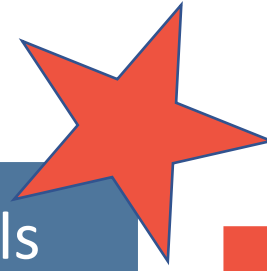
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Accessing the Diversion Fund

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For next session...

- **December 7, 1:00 to 4:00 pm**
- Spend time before then **coming up with 10 stereotypes** you've heard about the young people who come from your doors
 - Bring your thoughts with you Monday - will have an activity centered around this!

Thank you! <3

