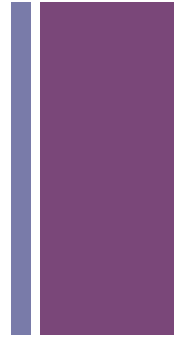


## Rapid Re-housing

The state and federal campaign to end homelessness and what that means for Micah

# + Homeless Services in PD16



- Empowerhouse: Domestic violence
- Hope House: Transitional housing for women with children
- Micah: Individuals and families living on the street
- Thurman Brisben: Year-round shelter for families and individuals
- Quin Rivers: Prevention Assistance
- Central Virginia Housing Coalition: Housing location services

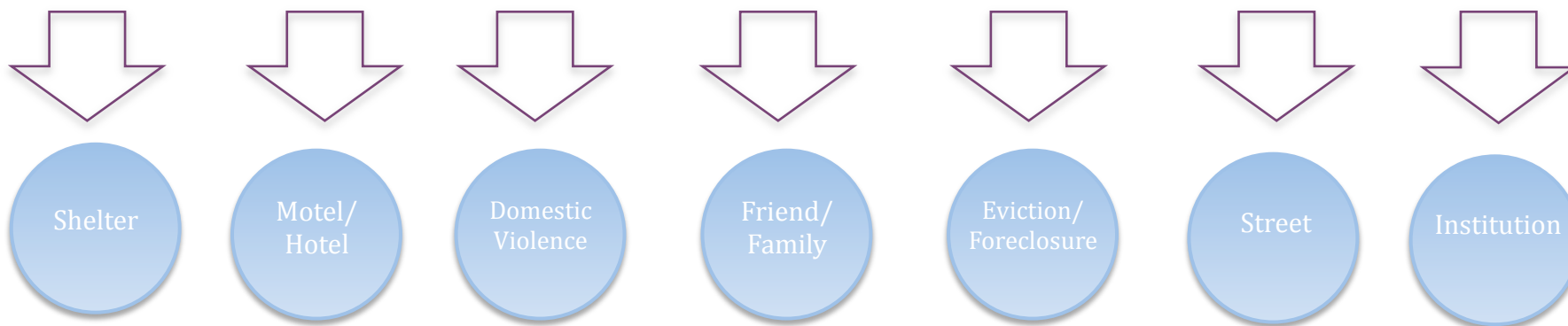
# + Rapid Re-housing

- Housing relocation and stabilization services and short to medium term rental assistance, as necessary, to help a homeless individual or family move as quickly as possible into permanent housing.
  - Goal: No one is homeless more than 30 days.
  - Housing process should begin as soon as a person has been assessed and prevention/diversion have been eliminated as options.
- Rapid Re-housing focuses first on overcoming barriers to obtaining housing (past evictions, credit and criminal history). It looks at overcoming barriers to maintaining housing (mental health, substance abuse, income) only after the person is successfully placed. Also known as a Housing First model.

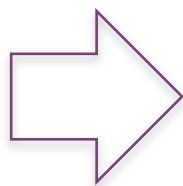
# + Where did you sleep last night?



Living situations that determine whether someone qualifies as homeless or at risk



# + The Housing Crisis



Eviction/  
Foreclosure

Institution

Domestic  
Violence



Motel/  
Hotel

Friend/  
Family

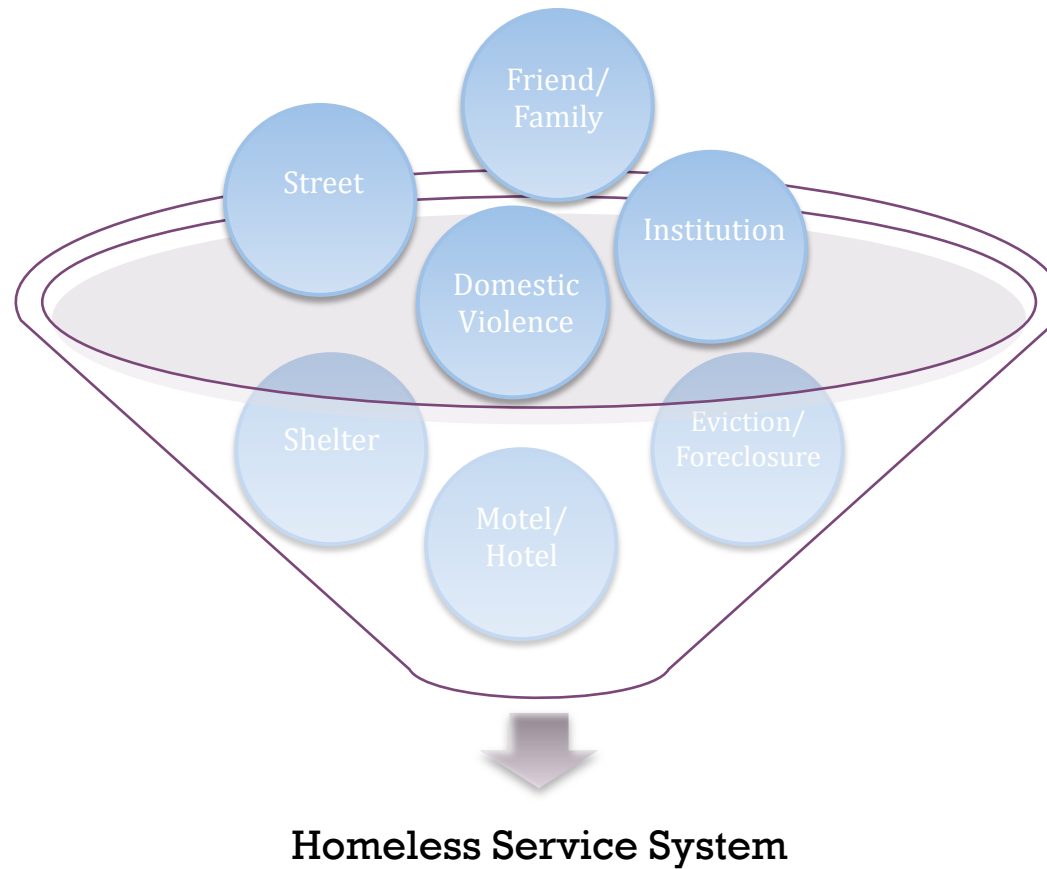
Shelter

Street

73% of people who actually become homeless come from a motel/hotel or home of a friend/family member

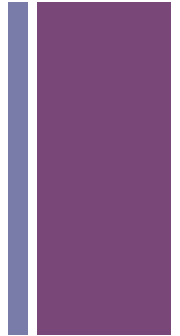
Only 27% of people who actually become homeless land in a shelter or on the street immediately following an eviction/foreclosure or after leaving an institution

# + Survival of the Fittest





# Local changes as a result of the Homeless Solutions Grant

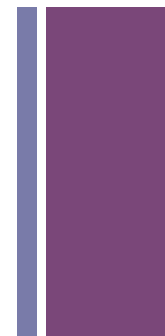


- Established a single site for prevention referrals
- Created a common screening and assessment tool used by all agencies
- Agencies triaged people coming to their doors based on the target population served by each agency
- Involvement of Central Virginia Housing Coalition to provide a Housing Locator that finds apartments and facilitates move-ins of rapidly re-housed families/individuals
- Formation of the “Pursuit of Housing Campaign” and regular meetings of all homeless service providers and their case managers
- Introduction of over \$200,000 in rental assistance dollars, specific to re-housing people experiencing homelessness in our community

# + No Wrong Door Prevention

- All those presenting an “imminent loss of housing” would be sent to Thurman Brisben Center
- Thurman Brisben housed their own prevention case manager and one paid by Quin Rivers.
- Both agencies had prevention funds.
- People seeking prevention came to Thurman Brisben and filled out a pre-screening tool that helped staff decide whether the person qualified and which case manager would get the request.

# + No Wrong Door Homeless Triage



Domestic Violence



Women with Children



Families/Individuals  
eligible for shelter



Everyone else



# + What we learned about Prevention

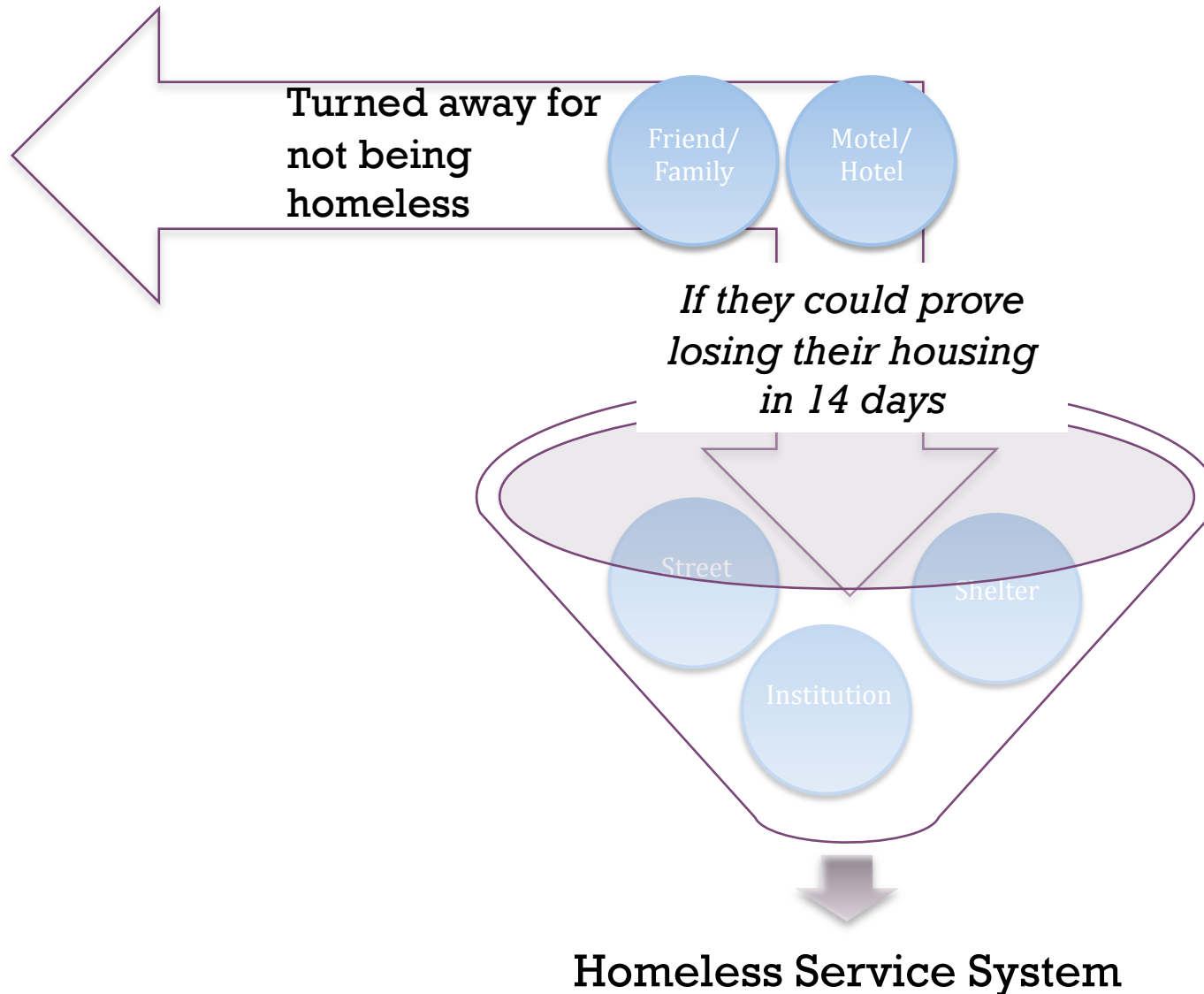


**83 households prevented  
from homelessness**

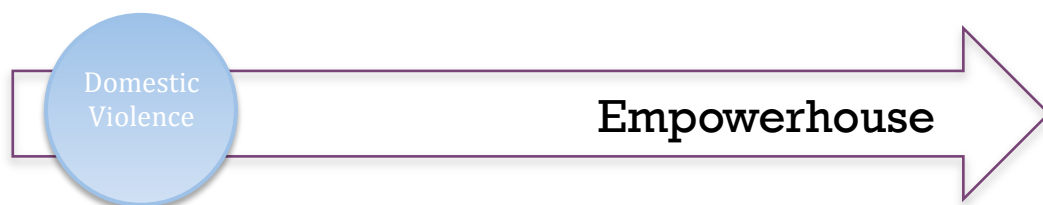
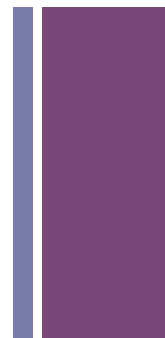


- The open invitation to a single site for prevention was over-whelming to frontline staff whose primary responsibility was shelter
- Both community agencies and households seeking assistance became frustrated with the backlog and red tape that had to be overcome in order to receive assistance.
- The best self-advocates with the clearest documentation (those being evicted) got the most help.
- Agencies found themselves telling the motel population and those staying with friends/family that they could not get help until they were literally homeless
- The funding was gone by January.

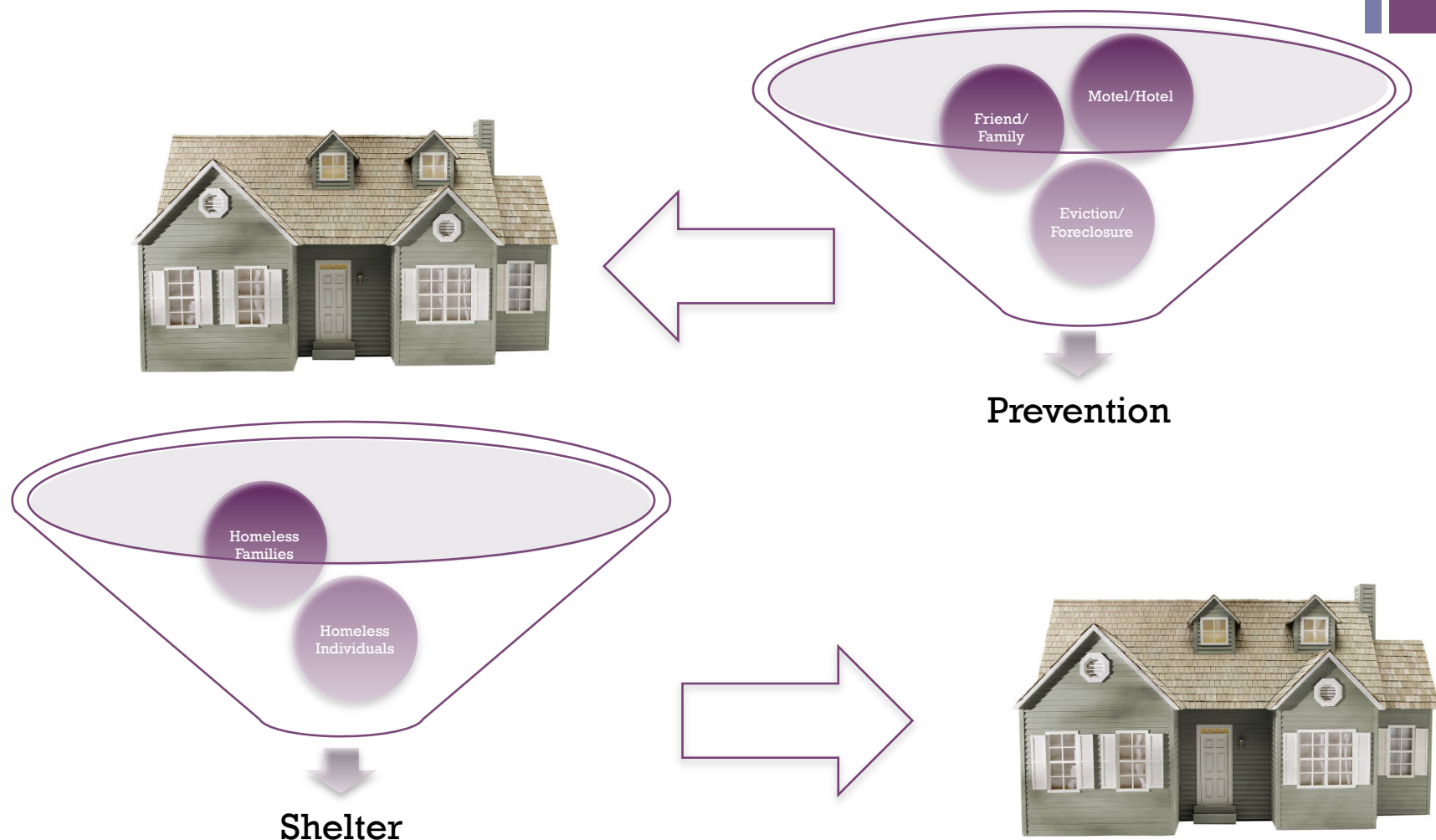
# + What happened to the Homeless



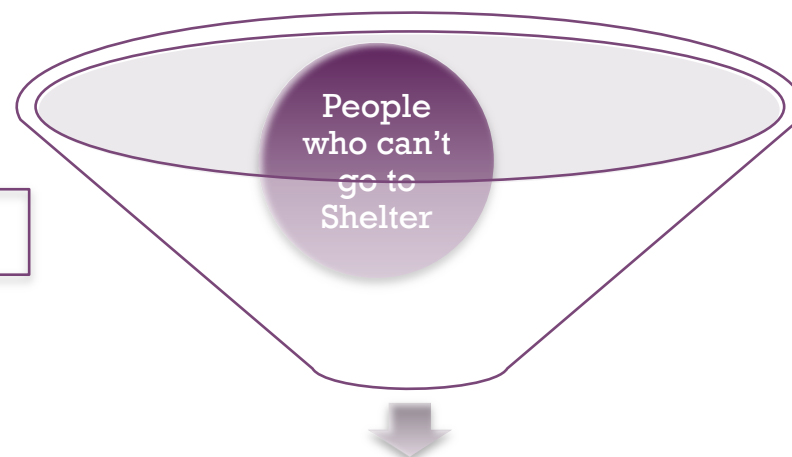
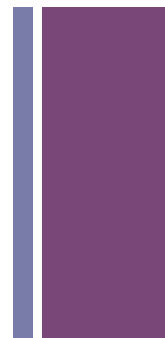
# + Best Case Scenario



# + Best Case Scenario for Homeless Service System

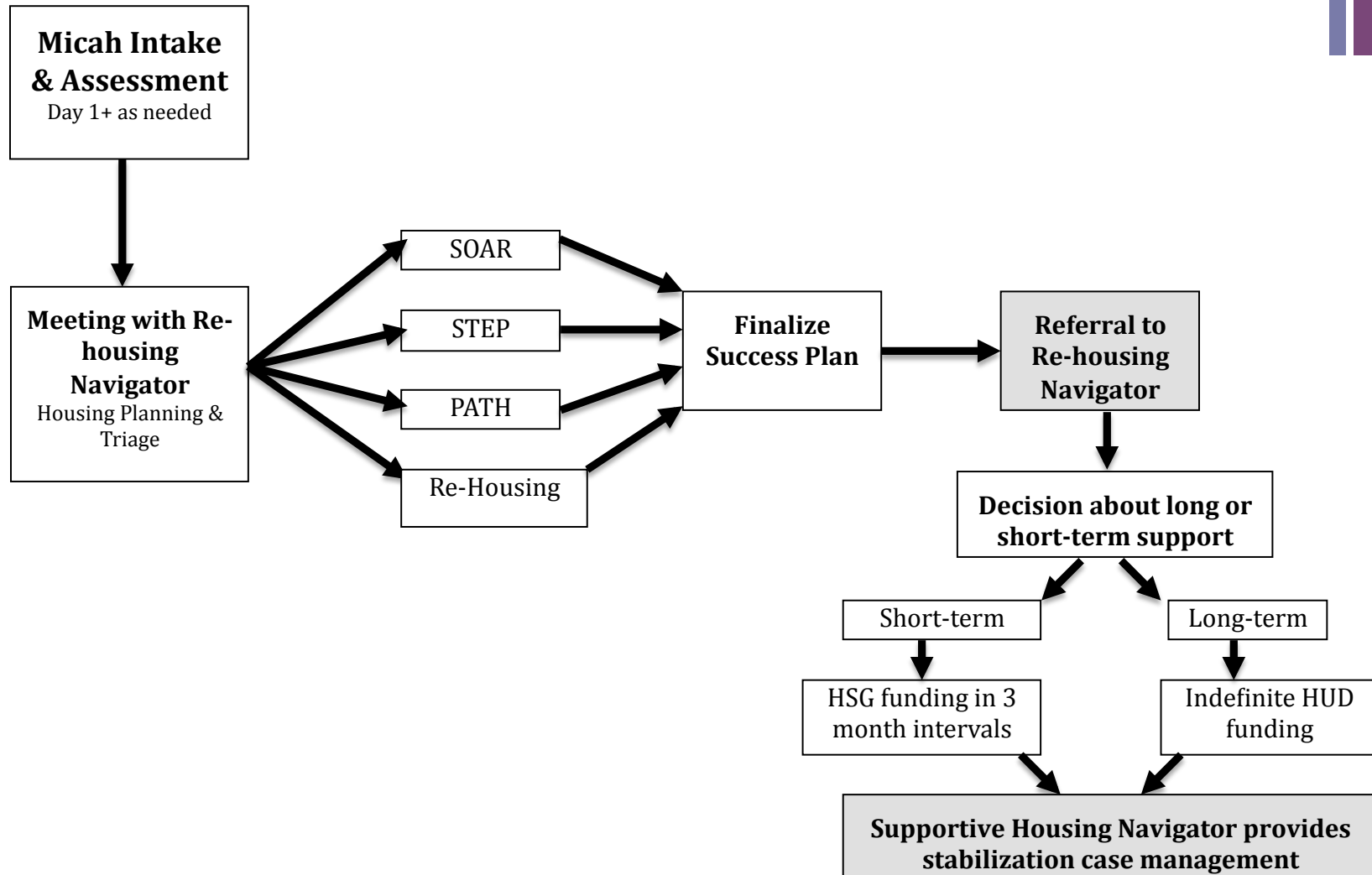


# + Best Case Scenario for Homeless Service System



Place not meant for human habitation

# + Micah Assistance Process

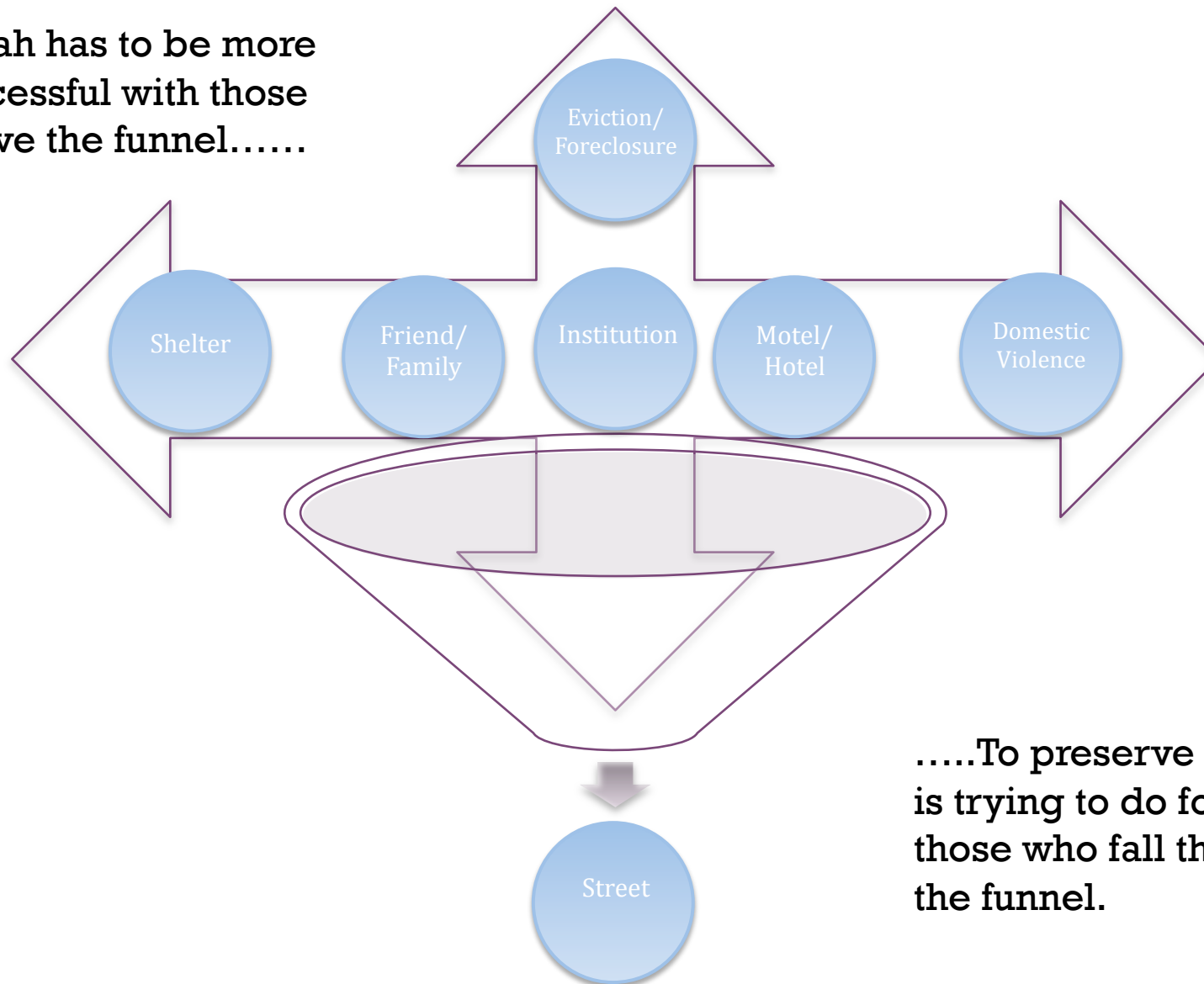


# + Micah's challenges

- Looking at a one month sampling (about 300 people) of who Micah is serving, this is the breakdown of where people said they were staying the night prior to enrolling with us:
  - 50% came from a place not for habitation
  - 12% came from an institution
  - 22% were staying with friends/family or hotel/motel
  - 15% came from a shelter
  - 1% was unknown
- While Micah's efforts attempt to be focused on a specific part of the population, we end up being the safety net for anyone who does not fit in the specialized boxes of other organizations in town. We find ourselves asking:
  - Are there effective discharge plans from jails/hospitals?
  - How well do we connect people to prevention sources?
  - How well do we connect people to shelter?
  - How successful are we at assessing housing barriers and developing housing stabilization plans for people living in places not meant for human habitation?
  - How quickly are we moving street homeless to permanent housing?
  - How well are we stabilizing people in permanent housing?

# + Reality... No one else works with all 7 living situations

Micah has to be more successful with those above the funnel.....

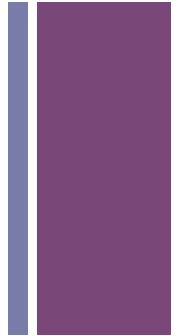


.....To preserve what it is trying to do for those who fall through the funnel.

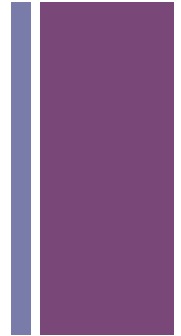


# Community Proposal for FY 2014

- Prevention funds will be distributed through a single case manager employed by Quin Rivers. They will remain located at Thurman Brisben for at least the next 12 months.
- Quin River's prevention case manager will only assist people referred by agencies participating in the "Pursuit of Housing Campaign." Assistance will include financial, in-home case management and re-location, if necessary for stability of those staying with friends/family and coming from a motel/hotel
- A separate diversion case manager will be established at Central Virginia Housing Coalition to receive general community housing crisis calls. Assistance may include sorting out an issue causing the housing crisis (i.e. medical expenses), finding an alternate resource for their need, a referral to the prevention case manager, or connection to shelter as a last resort.



# + Community Proposal for FY2014



- CVHC's housing locator will be used to house all those being re-housed with rapid re-housing/prevention funds.
- Micah will shift a portion of its state grant dollars from cold weather shelter funding to rapid re-housing, making up for it through local government budgets
- These details are being submitted through a single community application to DHCD, which also includes FAHASS—a recipient of HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS)
- Local application score is based on how well your community system is designed to minimize barriers to shelter and barriers to permanent housing.

# + Pending community challenges

- Exploring a **line of credit or rent assistance “fund”** to better manage the high volume of cash flow being issued for re-housing activities (approximately \$15,000 a month at its highest)
- Strengthening **triage** processes to better connect those at risk of homelessness with something other than the homeless service system.
- Revising **mission statements** to be more representative of the holistic care being offered to those falling through the cracks
- Determining what, if any, programs will need to be expanded/started to **better address the needs of the “above the funnel” population.**



# We are doing something right!

- Richmond, Roanoke and Charlottesville have all contacted us at DHCD's recommendation to learn what and how we are doing what we are doing.
- We've been invited to share our strategy with the Richmond CoC in June. And Charlottesville visited this week to learn about our efforts.
- The community has more than 75 people under rapid re-housing this year, despite getting a late start in August.
- Micah was accepted to participate in a state learning collaborative, set up to help agencies implement best practices.

