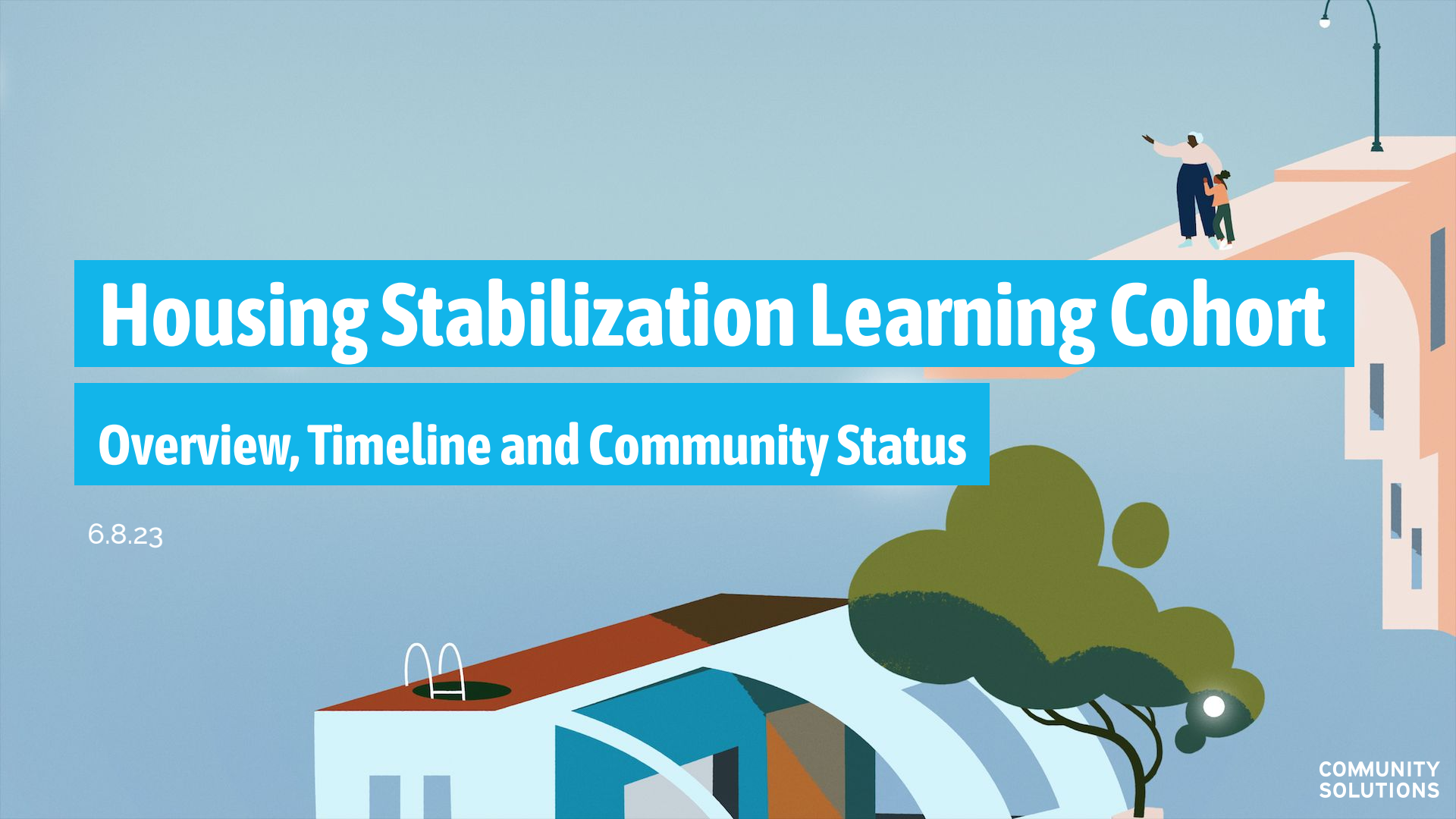
Housing Stabilization Learning Cohort

Overview, Timeline and Community Status

6.8.23



COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Housing Stabilization Learning Cohort (HSLC)

An innovative cohort of 7 BFZ communities - designed in partnership with BFZ communities - and coordinated by our Upstream Strategies team,

to co-create local models that coordinate and target prevention to reduce inflow into literal homelessness for single adults and advance racial equity over 2 years

Phase 1: November 2022 - July 2023
Phase 2: August 2023 - July 2024

Preliminary Learning Questions:

1. *How do we best support communities to utilize the BFZ framework to develop upstream housing stabilization models that reduce inflow into literal homelessness and advance racial equity?*

2. *How do we support communities to adapt and implement a community-wide coordinated prevention framework that addresses racial and ethnic disparities?*

3. *What types of leadership/accountability structures and backbone entities are necessary and sufficient to do this work?*

Housing Stabilization Learning Cohort

Theory of Change

DRAFT

Upstream Housing Stabilization Models within communities coordinate a common prevention approach and target resources to reduce inflow into literal homelessness for single adults and advance racial equity over 2 years.

HSLC Launch Version 1
January 2023

OPERATIONALIZE CROSS-SECTOR LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE & LEAD STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Develop "Core Prevention Leadership Team" and establish a governance structure, in coordination with the CoC, to guide the development and implementation of a coordinated prevention approach.
- Ensure and provide adequate support for meaningful and authentic partnership and shared decision-making with people with lived experience of homelessness (PLEH)..
- Convene and create trusting relationships with diverse cross-sector partners (including BIPOC, PLEH, & Providers) across geography & build collective will to coordinate and target prevention to reduce literal homelessness.
- Adopt working definitions for Coordinated Prevention and shared, measurable, time bound goals for inflow reduction tied to reducing racial disparities.
- Cultivate and target resources to ensure dedicated system staffing capacity to deliver and sustain coordinated prevention approaches, quality data & culture of improvement, accountability & equity.

DESIGN & IMPLEMENT COORDINATED PREVENTION APPROACH

- Develop shared understanding of the current state of homelessness prevention to inform the design of a coordinated prevention approach that includes priority sub-populations, partners and goals to address racial disparities.
- Operationalize common definition and core elements of community-wide coordinated prevention approach..
- Engage key partners and PLEH to test elements of coordinated prevention.
- Establish a backbone entity to support implementation of coordinated prevention approaches (including training, partner engagement, access point development, referrals)

BUILD QUALITY DATA SYSTEMS

- Collect and analyze existing data on inflow, diversion and prevention.
- Activate partners to develop shared data standards and build comprehensive, real-time, person-specific data
- Develop local/regional performance management infrastructure
- Adopt end state, measurement & data standards, including racial equity measures
- Collect qualitative and other lived experience data to inform system changes

ENSURE CULTURE OF IMPROVEMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY & EQUITY

- Ensure routine monthly quality data reporting on homelessness, diversion and prevention efforts is transparent and accessible
- Establish process to utilize disaggregated quantitative and lived experience data monthly to evaluate progress and to identify and take action on high-leverage areas for improvement that move toward racial equity
- Utilize principles of quality improvement to scale up evidence-based best practices (program & system) tied to promising prevention strategies with high potential reductions to literal homelessness and racial disparities
- Develop and implement quality improvement action plans that drive outcomes

Upstream Housing Stabilization Models within communities coordinate and target prevention to reduce inflow into literal homelessness for single adults and advance racial equity over 2 years.

A. LEADERSHIP + CAPACITY:

Establish leadership, organizational capacity and cross-sector partnerships to drive Community-Wide Prevention

B. SHARED VISION + COMMITMENT

Upstream stakeholders, CoC and other key partners adopt a shared vision and commitment to systematically preventing literal homelessness at the population level

(reduce inflow for single adults at minimum and advance racial equity)

C. UNDERSTAND CURRENT STATE

Build shared understanding of the current state of community's prevention efforts mapped to Prevention model elements and existing data for model design and improvement.

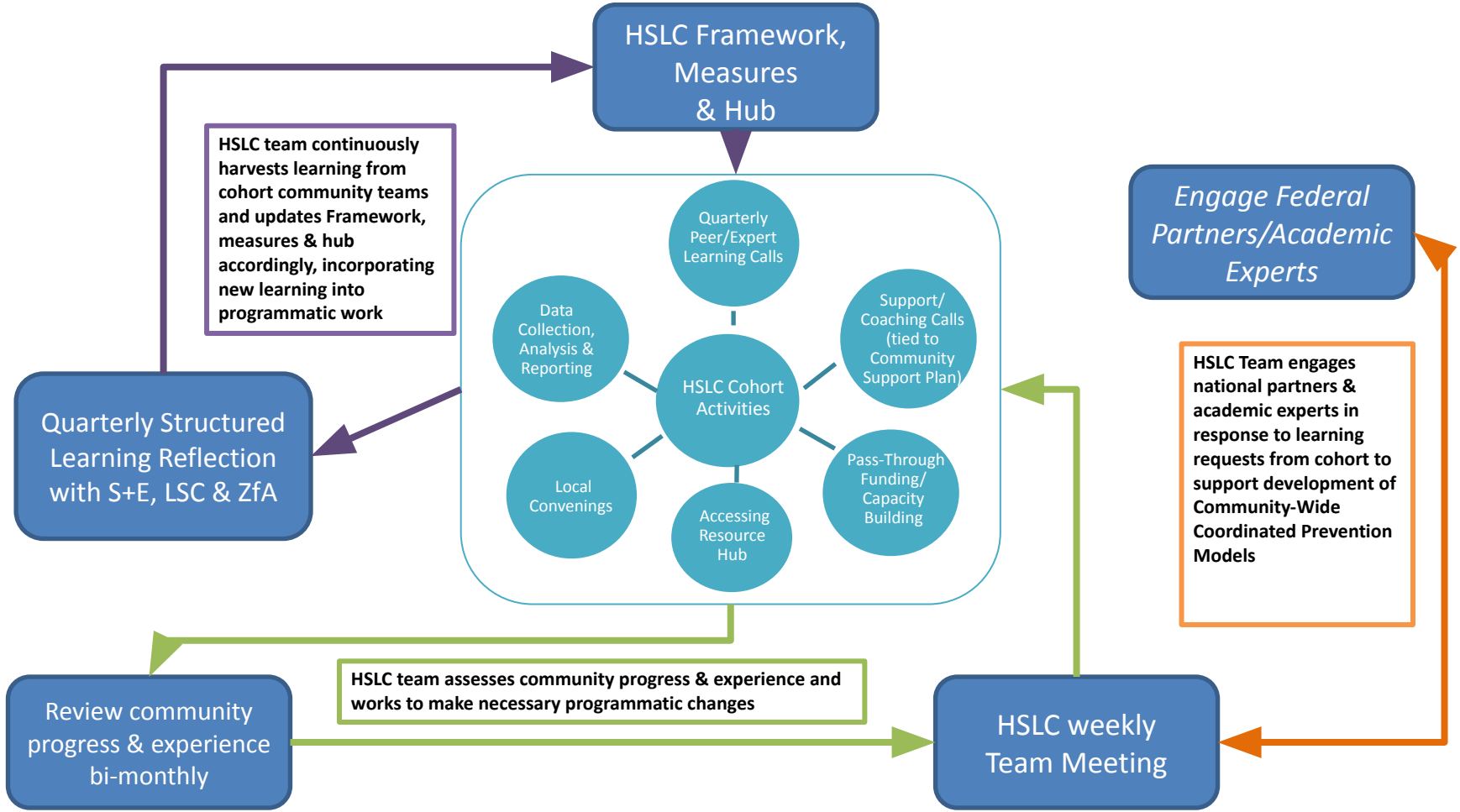
D. DESIGN, TEST + REFINE

Co-design, prototype, test & refine Community-Wide Prevention Model with core access point and service partners; policies, procedures, tools, and guidance; training; service coordination, referral, and data collection platform.

E. OPERATIONALIZE + SUSTAIN

Fully implement Community-wide Prevention Model and position single entity with adequate funding and staffing to fulfill backbone responsibilities to manage and sustain Housing Stabilization System.

HSLC Quarterly Learning System Workflow - ULTIMATE VISION



Foundational Priorities for Phase 1: Starting Points

1. ***Building Leadership & Organizational Capacity***
   - ➢ Dedicated HSLC Lead Organization, Local Coordinator & Data Lead point-of-contact + initial Working Group (to begin)
   - ➢ Formalized diverse, representative Core Prevention Team with Leaders with Lived Expertise
2. ***Understanding Current State of Prevention***
   - ➢ Conduct an Environmental Scan of primary prevention providers
3. ***Using Qualitative & Quantitative Data***
   - ➢ Complete an initial Inflow Data Investigation
4. ***Moving Toward a Coordinated Prevention Approach***
   - ➢ Adopt common definition of Homelessness Prevention along with risk typology screening
   - ➢ Beginning to test screening, prioritization, access point, referral & training tools
5. ***Co-Develop a Roadmap with Measurable Goals to Reduce Inflow & Advance Racial Equity***

How we're thinking about "Core Elements" of Community-Wide Coordinated Prevention Models

What is COORDINATED Homelessness Prevention?

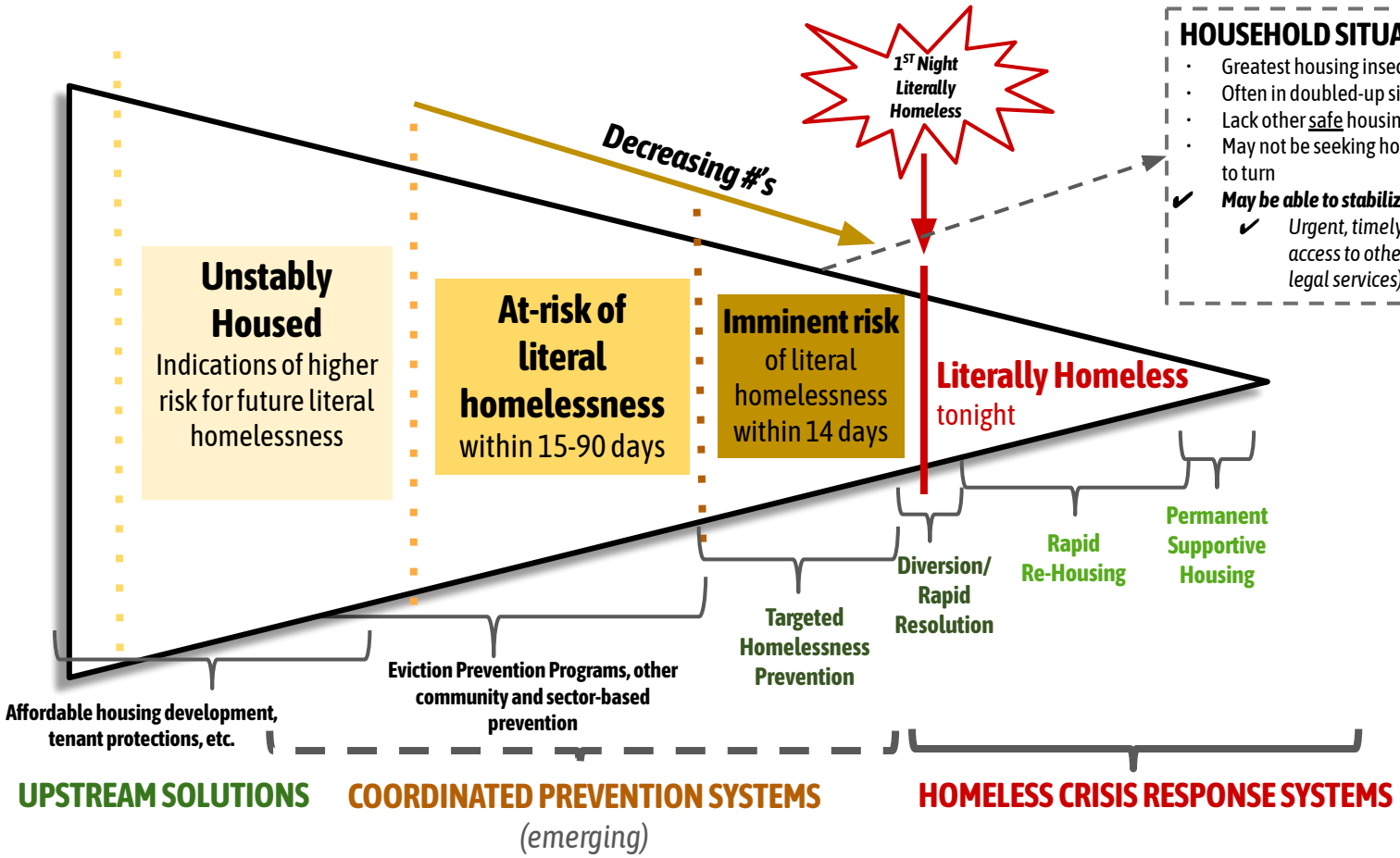
A ***community-wide approach*** that uses common risk screening criteria to identify people who are housing insecure, including those who are at greatest risk for literal homelessness, and then offers immediate, coordinated access to housing problem-solving and prevention-related resources, including prioritized access to assistance for people with more urgent prevention needs.

COORDINATED HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SYSTEMS:

Core Elements

- ✔ **Shared Vision, Understanding & Commitment to Prevention** related to literal homelessness
- ✔ **Coordinated, Housing-Focused Access Points & Service Providers** across a wide variety of "upstream" community-based and cross-sector settings
- ✔ **Standardized Housing Insecurity Screening, Response, and Referral Tools and Protocols** including broad use of housing problem-solving and coordinated access prioritization approaches
- ✔ **Shared Data Culture & Platform** supporting data collection, service referral and coordination, and reporting
- ✔ **Ongoing Backbone Entity Support** for partner recruitment, training, reporting, analysis, and ongoing system management & development

Community-Wide *Housing Stabilization* Approach



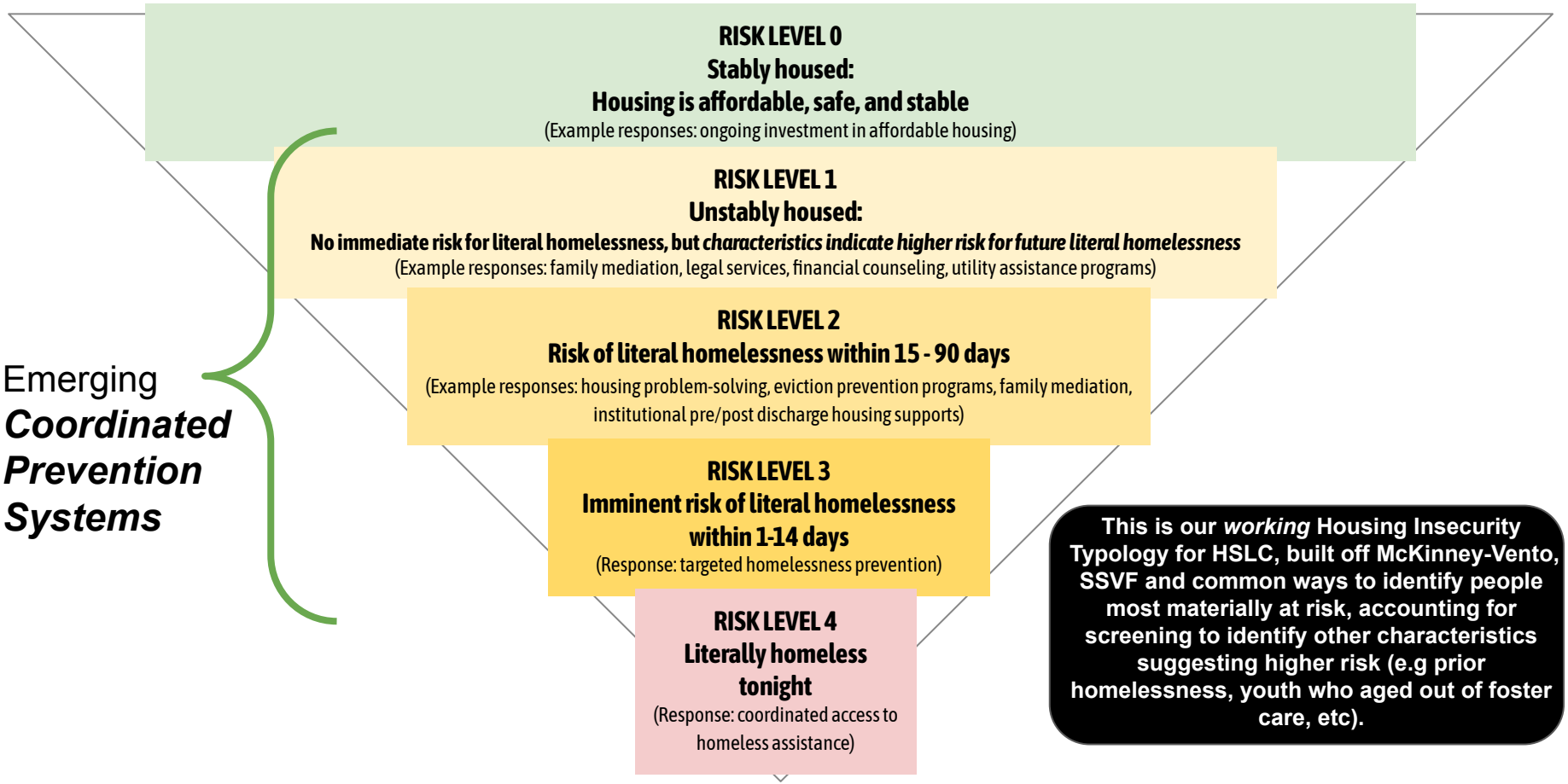
HOUSEHOLD SITUATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Greatest housing insecurity & risk for literal homelessness
- Often in doubled-up situations
- Lack other safe housing options or $ to obtain
- May not be seeking housing/rent assistance OR know where to turn

✔ ***May be able to stabilize with...***

- ✔ *Urgent, timely problem-solving and coordinated access to other assistance (e.g., $, food, childcare, legal services)*

Key Element: HSLC Housing Insecurity Typology



This is our *working* Housing Insecurity Typology for HSLC, built off McKinney-Vento, SSVF and common ways to identify people most materially at risk, accounting for screening to identify other characteristics suggesting higher risk (e.g prior homelessness, youth who aged out of foster care, etc).

HSLC Housing Insecurity Typology: Definitions & Indicators

Risk Level		Living Situation	Housing Options & Resources
0	**Stably Housed**	· Current housing is safe; AND · Current housing is stable for the foreseeable future (e.g., sufficient income to pay rent and utilities, able to stay with host family/friend indefinitely)	Has housing options, financial resources, and/or support networks to maintain or obtain a safe place to stay for *foreseeable* future.
1	**Unstably Housed**	· Current housing is safe; AND · No material risk of imminent risk of literal homelessness (i.e., not Risk Level 2-4); AND · Is currently experiencing general housing insecurity due to housing cost burden, housing conditions, frequent unplanned moves, and/or other characteristics and barriers indicative of higher risk for future literal homelessness. May be at-risk of housing loss in 3-6 months.	Has housing options, financial resources, and/or support networks to maintain or obtain a safe place to stay for *foreseeable* future.
2	**At-Risk of Literal Homelessness (within 15-90 Days)**	· Current housing is safe; AND · Must leave current housing within 15-90 days (e.g., due to court-ordered eviction, landlord-issued eviction, foreclosure, safety or health risk, host family/friend limitation, etc.); OR · Must leave an institution (e.g., hospital, jail, treatment facility) within 15-90 days;	Does not have other housing options, financial resources, and/or support networks to maintain or obtain a safe place to stay *after* the next 15-90 days.
3	**Imminent Risk of Literal Homelessness (within 1-14 Days)**	· Current housing is safe; AND · Must leave current housing within 14 days (e.g., due to court-ordered eviction, foreclosure, imminent safety or health risk, host family/friend request to leave, family conflict, etc.); OR · Must leave an institution (e.g., hospital, jail, treatment facility) within 14 days;	Does not have other housing options, financial resources, and/or support networks to maintain or obtain a safe place to stay after the next 14 days.
4	**Literally Homeless Tonight**	· Is currently literally homeless and continues to have no other safe housing option tonight outside of available emergency shelter, Safe Haven, or transitional housing options; OR · Must leave current housing today (e.g., due to court-ordered eviction, foreclosure, immediate safety or health risk, host family/friend request to leave, etc.); OR · Must leave an institution (e.g., hospital, jail, treatment facility) today.	Does not have other housing options, financial resources, and/or support networks to maintain or obtain a safe place to stay tonight

Participating Communities

Spokane City and County, WA

Cincinnati/Hamilton County, OH

Greater Hartford, CT

Eugene/Lane County, OR

Richmond/Contra Costa County, CA

Charlotte/
Mecklenburg County, NC

Washington,
District of Columbia