

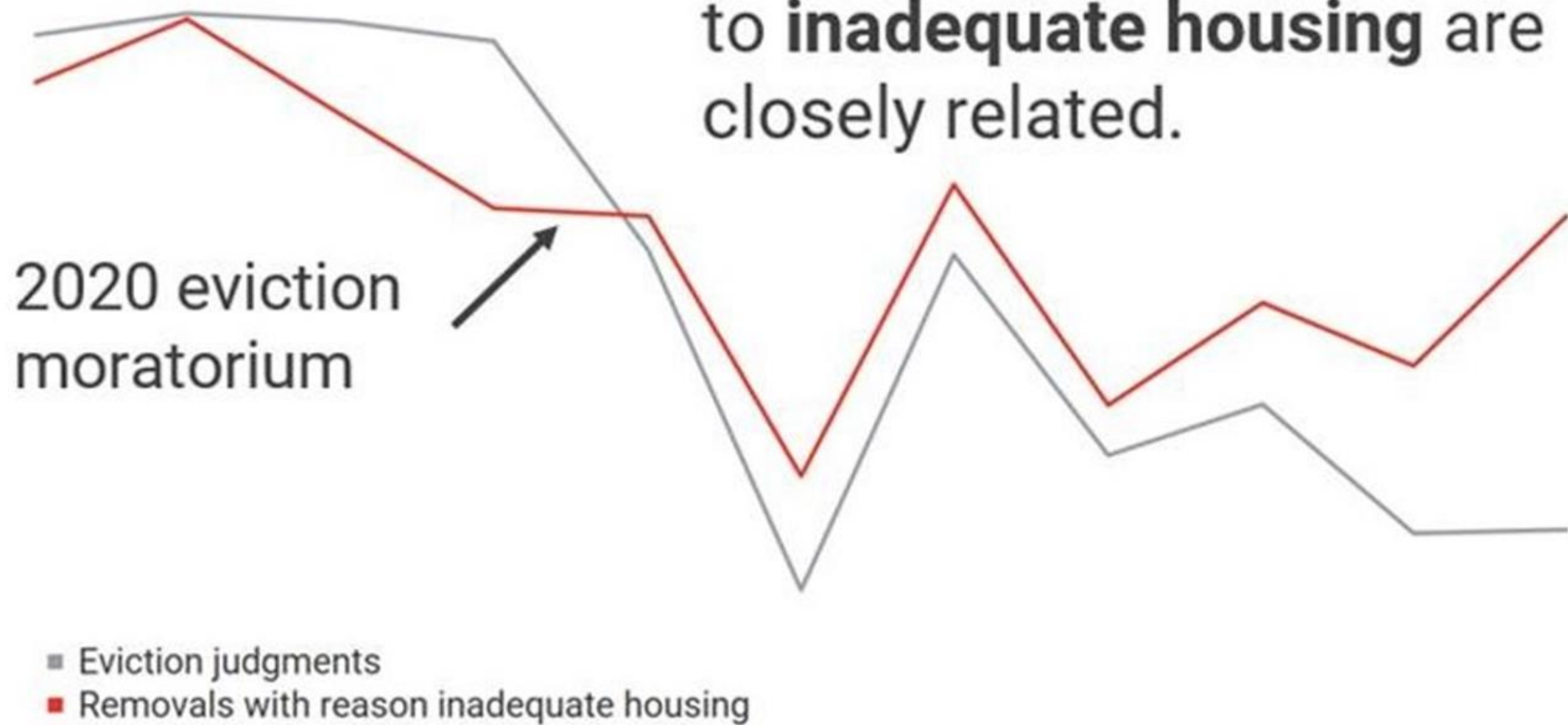


FAMILY KEYS

**Using
Innovation
Across Sectors
to Keep
Families
Together**



Evictions and removals due to **inadequate housing** are closely related.



FACTS

01

1: 10
removals =
"Inadequate
housing"

02

Housing loss is
one of the **most
reliable**
predictors for
child
maltreatment

03

Neglect
**"for reasons
other than
poverty",**

The Family Keys Approach

Identify a **clear problem**

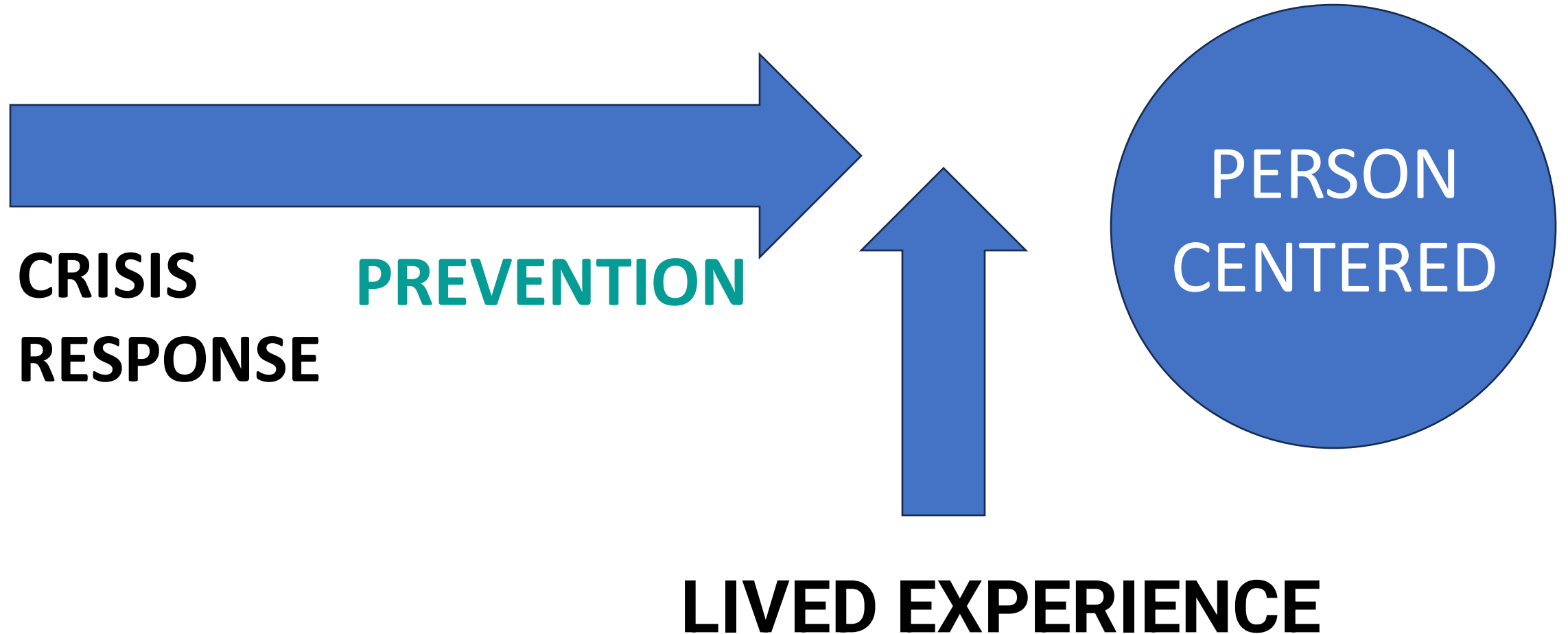
Coalesce around **shared values**

Lean into **community solutions**

Allow for and support **innovative approaches** and
resourcing

Shift in how we do the work

- [Advancing Primary Prevention in Human Services: Convening Findings](#)



5 Sector
Collaboration for
**maximizing
the return
on our social
investments**





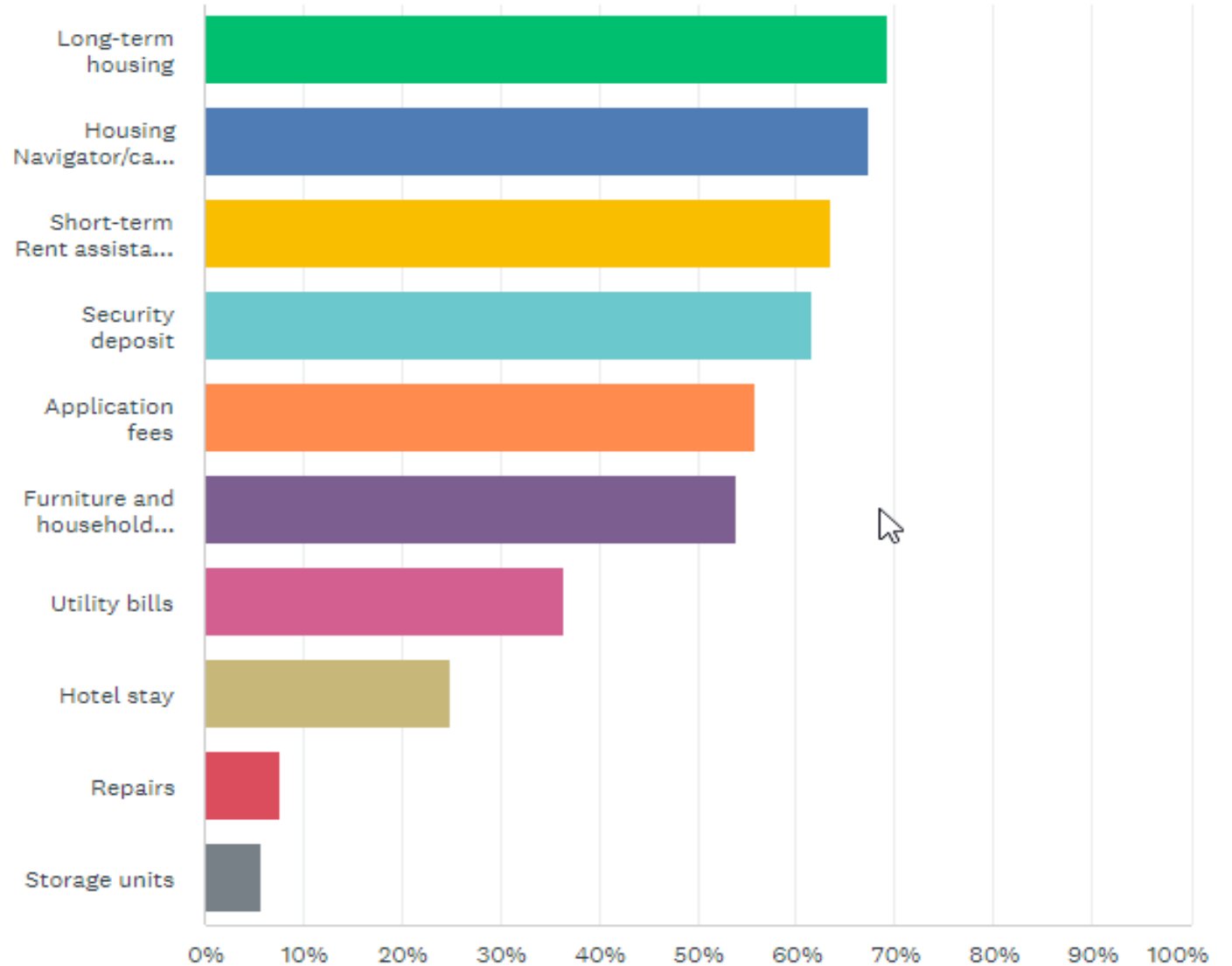
LA CROSSE COUNTY

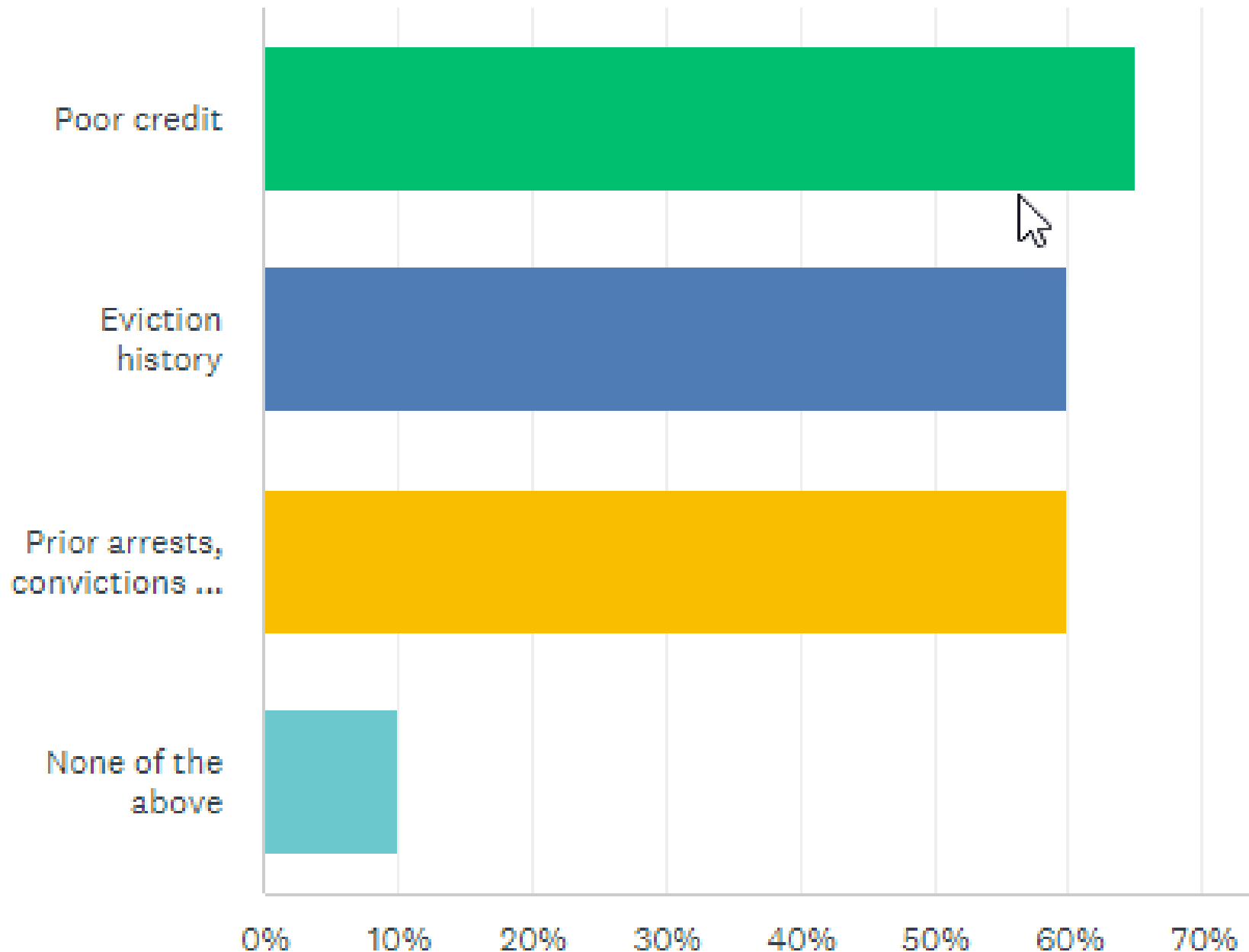


Local Approaches

Housing Services family needs

- Counties have discretion to fund any services that they identify would help resolve issues impacting housing.
- 69% identify long-term housing



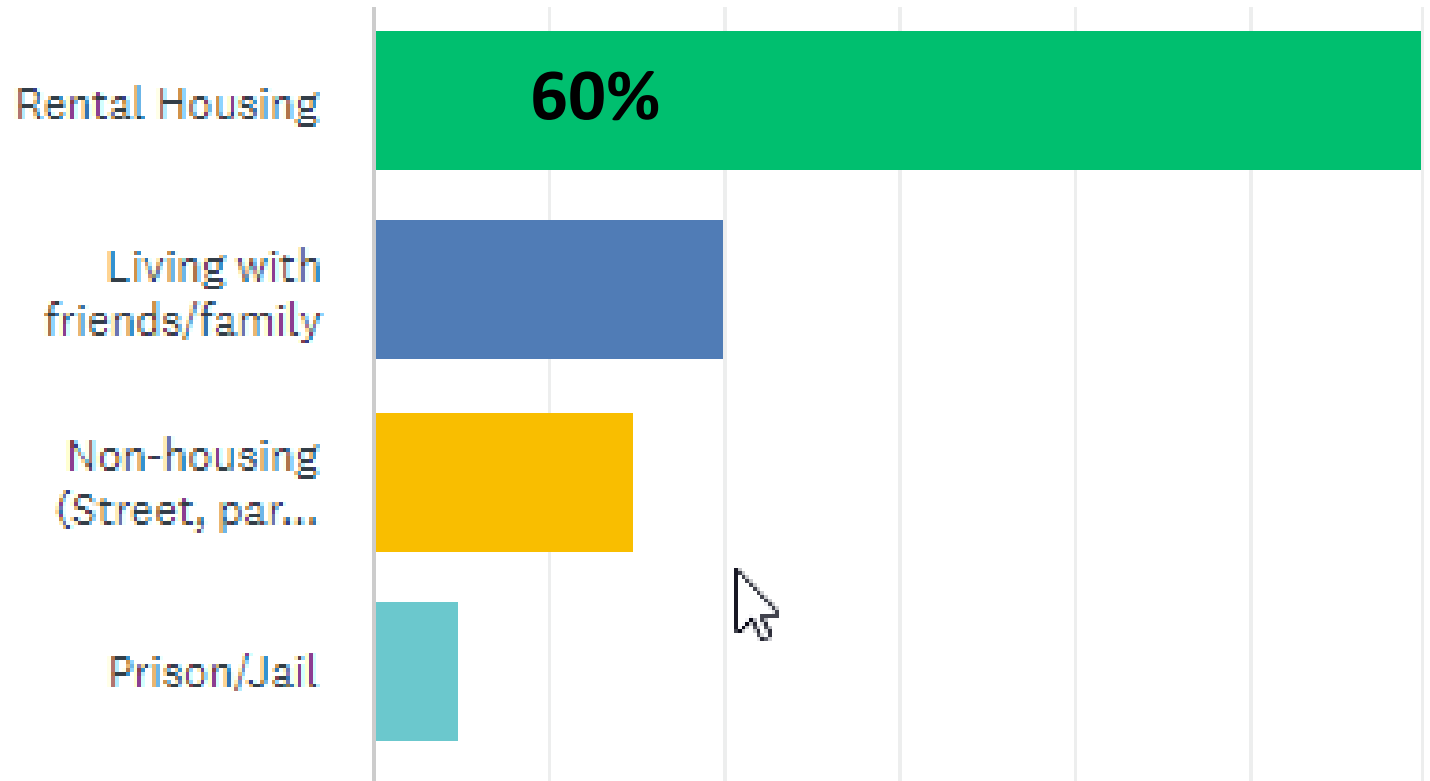


BARRIERS

- Enrollees face multiple barriers
- 2% did not identify with these barriers

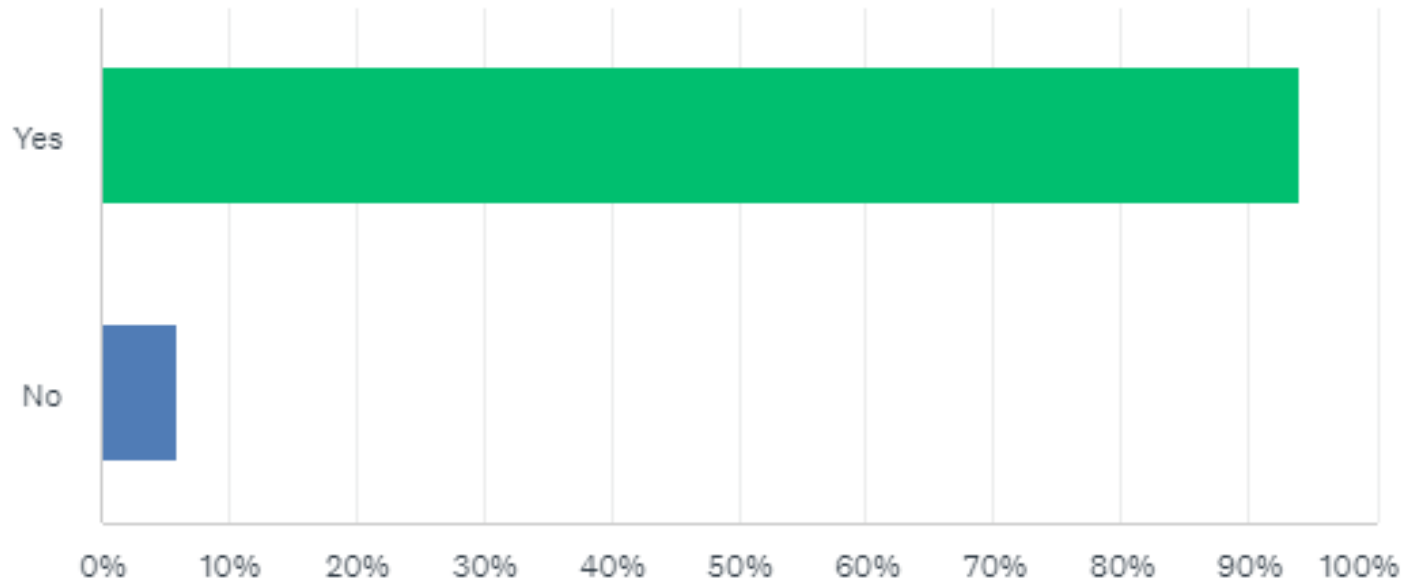
LIVING SITUATION

- At time of enrollment 27% were;
 - rental home
 - doubled-up
 - hotel



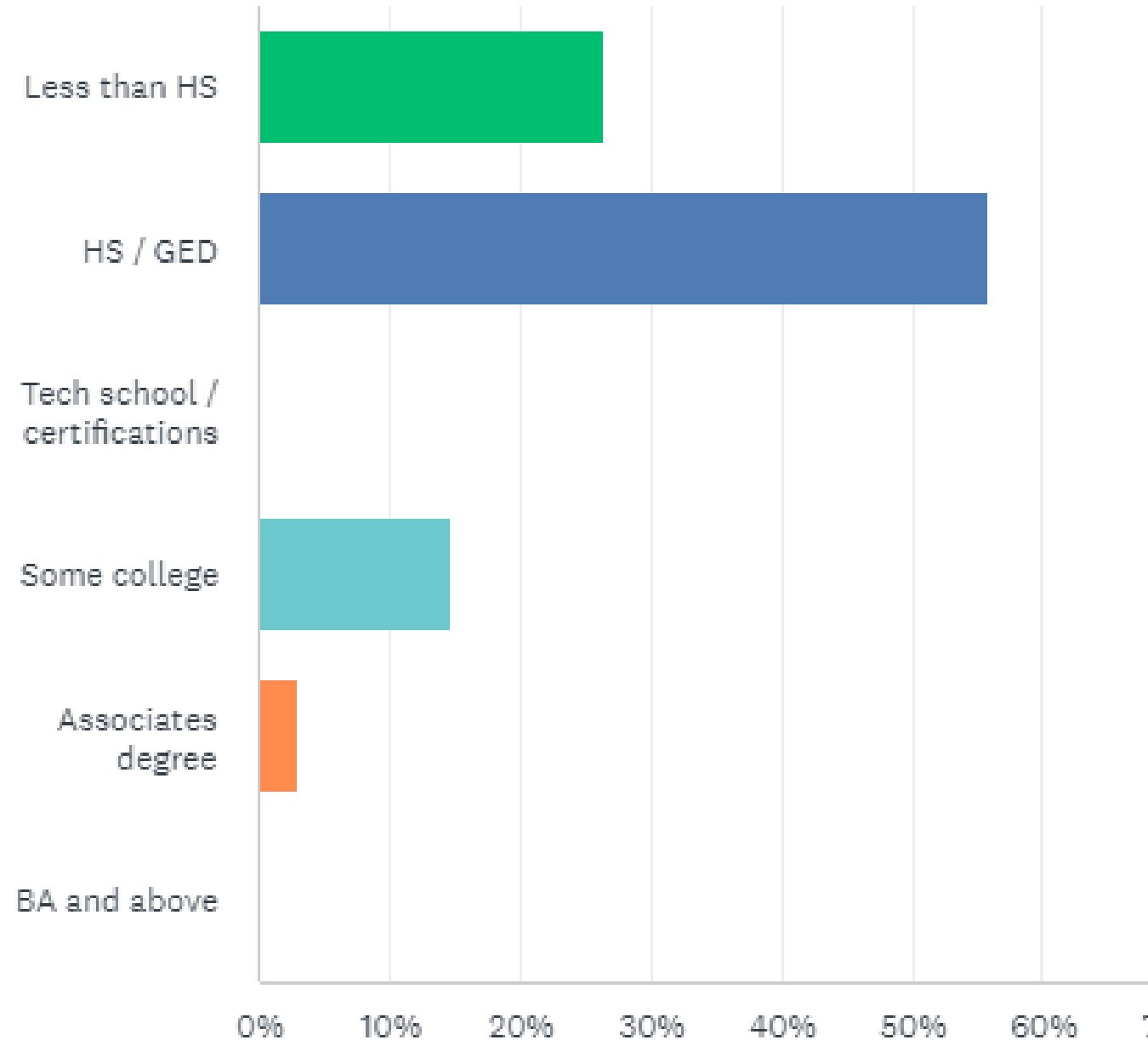
- At time of exit 60% of enrollees were residing in a rental home.
- % in non-housing remained static.

CHOICE

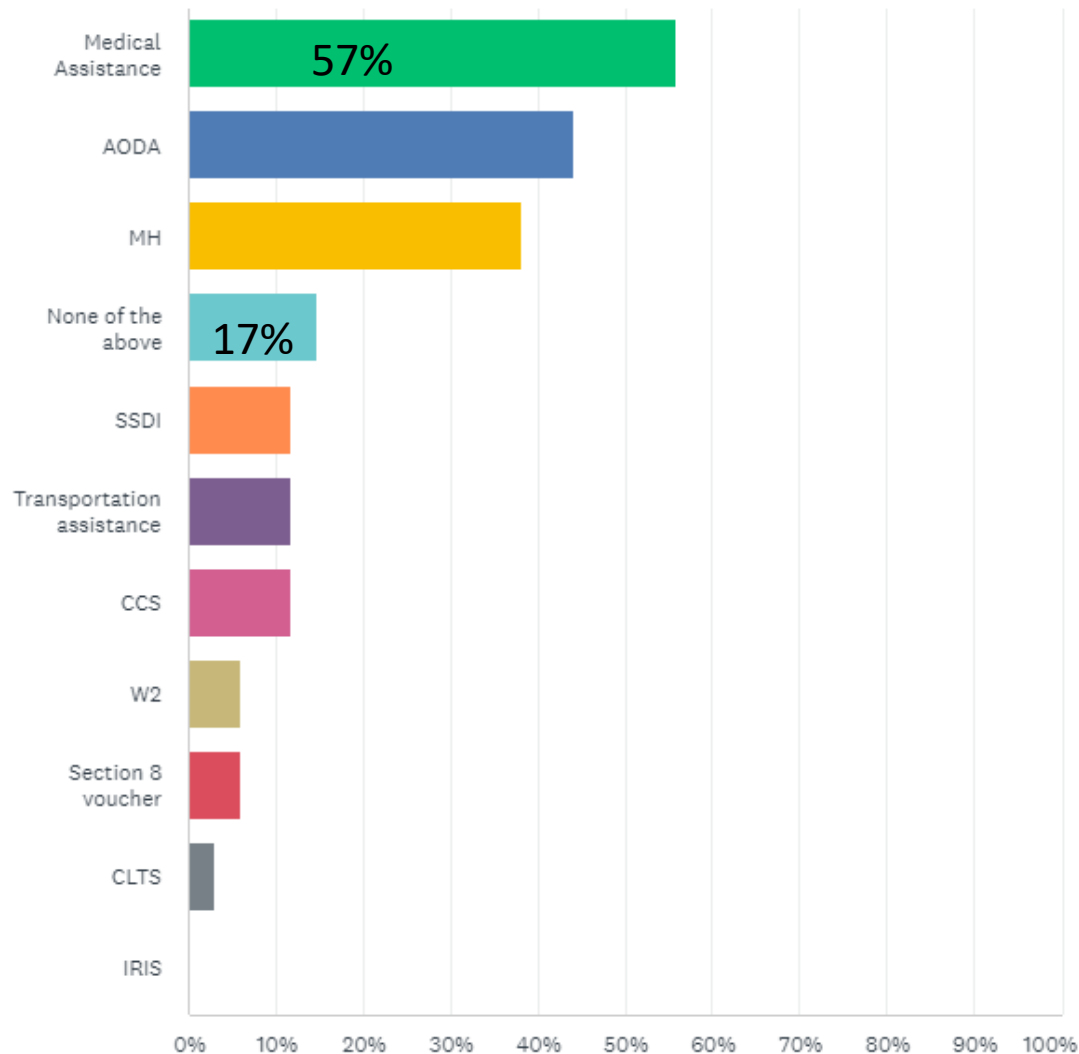


EDUCATION

25% of enrollees are participating in education or workforce training

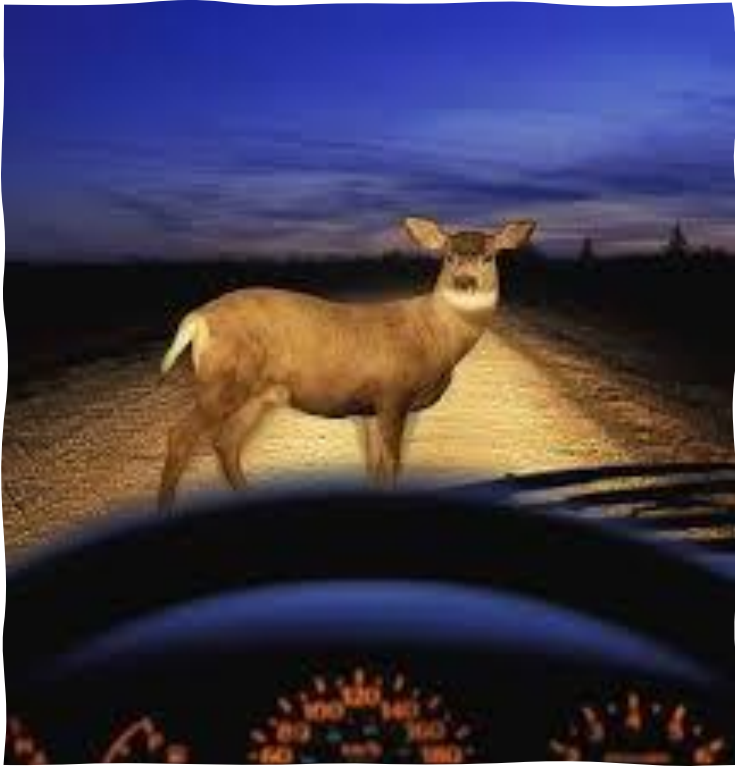


SERVICES CURRENTLY RECEIVING



Majority of enrollees felt they could benefit from additional services.

“Client has expressed interest in CCS services however doesn't feel like they can take that on now because the main day to day concerns are to find food, place to shower and places to go during the day where they won't be judged”



JEOPARDY

IN THEIR WORDS

- The eviction is only because the house we were living in was sold on the market and we didn't find housing quick enough.
- Located housing, has income to pay rent but not enough to pay first month down and security deposit.
- Can't live with her boyfriend and father of her child due to rules of both their Probation officers.
- Client received a 5 day to vacate notice. Landlord understands that the family is struggling, but they “need something” to give the family more time.
- Doing what I’m able in order to stabilize... and there seems to be one challenge after another to overcome.
- Client is a single parent who has one family member to provide support. Her other main support is the foster mom to her child in out-of-home care. Without the support of Family Keys, I honestly do not know what she would have done for housing.

What we Learned: Common Experiences

- Acknowledging, engaging, and partnering with Lived Experience
- Some overlapping needs (common gaps)
- Building partnerships



What we Learned: Early Successes

- **More** families can stay together
- Families who were separated can reunify **more quickly**
- Landlord relationships with county agencies have **increased**
- Working in this way is **more efficient** than initially thought
- Over 90% of individuals served reported they felt they had **a choice** in their housing solutions

Key Take-aways for Immediate Action

- Apply the approach to “do what it takes”
- Build a team
 - Build relationships with your local housing authorities (consider FUP and FYI vouchers)
- Landlord risk mitigation partnerships
- Address eviction with housing courts or other services



Innovative Approach

- Return on Innovation
- Remove typical guardrails to
“fill the gaps”
- “Launch and Adjust”



<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cfl169qOvbE/>

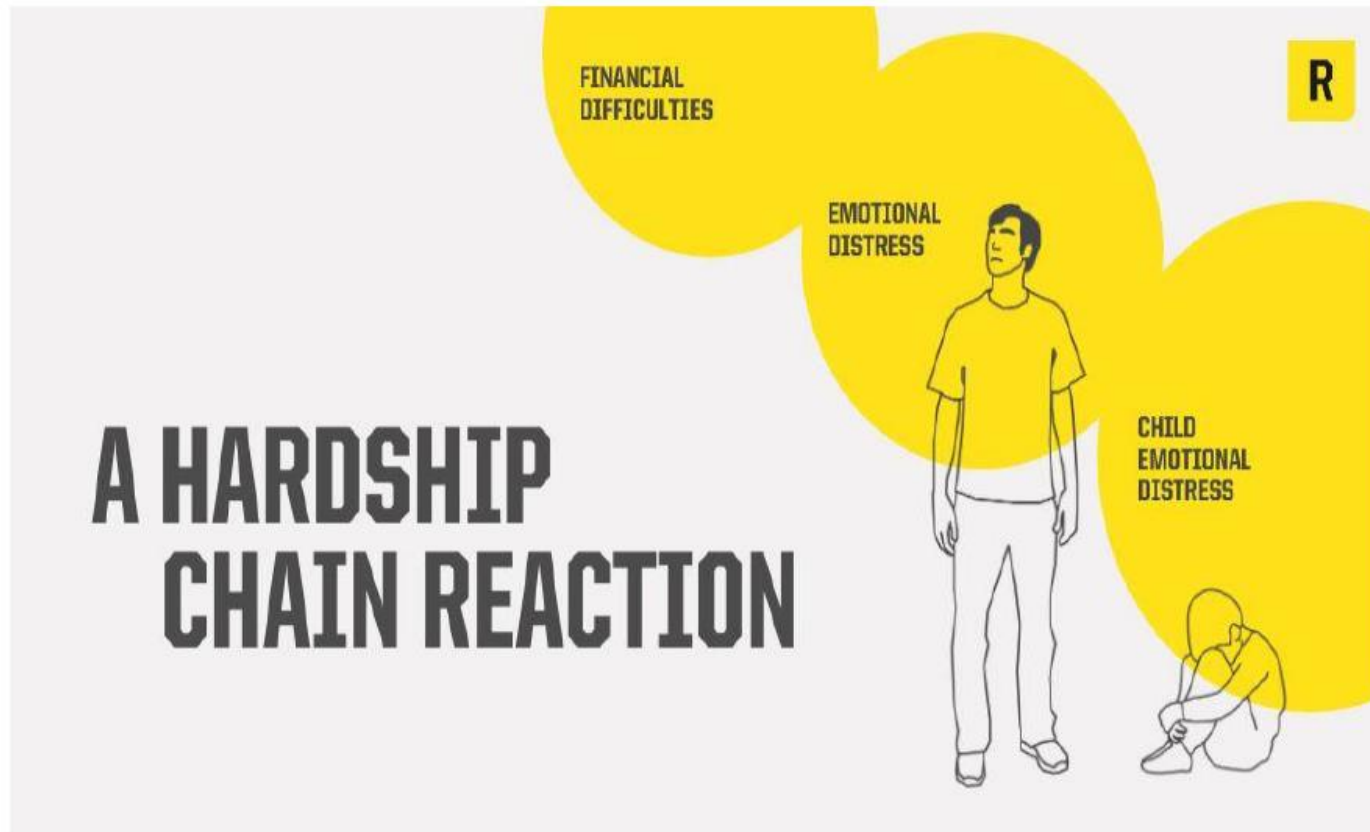




Full reference list is available [here](#).



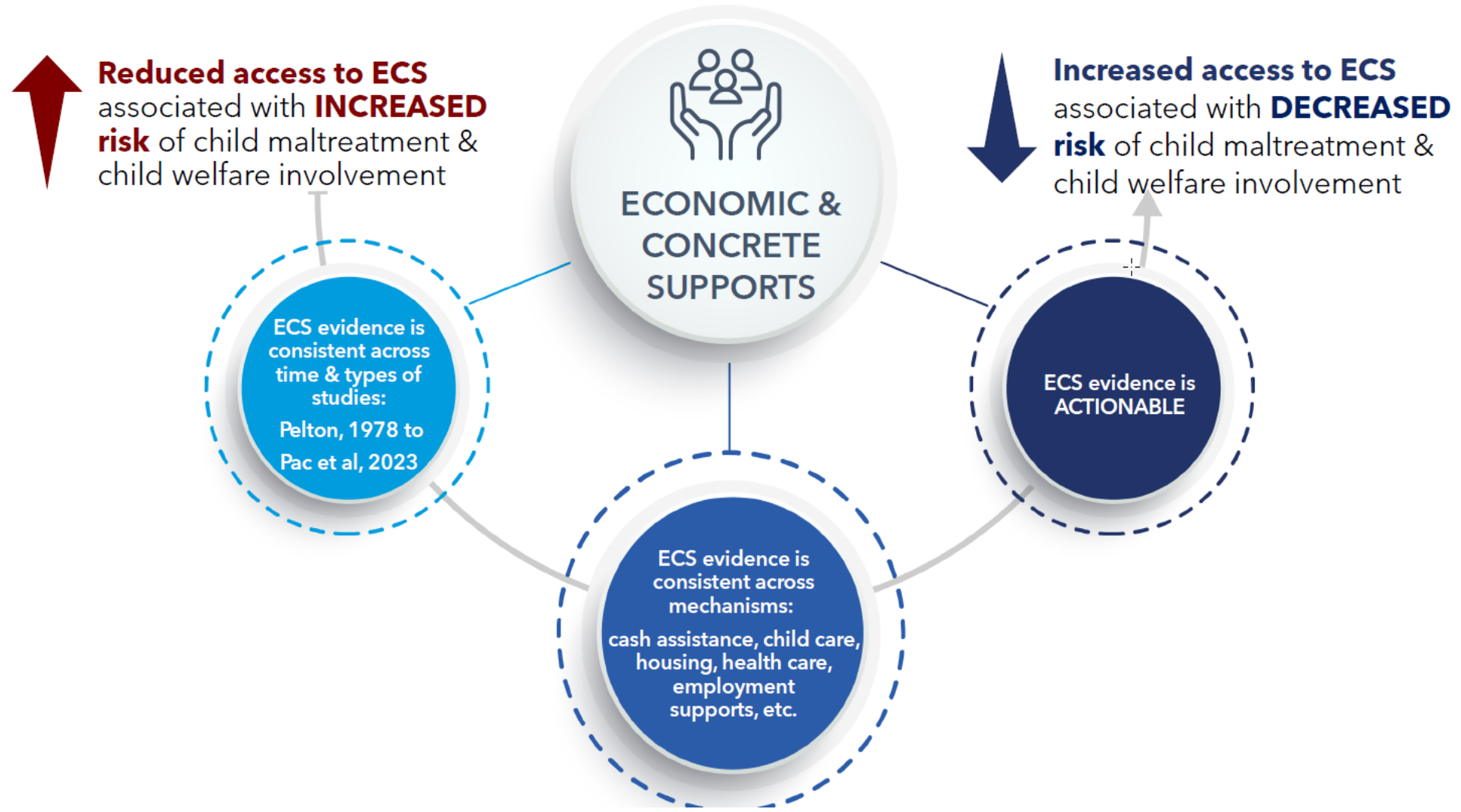
A Hardship Chain Reaction



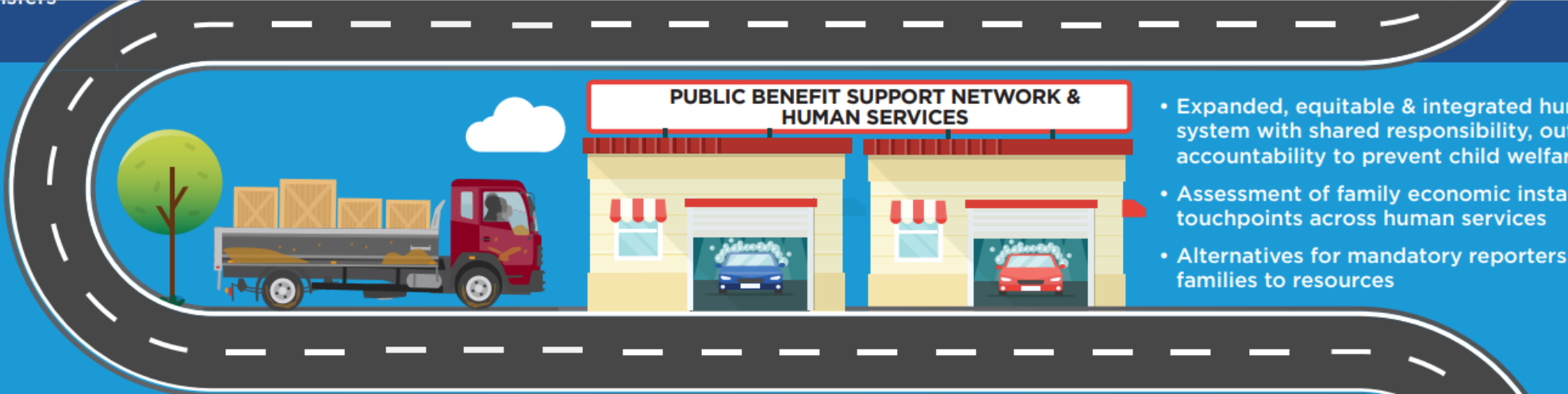
Evidence demonstrates a **chain reaction of hardship**, in which **material hardship** is directly associated with an increase in **parents' emotional distress** (*depression, anxiety, loneliness & stress symptoms*) which is, in turn, associated with an increase in **child emotional distress** (*fussiness, fearfulness & anxiety*).



Economic and Concrete Supports (ECS): An Overview



Direct cash transfers



PUBLIC BENEFIT SUPPORT NETWORK & HUMAN SERVICES



- Expanded, equitable & integrated human-centered system with shared responsibility, outcomes accountability to prevent child welfare involvement
- Assessment of family economic instability & touchpoints across human services
- Alternatives for mandatory reporters to connect families to resources



ECONOMIC DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSE, COMMUNITY PATHWAYS & NAVIGATION



- Redesigned policy & programmatic framework that centers “reasonable efforts” to prevent family separation and addresses root causes of child welfare involvement
- Provide economic & concrete supports paired with equitable access to evidence-based & culturally responsive services in communities to address family needs and reduce risk

SERVES AS FIREWALL TO PREVENT CHILD WELFARE INVOLVEMENT



- Narrowed use of child welfare to respond only when necessary
- Families offered legal counsel at first contact with Child Protective Services
- Address families’ intensive needs with economic and concrete supports plus evidence-based practices
- Partnership with families and communities to co-design responsive & accessible service array that goes beyond “treatment”
- Continuously evaluate & monitor effectiveness and impact of interventions

The Intersection of Family Economic Insecurity & Child Welfare Involvement

Most reliable economic predictors of child welfare involvement



Strongest predictors of investigated neglect reports



Multiple Material & Economic Hardships Overload Families and Increase Risk for Child Welfare Involvement

Watch the **Overloaded Parents**
Video by NSPCC



Visual created by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Adapted from: (Conrad-Hiebner, 2020) (Slack, 2011) (Sweetland, 2021)

Supportive Housing



Children of child welfare-involved families who face housing instability and receive a supportive housing program (housing voucher + case management) experience:

- **Fewer removals** (*9% vs. 40% in the usual care control group after 2 years*)
- **Lower prevalence of substantiated maltreatment** (*8% vs. 26% in control group after 18 months*)
- **Increased reunification** (*30% vs. 9% in control group after 2 years*)

Annual & Lifetime Costs of Child Maltreatment



- **\$80 billion** = direct & indirect costs of child maltreatment (2012)
- **\$563 billion** = economic burden associated with child maltreatment (2018 cohort)
 - *Cohort of children nationally from FFY 2018 with substantiated cases of child abuse & neglect will collectively incur costs of nearly \$563 billion across their lives associated with the consequences of the abuse or neglect*
- **\$2.94 trillion** = economic burden associated with investigated cases of child maltreatment (2018 cohort)
 - *Cohort of CPS agency investigated cases of child abuse & neglect nationally in FFY 2018 will collectively incur tangible and monetized intangible costs of nearly \$2.94 trillion over their lives*

(Gelles, 2012)

(Klika, 2020)

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