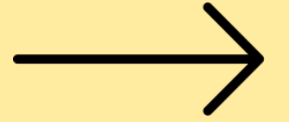




Social Planning  
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# Local Knowledge... Research to Action



## 2023 Highlights



# Who We Are

- Community-based non-profit
- Exist to build and strengthen our community:  
“Every resident experiences wellbeing and a sense of belonging”
- We facilitate collaborative action on community issues
- Arms length, independent organization with valuable community expertise





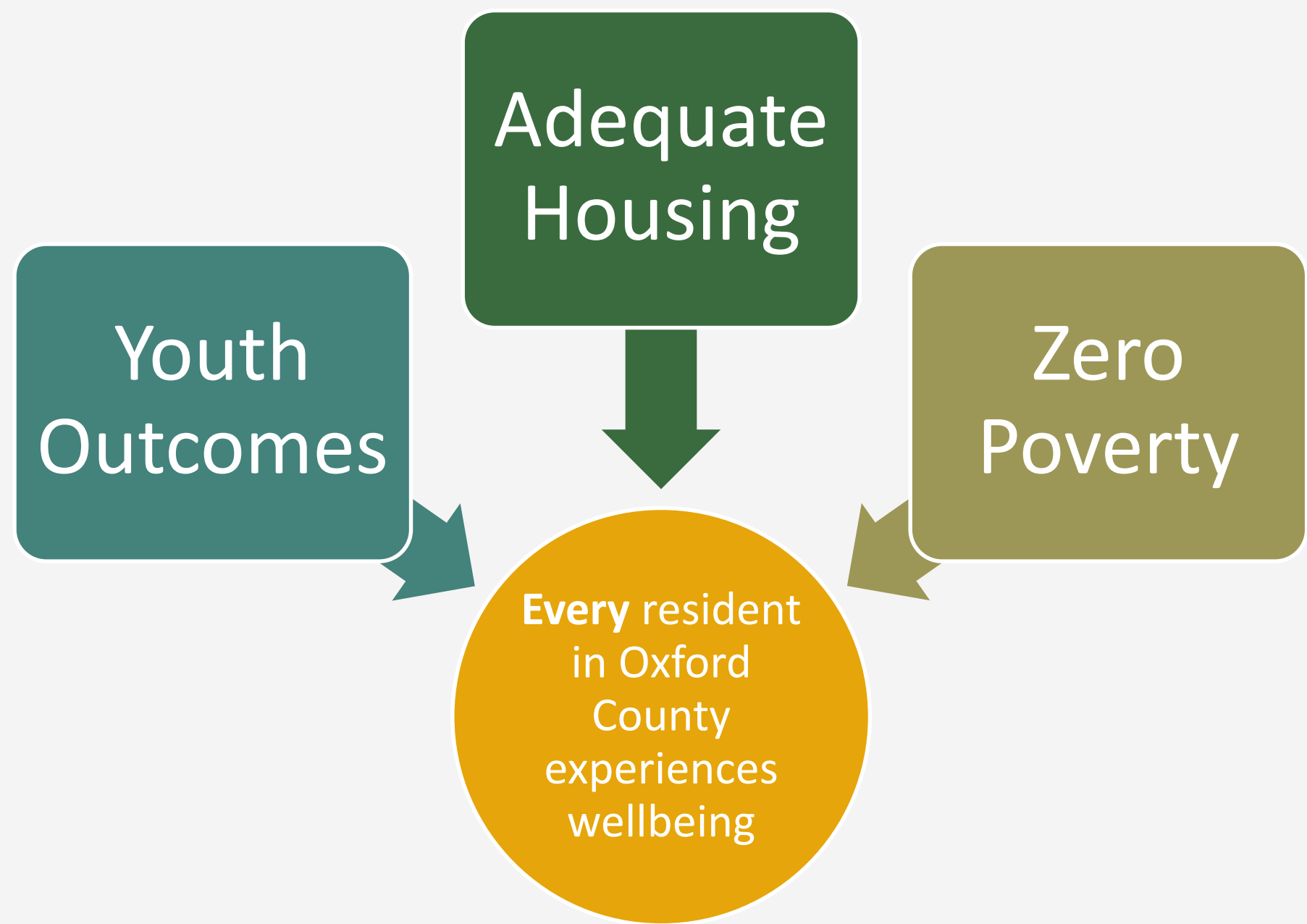
# What We Do

- Social Research
- Policy Analysis and Development
- Community Awareness and Education
- Service Development (Coordination and Evaluation)
- Community Development
- Convening and Facilitating
- Partnership and Collaboration





# Priorities

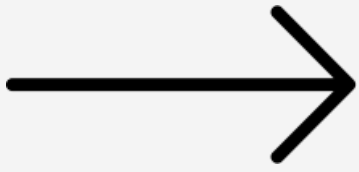




# Project Highlight:



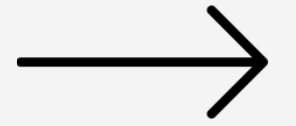
# Tenants Speak Up



- Two-tiered project consisting of interviewing people who have been displaced from their rental homes and creating a tenant initiative in the communities of Oxford, York Region, Cornwall and Kingston.
- Project funded by Community Housing Transformation Centre



# Tenants Speak Up: Quotes from Participants



x x x x  
x x x x  
x x x x  
x x x x

"I've seen rent skyrocket, which is absolutely ridiculous. Like, I'd say, my rent for my place, it's, it's \$1295, which I still find is like, really frickin pricey. But when you look online, it's actually one of the better deals [...]. I have to work full time in school just to make ends meet. And like, that's like impossible. It's been really, really stressful. But I wouldn't have to do that if housing didn't go like soaring, so high up in rents. It's really, really hard. So I have, like, no spare time. I'm barely sleeping and it's really hard for my social life too."

x x x x  
x x x x  
x x x x  
x x x x

"I knew that if I signed that form, my tenancy was done and I had no rights as a tenant. If you want me out, you're going to pay me to leave. I know these people have means, you're going to pay me to leave and I said I'm going to fight this. She [property management rep] said 'Well, what are you going to do?' This was a direct quote from her. 'Their lawyers are way better than yours. They are going to rake you over the coals, you're going to lose. So honey, if you are smart, you will just sign this form and take their money and get out and get on with your life. Aren't you excited about a new start? Isn't there like, 5% of you that's like, needing a new start?' and I swear to God she pulled out all of the manipulation tactics."





# Oxford Tenant Support Network



A team of volunteers were recruited to form an advisory panel to determine how we could best address some of the issues tenants face as a group

Most of the volunteers had experienced displacement or difficulties in renting due to the changing rental climate

The group determined that a peer support program was needed to inform tenants of their options and rights, and help reduce informal or unnecessary evictions



# We spoke to partner organizations and determined that the gaps we could fill were:



## Knowledge

Many tenants are unaware of their rights under the Residential Tenancies Act and don't know where to find resources.

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## Upstream Eviction Prevention

Too many tenants leave their homes without due process causing them to pay more for a new unit and causing the rent of the old unit to increase due to vacancy decontrol.

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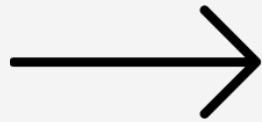
## Empowerment

Renters are often bullied or coerced into rent increases and evictions. By increasing tenants' knowledge, we hope to increase their confidence in resisting intimidation.





# Oxford Tenant Support Network



x x x x  
x x x x  
x x x x  
x x x x



Hotline: 1-888-586-0846

A phone line has been set up for tenants to seek information on their rights



Events

We will be engaging with tenants in person and holding info sessions



Advocacy

We will advocate for more tenant protections and affordability measures

x x x x  
x x x x  
x x x x  
x x x x

**YOU ARE INVITED:**

To learn more, come to “Understanding the Realities of Renting” on **November 22, 2023, 5pm-7pm** Harvey Woods Lofts Atrium, 18 Vansittart Ave, Woodstock



# 2023-24\* Projected Financials



## Expenses

Payroll	230,600
Programming	8,000
Professional Fees	23,700
Memberships	373
Website	400
Insurance	2,368
Board Expenses	3,753
Equip/Supplies/Promo	5,050
Telephone/Rent	2,900
Mileage	4,540
Training	2,500
	<hr/>
	<b>284,184</b>

## Income

County	80,000
Tamarack/ESDC Grant	165,000
Community Services Recovery Fund	31,875
CMHC Grant	7,200
	<hr/>
	<b>284,075</b>

\*fiscal year is April 1 2023-March 31, 2024  
(expenses projected based on 6 months to date)



# Budget Request for 2024-25 Fiscal Year



## Expenses

Payroll	104,500*
Programming/Admin	12,000
Strat Plan/Comms	10,625
	<hr/>
	127,125

## Income

County	80,000
Community Services	10,625
Recovery Fund	
Grants Not Confirmed	36,500
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	127,125

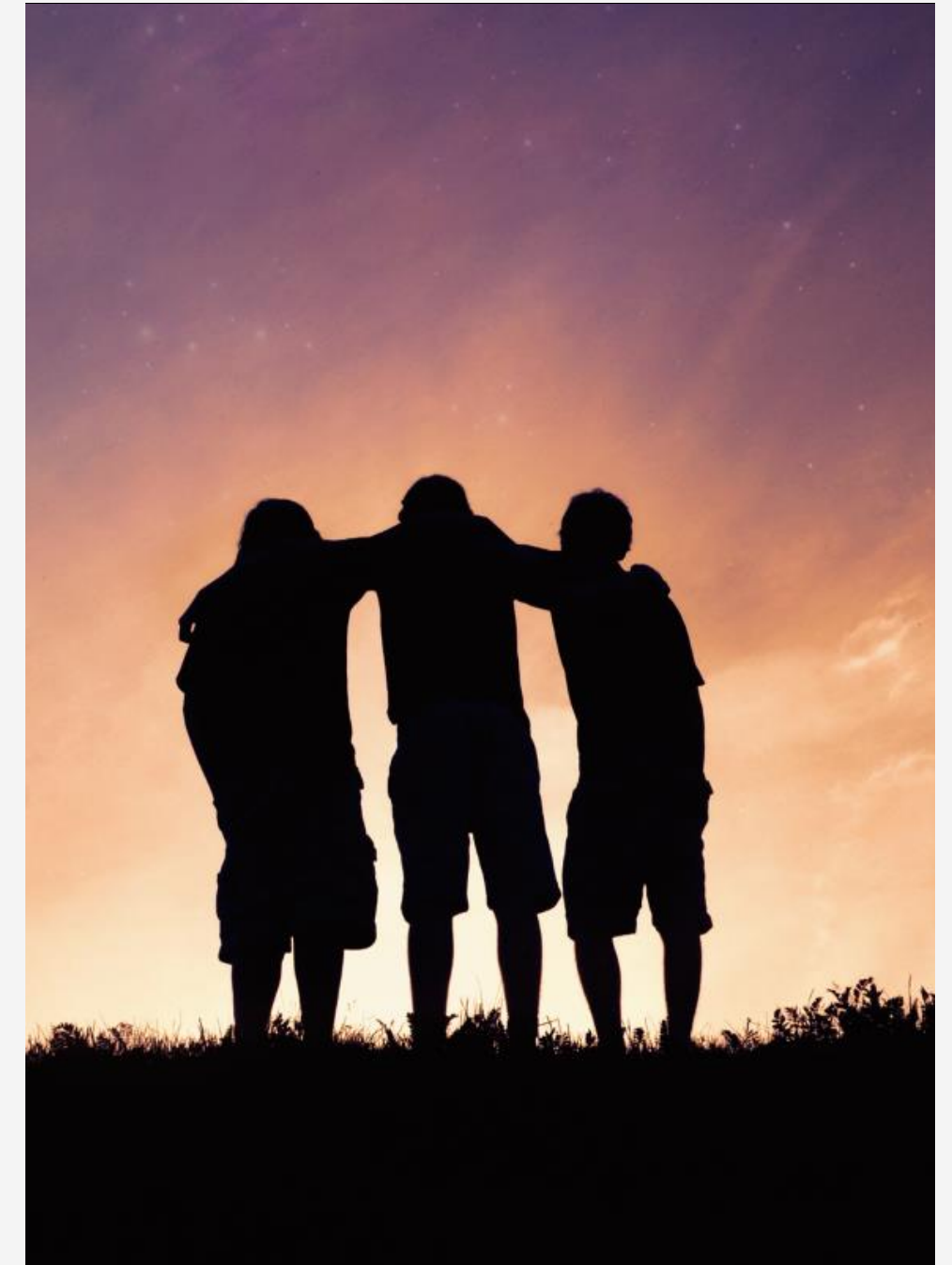
\*1 Executive Director at full time and 2 part time program staff



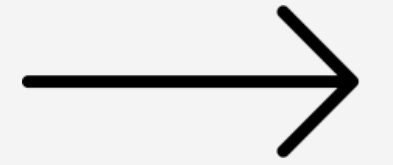
# Goals for 2024



- Continue to host the peer support phone line and set up in person peer tenant support sites
- Work with the Housing Collaborative to focus on building the case for permanent supportive housing
- Seek sustainability for Communities Building Youth Futures; speak to various decision makers on what we learned/actions that could be implemented (e.g.: social space expansion)
- Completion/implementation of SPCO communication plan and strategic plan



# Impact/Your Return on Investment



- Individual impact on volunteers leading programs/solutions (increased capacity, sense of belonging)
- Impact on those participating in programs (e.g.: attendance at social space, receiving information from peer line)
- System impact of research and convening (e.g.: Human trafficking research/recommendations being used to guide community response)
- Policy decisions benefit from community driven research and local expertise; work supports Oxford County Strategic Plan and the Safe and Well Plan





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# Thank you!

For More Information:  
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Community Housing  
Transformation Centre  
Centre de transformation  
du logement communautaire

Canada 

 **TAMARACK**  
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