

Centralized Diversion Fund

Day 2: Diversion Conversations

Introductions: Name, Pronouns, Organization

What song are you feeling today?



Diversion Philosophy

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



Diversion Skills

- Diversion Conversations
- Creative housing solutions
- Making a plan



Accessing the Diversion Fund

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

Agenda

Welcome and Framing

Revisit Diversion Philosophy

Diversion Conversations

- Engaging with young people
- Understanding the situation
- Generating possibilities
- Exploring those possibilities
- Making the plan (s)

Closing, Next Steps and Sneak Peeks

Overall Goal:

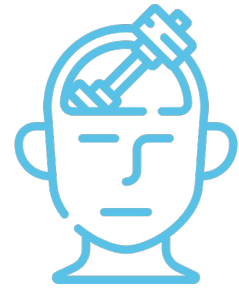
We can foster creative conversations about housing possibilities with young people.



**Diversion
allows us
to...**



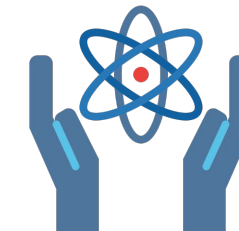
**CENTER JUSTICE IN
SERVICES**



HONOR STRENGTHS

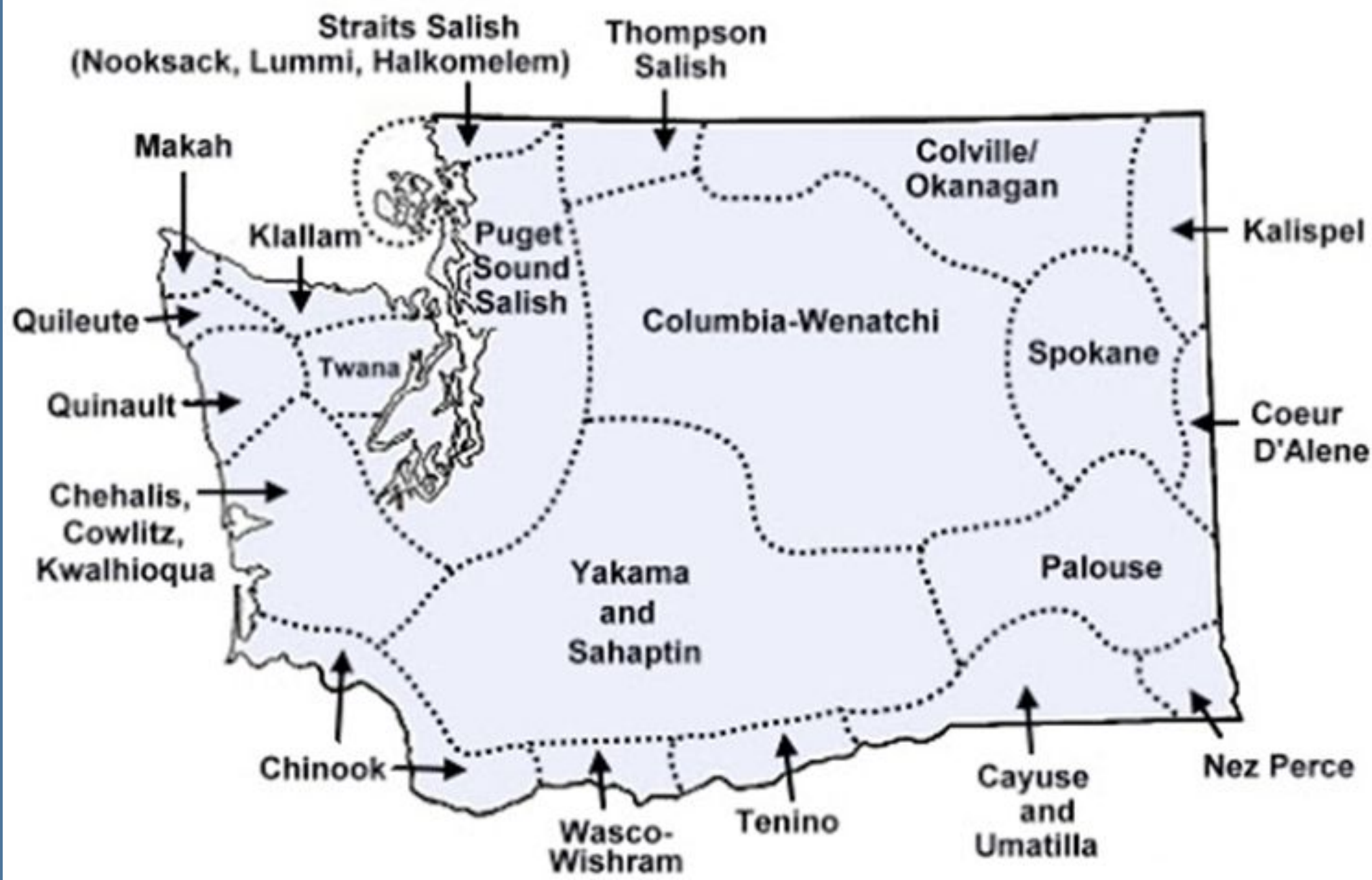


EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES



BE CREATIVE

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**



BRACE YOURSELVES



VIRTUAL DISCUSSIONS ARE COMING

Diversion Conversations:
Help young people identify if
there is a safe, immediate
housing opportunity outside of
the homelessness system

Examples?



A WAY HOME
WASHINGTON

How can we get
someone housed
tomorrow?

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.**

Diversion Conversations

Today!

- Engage with young people
- Understand the situation
- Generate possibilities
- Explore those possibilities
- Make the plan (s)

Next Session!

- Assemble the documentation
- Complete the request
- Follow through



Adulthood & Bias Activity

Large Group Discussion:

What are some stereotypes you've heard about young people who come through your programs doors?





Debrief

1. Do any of these look **similar** to stereotypes about other groups of people?
2. Why do some of these **stick around** so firmly when we think about young people?
3. How do you see **adulthood intersecting with other forms of oppression**?
4. What would be **different in program**, and in CDF, if we didn't bring these stereotypes to the table?

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



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

...aka white supremacy



Beliefs underlying Diversion

- Everyone **deserves** housing.
- People have deep wells of resources and **potential**.
- 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**.
- We need to actively center **justice**.

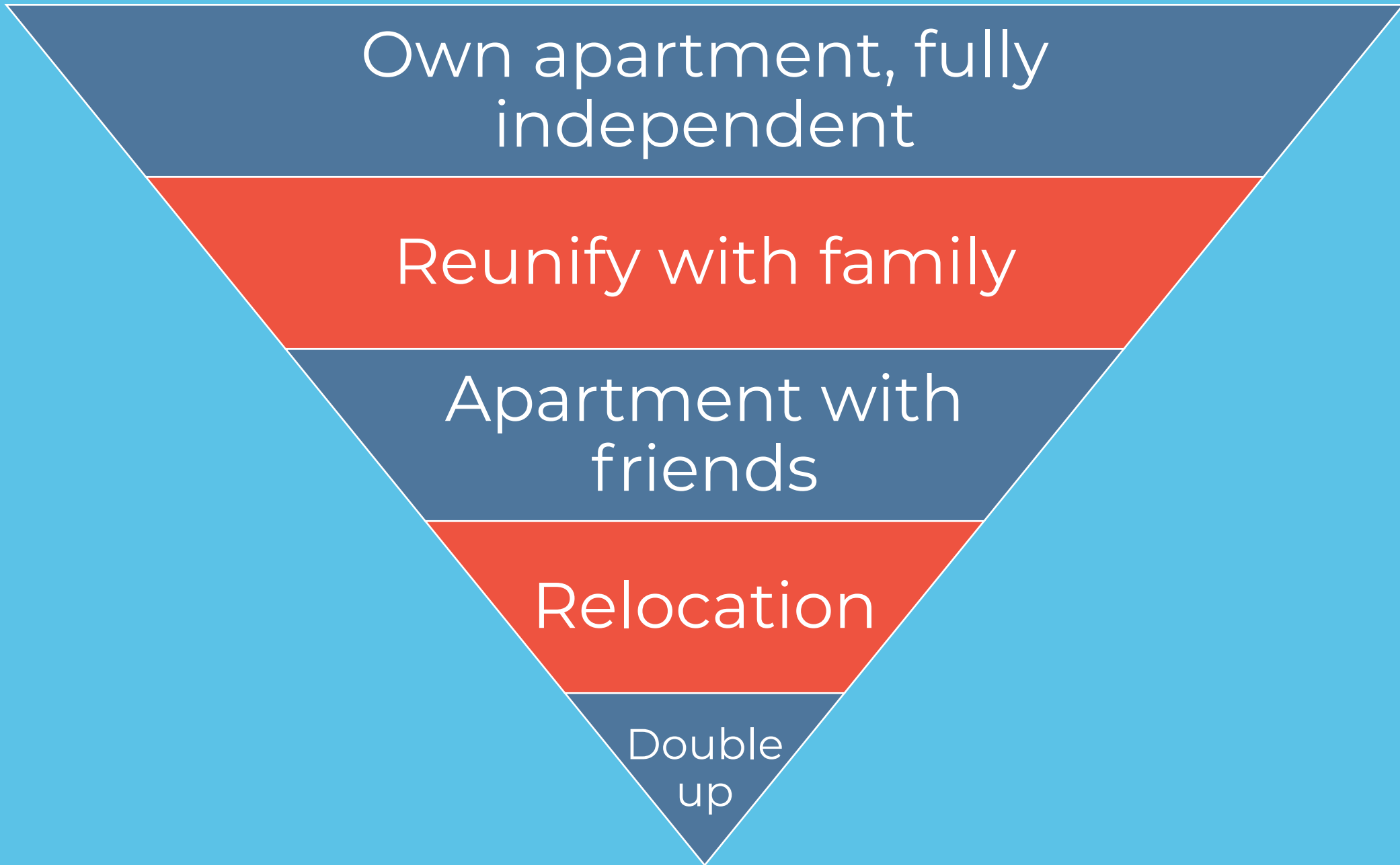
Systemic oppression means that even if there was no “racist” or “homophobic” people in a system, the system would **still be racist and homophobic.**



What does home or housing mean to us?

- Safety and support, stability, warmth, connection, security, independence
- Freedom
- Where you can be yourself, where you belong
- "Home" is family, is being with those I love.
- Where you can let your guard down
- Place to recharge for caring
- Where you don't have to wear a mask
- Where I can find sanity, with drinking water and being able to go to the bathroom!





Own apartment, fully independent

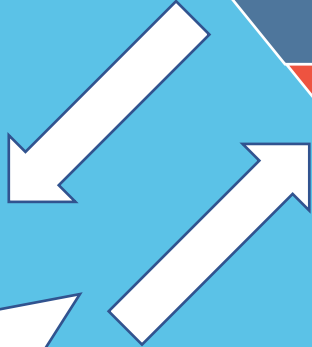
Reunify with family

Apartment with friends

Relocation

Double up

**Coordinated
Entry!**



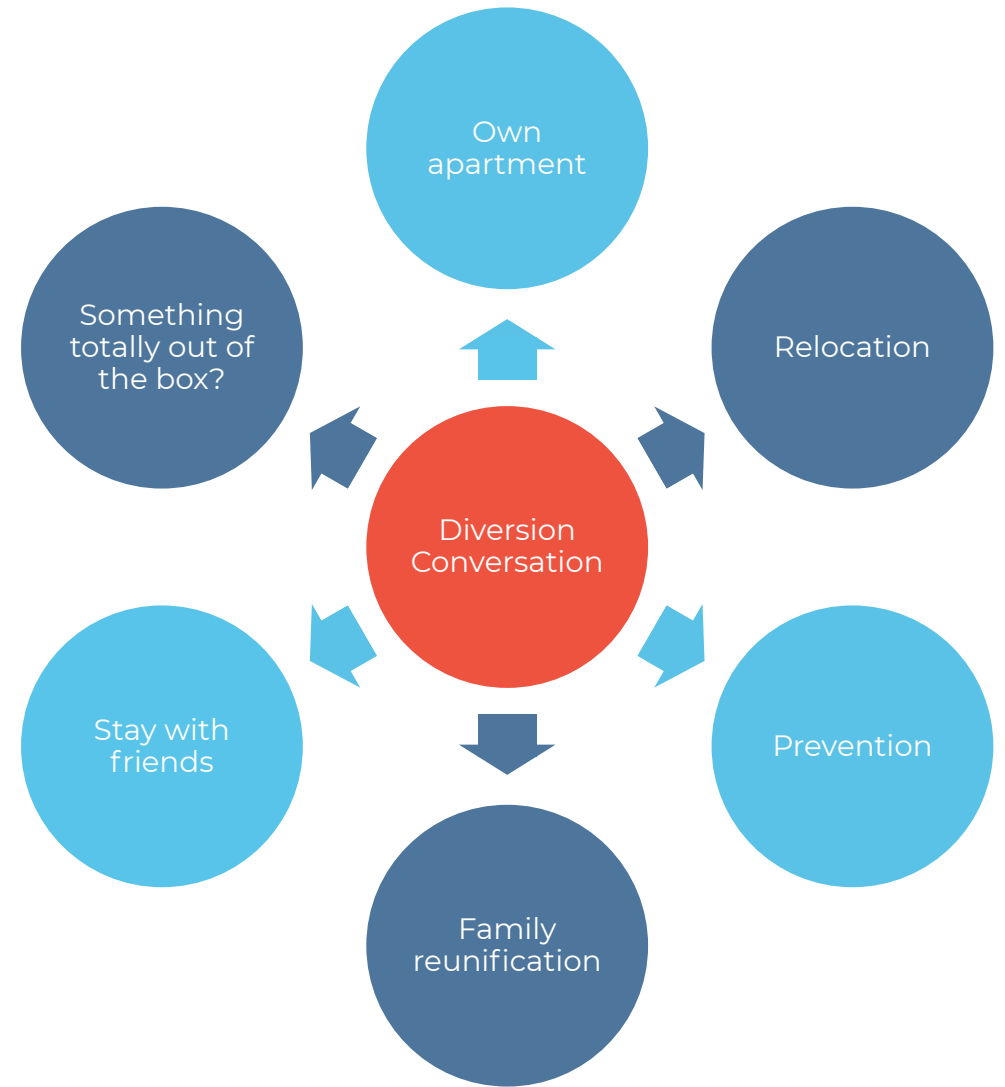


using
diversion
as RRH lite



using
diversion to
get creative
with housing

imgflip.com





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Diversion Conversations!

Creative conversations to explore housing opportunities people may have outside of the homeless housing system.



Engaging Young People



What ideas do you all have for **engaging & outreaching** to youth & young adults around CDF, especially during COVID 19?



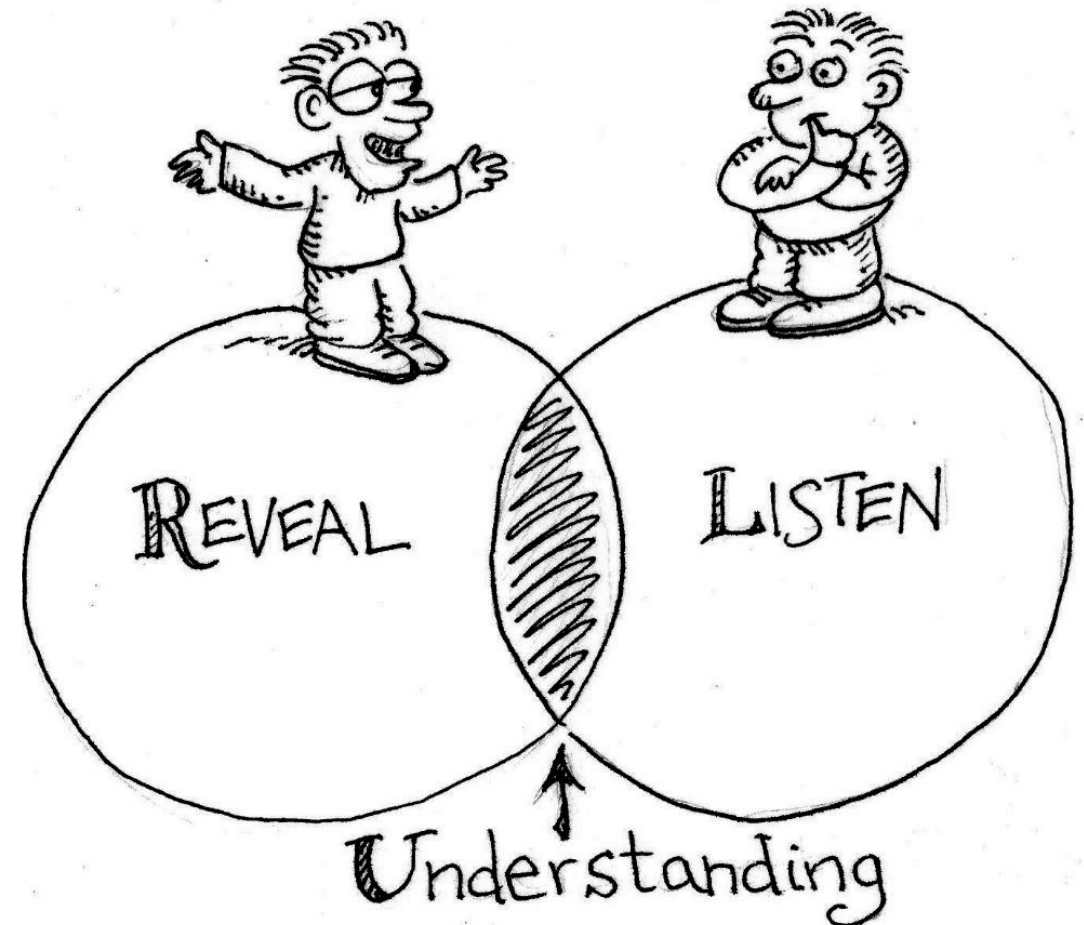
Engaging Young People

- Ensure other staff at your agency know about the CDF (use the flyers!)
- Talk to everyone on your current caseload about diversion
- Make sure youth shelters, drop ins, and spaces young people are in your community know and are talking about the CDF
 - Who is missing?
 - Where is missing?
- Make sure 211 knows!
- Attend the CDF Learning Circles



Understanding the Situation

- Understand what is going on in the space
 - What might a young person need to **engage** in this conversation?
 - How is the power dynamic showing up?
- Understand the young person's housing crisis



Understanding the Situation

The dynamic

- Correct pronouns
- Consider accessibility needs
- Transparent with information
- “asking for help should be like asking for a cup of sugar”
- Emphasize that you are a thought-partner
- Ask them to check you

The Story

- Let them tell what they want and feel is important
- Don't interrupt
- Be curious
- We don't need to know every little thing
- Withhold judgement and fix your face

“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

**Young People
want you to
know...**



Treat this like a conversation, not an interrogation.



Make it clear why you are asking me these questions.



Make it clear that I can choose to answer you or not.



Be interested in my answers



Notice how you act to me AND to other people in general.

Generate Possibilities



A WAY HOME
WASHINGTON



Break



Generate Possibilities

Goal:

Identify a safe, viable alternative housing option outside the homelessness system.

Get curious

Get creative

Get hopeful





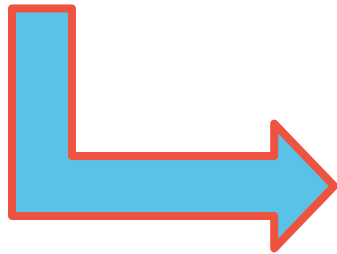
What are you curious about?

- Ahmad shows up at shelter maybe 3-4 times a week, and has been coming for a couple of months now. You've heard he just finished a jobs program in the last week.
- Max has been around for a long time and has been staying outside all summer. They only just came back to shelter when the smoke got bad. They have tried housing programs, but just get kicked out.
- Maria called asking for services. She says she knows she is going to be homeless soon and is getting herself prepared.



Solution-Focused Approach

Solution-building rather than problem-solving



- Young people are the experts of their own lives
- Young people have resources and resilience
- Focus on what is working
- Focusing on what they will be doing
- Emphasis on what is possible and changeable



Solutions-Focused Questions

1. Looking for exceptions

“Can you tell me about a time you were stably housed?”

2. Scaling Questions

“On a scale of 1-10, how confident are you this would help?”

3. Coping/Complement Questions

“How have you managed to stay so positive?”

4. Inviting person to add information

“What do you think is important for me to know about you?”

5. Platform Questions

“What is something that is going well for you right now?”

6. Eliciting details

“Tell me more about that”



Summarizing/Reflections

- Lets client know you have been **actively listening**.
- Gives client regular opportunities to **say more** and/or **correct** an interpretation.
- Reminds clients of their **strengths** and **resilience**.
- Can help move the conversation **forward**

Tips

- Actively listen
- Positive and hopeful
- “Is that accurate?”
- Don’t overdo it

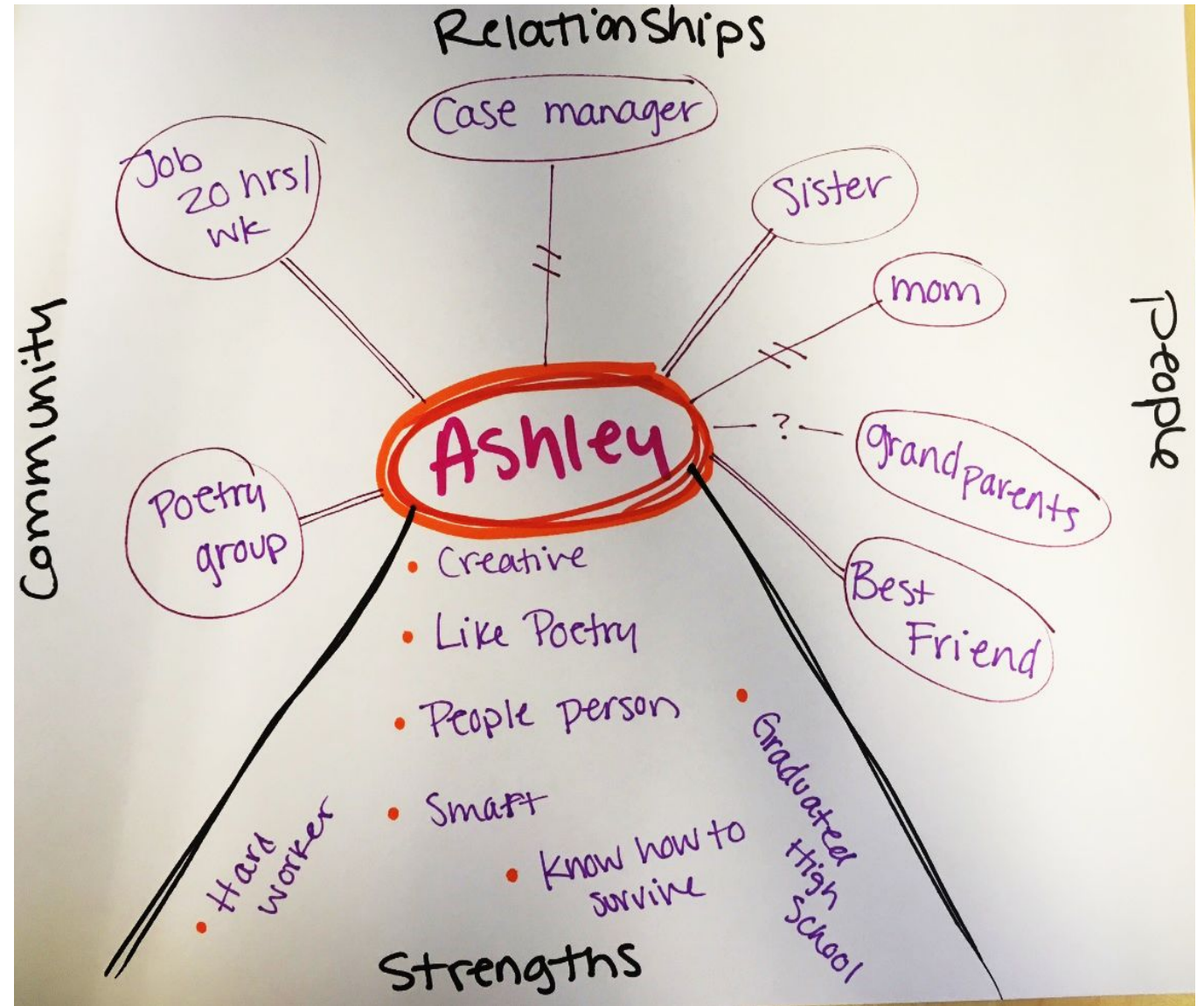


Questions Young People Liked

- What do you think is important for me to know about you?
- Can you remember a time when you had safe stable housing? What was different then?
- I know your housing is an issue for you right now – what is going well for you?
- What is one small thing that you feel would make a big difference for you?

Eco-Mapping Tool

1. Strengths
2. Relationships / Points of Connection



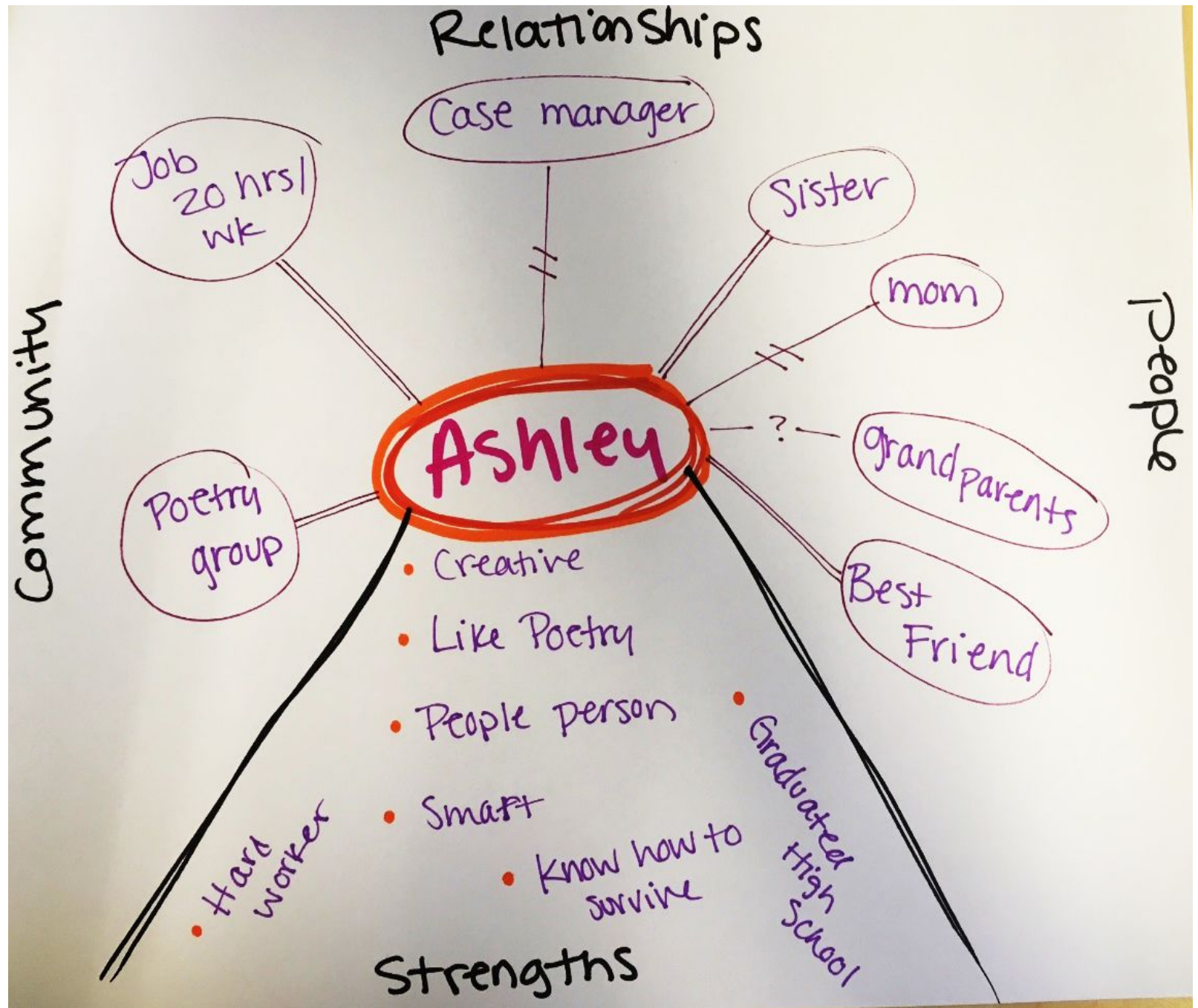
A photograph of a cornfield at sunset, with the sun low on the horizon creating a warm, golden glow. The corn stalks are silhouetted against the bright sky. The quote is overlaid in white text.

**I dwell in
possibility.**

Emily Dickinson

Your Turn!

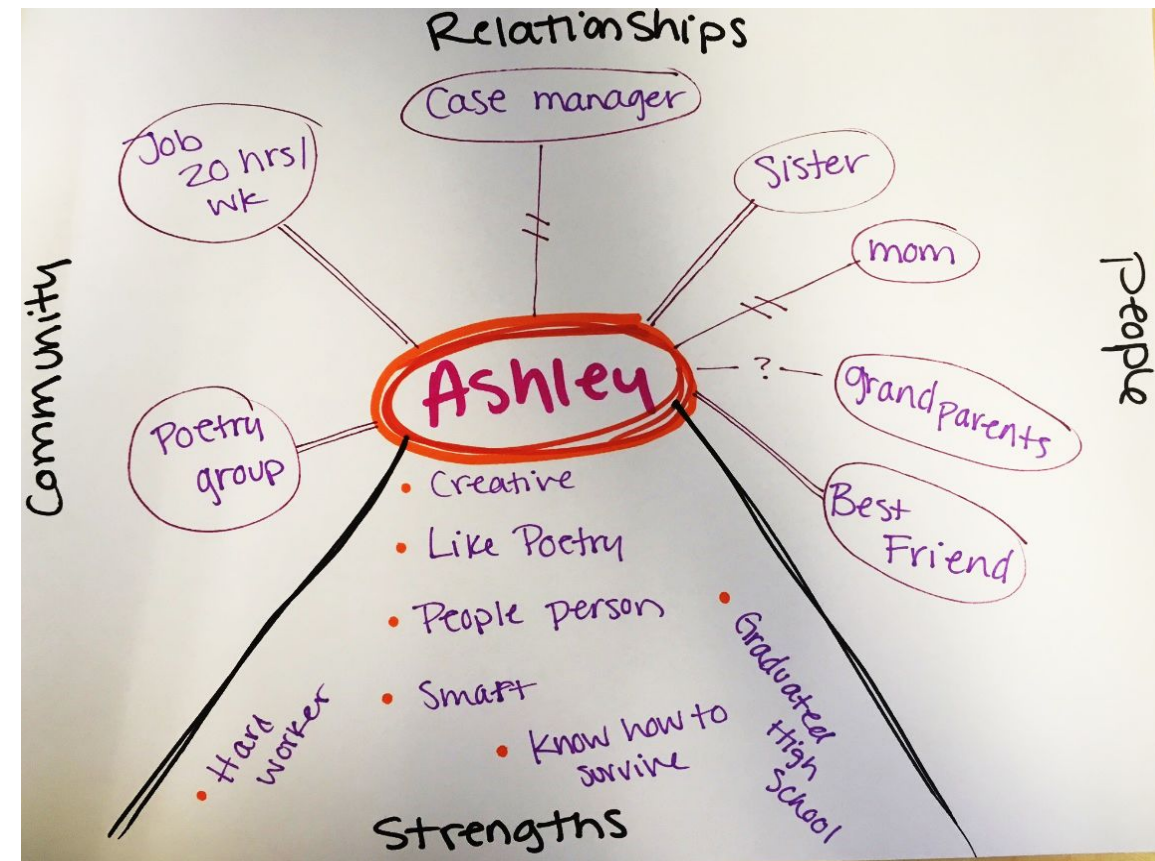
- Relationships can be with people or ties to community
- Double line = strong
- Line with dashes = strained
- Line with ? = unknown



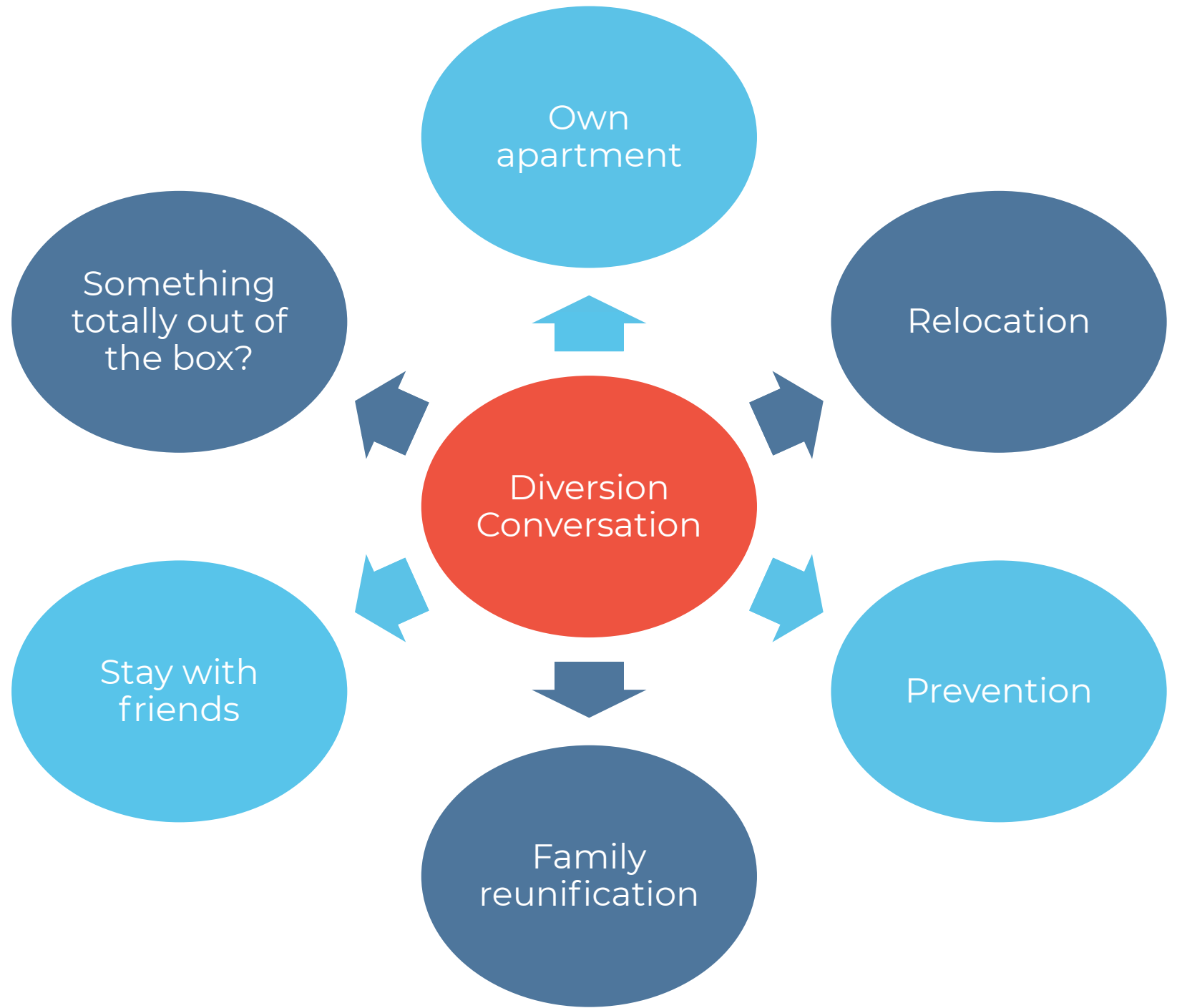


“Who would be upset if they knew you were here?”

- Co-workers, bosses, ballet instructors, friends, family, extended family, church people, teachers
- Near and far
- How could positive relationships be bolstered with support?
- What is putting stress on relationships and what can we do about that?
- Get an agreement in writing



**Let's explore
those
possibilities!**



Do they have an
entirely out of the
box idea for
housing?

College?

RV?

Houseboat?

Stay with a friend's family?

Commune?

Send overseas to family?





Pro-tips for supporting YYA to execute their plan

- Be invested in their success!
- Get as much done as you can in the meeting.
- Give them an outline of the process on your end.
- Clarify next steps (including any tasks and when they need to happen by)
- Confirm contact info and set a next time to check in.
- Keep the momentum up and follow through!

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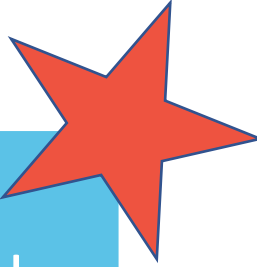
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For next session...

- Thursday Dec. 10 from 1-4 p.m.
- We will send out the **Policies and Procedures Guidelines & Handouts**
- **TASK:** Identify **3 people** you need to tell about the CDF
- **TASK:** Make your own Eco Map!
- **TASK:** Reflect on a young person you are working with or have in the past:
 - Which creative housing solutions have you explored?
 - Which have you not explored yet?
 - What do you still need to know to request CDF funds on their behalf?
- You're going to practice!



Rental Hot Tips

- Don't let your ideas of stability get in their way
- Honor the plan, and plan for or revisit back ups if things don't work out
- Provide tools for young people to look for rentals on their own!
 - Show them where to look for rentals with flexible screening criteria
 - Let them watch you talk to a landlord; show how to frame their story
 - Allow them the opportunity to try with you in the room
 - If a landlord says no, ask if they know other landlords
 - Expect some will say no and encourage them to not give up
 - Leases.

Other Hot Tips???

With your partner, please share:

1. Something you are taking with you from this session
2. Something you are still thinking about
3. Something you are excited about for next session

Short Term Plans

VS.

Long Term Plans

