

# What is **YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DIVERSION**?

Youth homelessness diversion or 'shelter diversion' is a strategy that redirects youth to alternate temporary housing options and connects them with services and supports to prevent youth from staying in emergency shelter. The goal of diversion is to help youth transition to stability and prevent the cycle of homelessness.

- Canadian Observatory on Homelessness

## **DIVERSION CONVERSATIONS IDENTIFY:**

1. Immediate dangers
2. Housing history
3. Connections to other services
4. Natural Supports
5. A plan of action

## **Diversion does NOT**



- Deny access to shelters
- Ignore the needs of youth in a housing crisis



## **Diversion DOES**

- Help youth explore all other options before emergency shelter
- Keep youth connected to/ build support networks and help them remain in their own community
- Prevent exposure to crime, sexual exploitation, violence and addictions

**Homeless shelters are not the only option for youth experiencing homelessness... diversion helps us figure out what the BEST option is for each youth so we can act right away.**

- Emma Ingram, Rapid Rehousing and Diversion Worker

Do you know a youth at risk of homelessness in Guelph-Wellington?

# **CALL FOR DIVERSION SUPPORT**

8:30 - 4:30, Monday - Friday: (226) 962-3574 // Evenings and weekends: (519) 837-3892