

ABOUT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

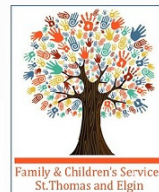
- Youth are considered to be homeless if they lack stable, permanent, acceptable and safe housing.
- Youth homelessness is often invisible. Youth often 'couch surf' or stay with friends or family temporarily, often moving from one place to the next.
- If a youth does not receive appropriate support,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

ACCESSING SUPPORT

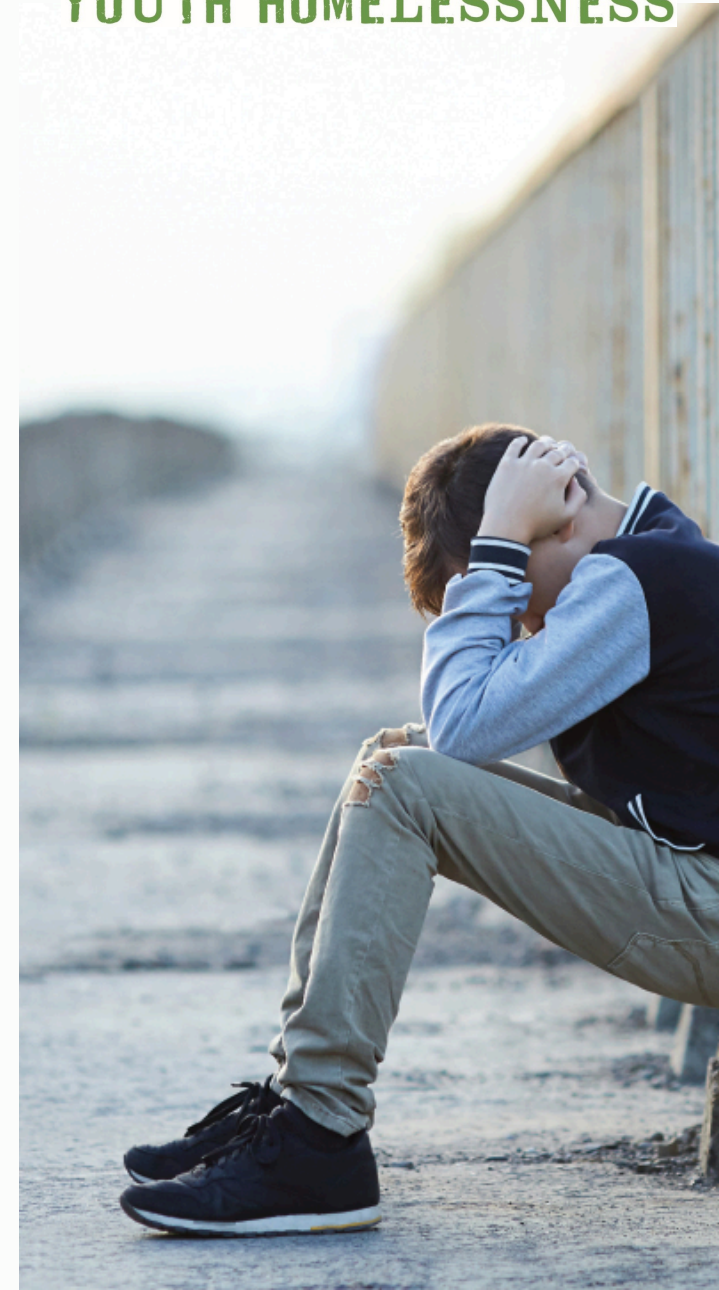
- If you discover a youth to be homeless at any time, call 2-1-1 to obtain assistance and provide them with resource information on 211
- 211 is a free and confidential service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- 211 will follow the guidelines set out by the Youth Homelessness Protocol to assist the youth in acquiring immediate shelter needs
- In case of emergency, call 9-1-1

The Taking Action on Youth Homelessness Committee was established in 2014 within St. Thomas and Elgin County. We believe that age matters when considering homelessness and housing instability prevention, and that every youth in our community has an inherent right to safe, affordable, and stable housing, as well as meaningful education and economic opportunities.

For more information visit ywcaste.ca



taking action on
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



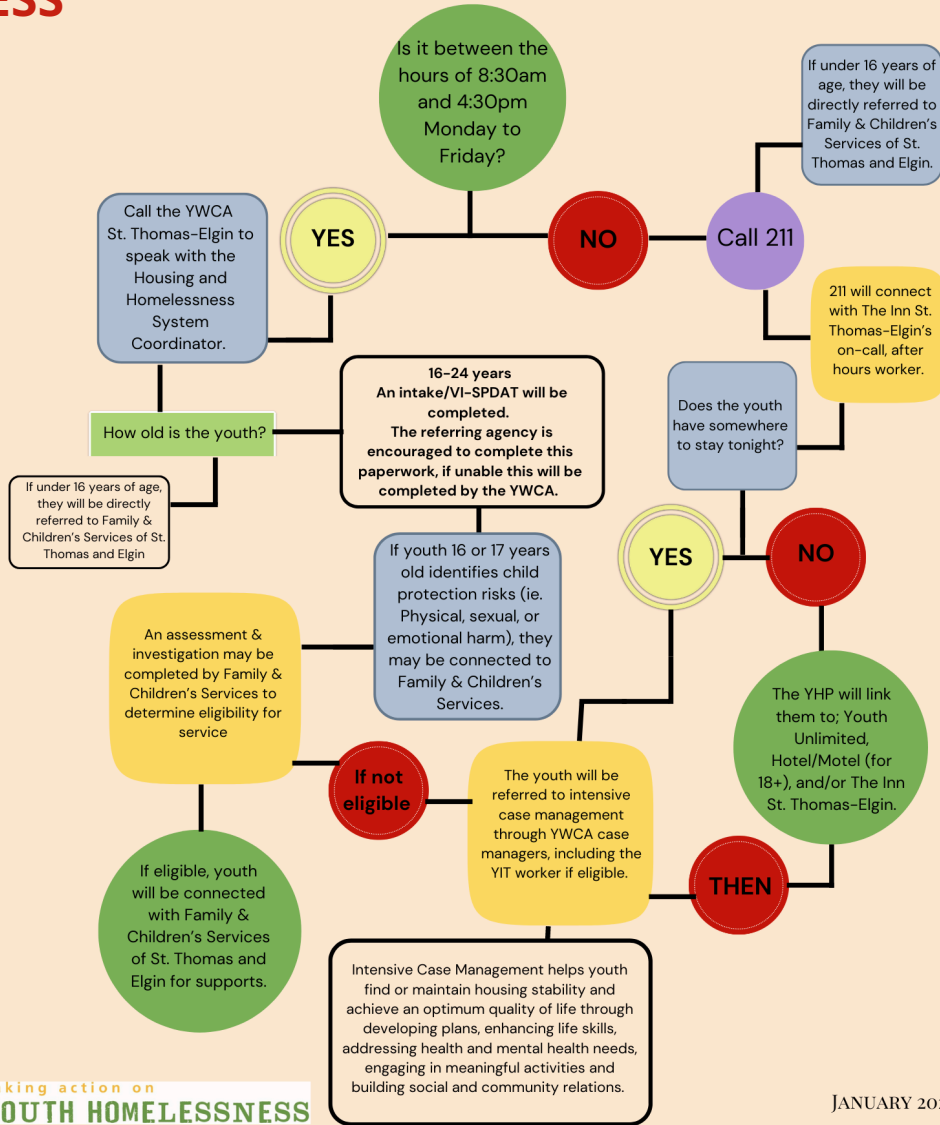
ST. THOMAS-ELGIN YOUTH HOMELESS PROTOCOL

For youth ages 16-24

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

ST. THOMAS-ELGIN YOUTH HOMELESSNESS PROTOCOL FOR YOUTH AGES 16-24 YEARS OLD

To be followed when a youth is experiencing a housing crisis and is currently homeless.



taking action on
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

JANUARY 2024

INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

- Youth can be connected with case management through the Youth Homelessness Protocol partners
- 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 & 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

COORDINATED ACCESS 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 and Confidentiality
- Responsiveness and immediacy of services whenever possible
- Family reunification whenever possible
- Youth centred
- Collective impact approach