

# London Justice Centre

*Presentation to Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee*

**June 14, 2022**

# Overview

## 1. Background

- Justice Centres in Ontario; What is a Justice Centre?
- Long Term-Vision of Justice Centres in Ontario; Current Context

## 2. London Justice Centre

- Steering Committee
- Focus on Young Adults
- Participant Pathways
- Early Outcomes

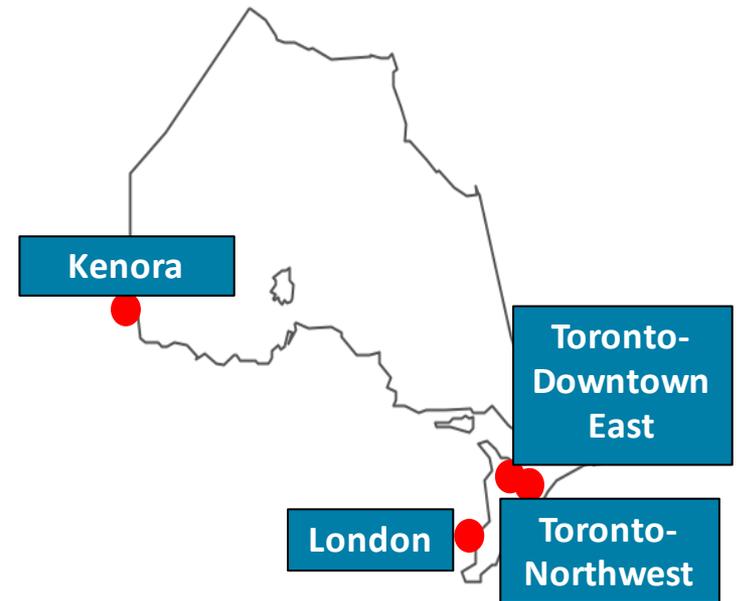
## 3. St. Leonard's Community Services

## 4. Youth Opportunities Unlimited

# Justice Centres in Ontario

Justice Centres are **innovating the way justice is delivered** to vulnerable populations and marginalized communities.

- Justice Centres are a **new community court model** which increases access to justice and targets the factors underlying criminal behaviour.
- The model draws from **innovative justice practices around the world**, while addressing the unique needs of these distinct communities.
- In September 2020, the **London Justice Centre pilot was the first to launch in Ontario**.
- In May 2021, the **Toronto Northwest** (youth focus) and **Toronto Downtown East** (adult chronic offenders at the intersection of mental health, addictions and homelessness) pilots were launched.
- The **Kenora** pilot is designed to address Indigenous overrepresentation and promote healing is anticipated to launch Summer 2022 (TBC).



**Justice Centres**

Ministry of the Attorney General

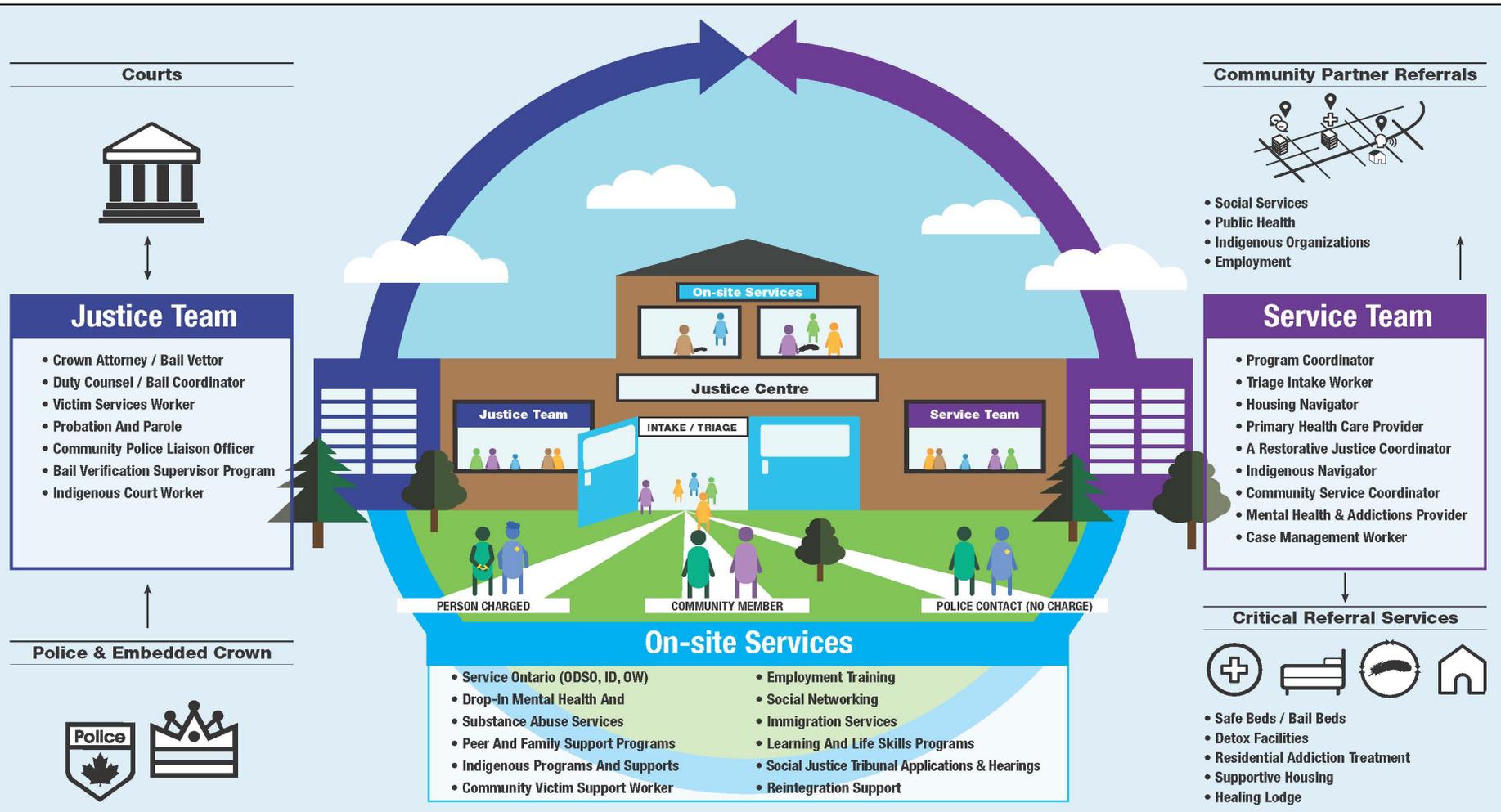


# What is a Justice Centre?

- Introduced in over 70 communities around the world, Justice Centres **move justice out of the traditional courtroom and into a community setting**. These Centres bring together justice, health, employment, education and culturally-relevant social services to address the root causes of crime, break the cycle of offending, and improve public safety and community well-being.
- The Justice Centre model **improves outcomes for offenders, victims and communities** by holding individuals accountable for their offences while connecting them to services that reduce the risk of re-offending. Central to the approach is a commitment to better support victims and communities harmed by crime.
- Justice Centres do not replace the existing court system. They work in conjunction with the courts to hold offenders accountable while connecting them to services that reduce the risk of re-offending.
- Through Justice Centres a **whole-of-government approach** can promote cross-sector collaboration and multi-agency supports for common clients in order to address the intersecting risk factors that lead to chronic offending, as well as to support improved capacity, coordination and integration with other provincial service systems and sectors, such as health, social services, and housing.

# Justice Centres – Long-Term Vision

Tailored to the unique needs of local communities, these centres co-locate justice facilities (e.g. courtrooms) with front-end supports (e.g. primary healthcare, Restorative Justice programming, mental health supports), prevention services (e.g. employment and skills training) and community re-integration supports (e.g. peer counselling).



# Current Context

- Ontario is **beginning this work with initial Pilots**, which will be evaluated in order to assess whether and how the model should be expanded.
- Through a **participatory design process**, each Pilot is being developed to reflect the local circumstances and needs of the community they are meant to serve.
- Following the onset of **COVID-19**, MAG-CLD worked with community and justice participants to identify required pilot adaptations that promote access to justice and address the accumulation of cases in the OCJ to:
  - Include both virtual and remote court proceedings;
  - Reduce the number of individuals held on remand; &
  - Improve continued access to in-person wrap-around community-based supports with a focus on connecting people to virtual services.



# London: Focus on Young Adults

Launched September 2020

The London Justice Centre provides targeted supports for **young adults aged 18-24** who are not in employment, education or training (NEET).

Operating out of a well-established local youth services hub, the London JC recognises the unique needs of emerging adults and **prioritizes meaningful connections to skills and job training programs, education supports as well as mental health and addictions services** to help participants avoid and exit the adult criminal justice system.

## ***London Has a Large Population of Young Adults in Crisis***

- Nearly one in every six cases at the London Courthouse involves a young adult aged 18-24 (*ICON, 2022*)
- Nearly 35% of cases at the London CMHA Crisis Centre – including their transitional housing program – are youth and young adults aged 16/18-24 (*CMHA Middlesex, 2018*)

## **Youth-in-Transition Early Intervention Pilot**

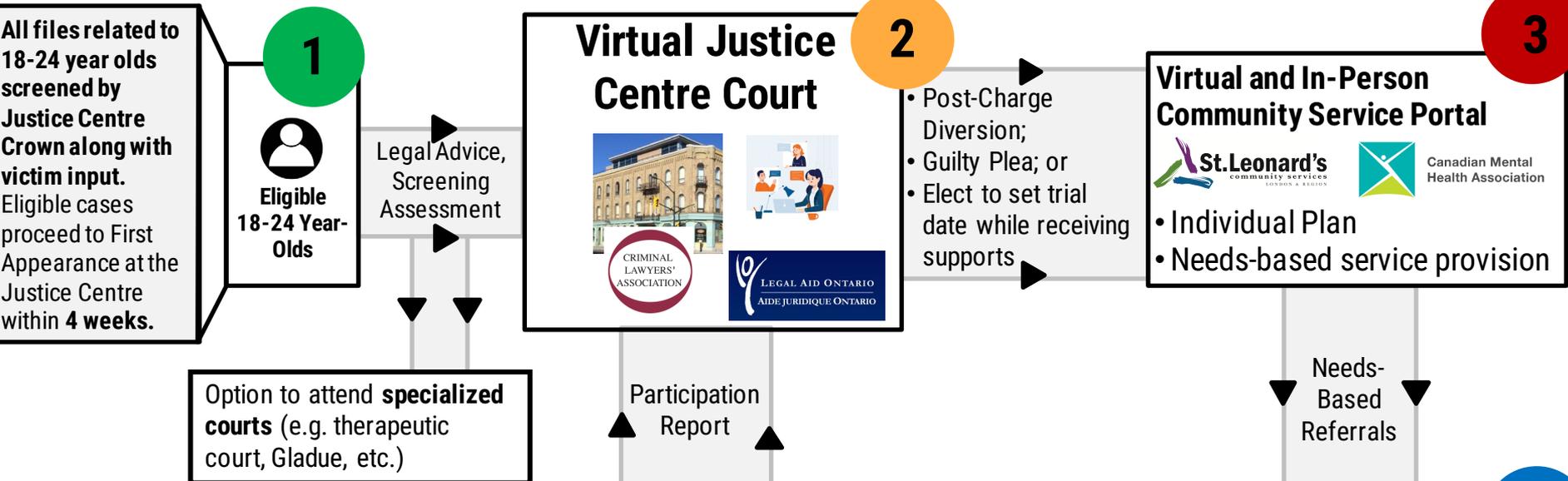
All participants are introduced to and guided through the Justice Centre by a Peer Mentor and receive tailored needs-based referrals to community services, including job training at a social enterprise, through dedicated cross-sector Community Case Management Teams.

**Justice Centres**

Ministry of the Attorney General

Ontario 

# London: Justice Centre Participant Pathways



**4** **Procedural Safeguards & Culturally-Relevant Wrap-Around Services**

- ✓ Restorative Justice Programming
- ✓ Short term intervention and counselling services
- ✓ Arts-based intervention programming
- ✓ Housing Navigation Services
- ✓ Probation Services, remote reporting at Justice Centre;
- ✓ Basic Needs Services including phone and internet access, clothing and food, hygiene supplies
- ✓ Social Service Navigation
- ✓ Legal Advice
- ✓ Reintegration Services for individuals with mental health challenges
- ✓ Housing placements for justice-involved adults
- ✓ Updating, digital/virtual accountability measures for individuals;
- ✓ Social Enterprise Training.

ATLOHSA FAMILY HEALING SERVICES | Canadian Mental Health Association | YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED | Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre | Addiction Services of Thames Valley | St. Leonard's community services | JohnHoward SOCIETY OF ONTARIO | Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services | Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General

**1 To streamline our efforts...**

- Screening, triage and risk-assessment of caseload
- Standardized Needs Assessment
- Outreach to counsel/duty counsel
- Eligible caseload prioritization

**2 To facilitate remote access...**

- Virtual platform for remote access from home
- Secure, safe access to technology onsite at Y.O.U. to remotely attend Justice Centre

**3 To coordinate services...**

- Integrated Individual Plan developed
- Participation Agreement to complete Accountability Measures
- Community-based supports

**4 To address risk factors...**

- Referrals to community based and onsite social services
- During COVID-19, remote service provision and report back to Court

# London: Early Outcomes

The London Justice Centre is being **evaluated** through a cross-sector approach to **track progress** (e.g. reductions in recidivism, improved outcomes, etc.) and to **identify opportunities for improvement**. **Early outcomes** demonstrate **accelerated access to justice; improved mental health and employment outcomes**; and the creation of **sustainable connections** with services and supports that continue beyond a participant's involvement in the criminal justice system.

## Accelerated & Enhanced Intake and Resolution Processes

- **First appearances** at the London JC are scheduled **within 4 weeks of police contact** (vs ~12 weeks at the London Courthouse).
- By the time of their **First Appearance** at the London JC, most participants have already **received disclosure, consulted with (duty) counsel, completed an in-depth Needs Assessment and developed an Individual Plan**.
- Most cases at the London JC are **completed in ~5 appearances and in less than 12 weeks**.

## Integrated Supports Tailored to the Needs of Emerging Adult Populations

- In its first year, the London JC has resulted in **1,800 days of jail, over 5,000 days of reporting probation, and over 700 court appearances avoided**.
- **100% of London JC participants received services/supports** relating to mental health, addictions, housing, employment and/or education.
  - **47%** of London JC participants who received referrals to employment training reported an **improvement in employment status** upon completing their matter at the JC
  - **60%** of London JC participants reported **improvement in their mental health** upon completing their matter at the JC



Canadian Mental  
Health Association



**St. Leonard's**  
community services  
LONDON & REGION



**YOUTH  
OPPORTUNITIES  
UNLIMITED**

# St. Leonard's Community Services, London & Region

- Long history of working in the justice system
- Multi-service agency working across sectors
- History of working with both police services and courts to provide pre- and post-charge diversion
- History of working collaboratively with other community agencies and service providers
- Accredited under both community-based supports & social services and youth justice standards

# SLCS Intake and Case Management

- New referrals meet with SLCS case management for a 40-minute intake where they answer a series of screening questions, GAIN-SS, and are given the opportunity to talk about the offence(s) from their perspective
- A “Participation Agreement” is then co-created by case manager and participant to best address the needs that caused CJS involvement/risk-factors for further involvement, while utilizing their strengths
- Participants are then case managed by either SLCS or CMHA depending on their mental health needs

# Individual Accountability Measures

## NEEDS-BASED/SPECIFIC TO THE OFFENCE

- Employment counselling, social enterprise opportunities, and paid employment training
- Housing supports
- Mental health counselling and psychiatry access
- Addiction services
- Life skills and financial literacy support
- Culturally specific support for Indigenous participants through N'Amérind Friendship Centre
- Access to education
- Access to healthcare
- Online wellness modules
- Restitution/charity donations
- Apology letters



## STRENGTH-BASED

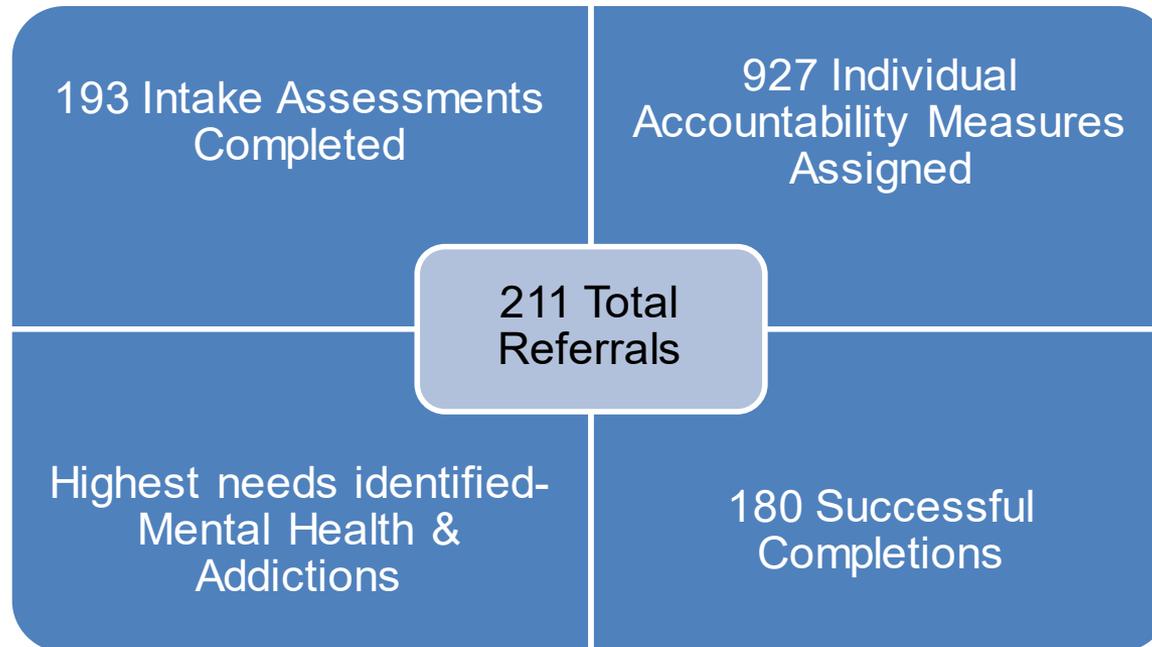
- Letters of reflection
- Art projects
- Art therapy activities
- Home building projects (e.g. bird houses, furniture for donation)
- Photo essays
- Vision boards
- “How to” presentations using participants’ expertise (e.g. how to start your own business)



# Restorative Justice and Public Health

- “Restorative justice asserts that one of the functions of a community is to promote the well-being of all its members, and recognizes that a community is responsible for all its members” (Pranis, 2001).
- “Mutual responsibility is the loom on which the fabric of community is woven. Crime represents a failure of responsibility—often on many levels, individual, family, and community. Our response to crime must strengthen or build relationships and emphasize and re-establish mutual responsibility on all levels... based on a pattern of answering to and for one another “ (Pranis, 2000).

# What has occurred to date?



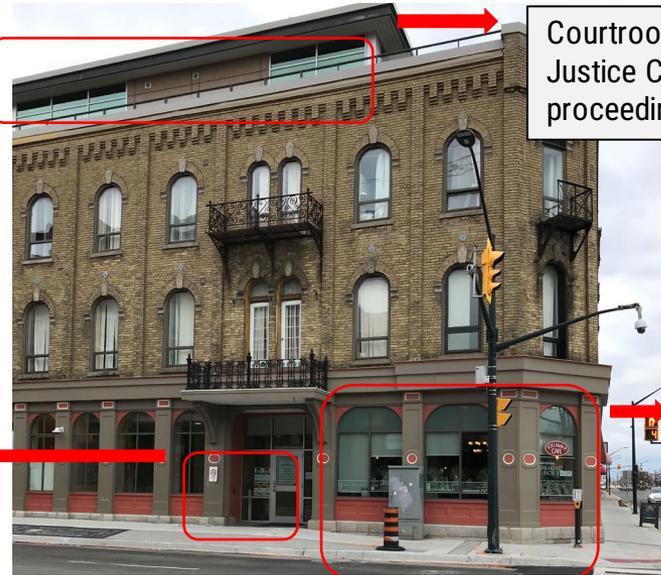
# London Justice Centre in Community

- Operating out of Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.), the London JC recognizes the unique needs of emerging adults and **prioritizes meaningful connections to skills and job training programs, education supports as well as mental health and addictions services** to help participants avoid and exit the adult criminal justice system.
- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Justice Centre provided in-person services at Y.O.U., supporting safe and consistent **access to justice** for marginalized young adults.



Justice Centre Crown,  
Duty Counsel and staff  
offices, including  
meeting space for Case  
Management Team

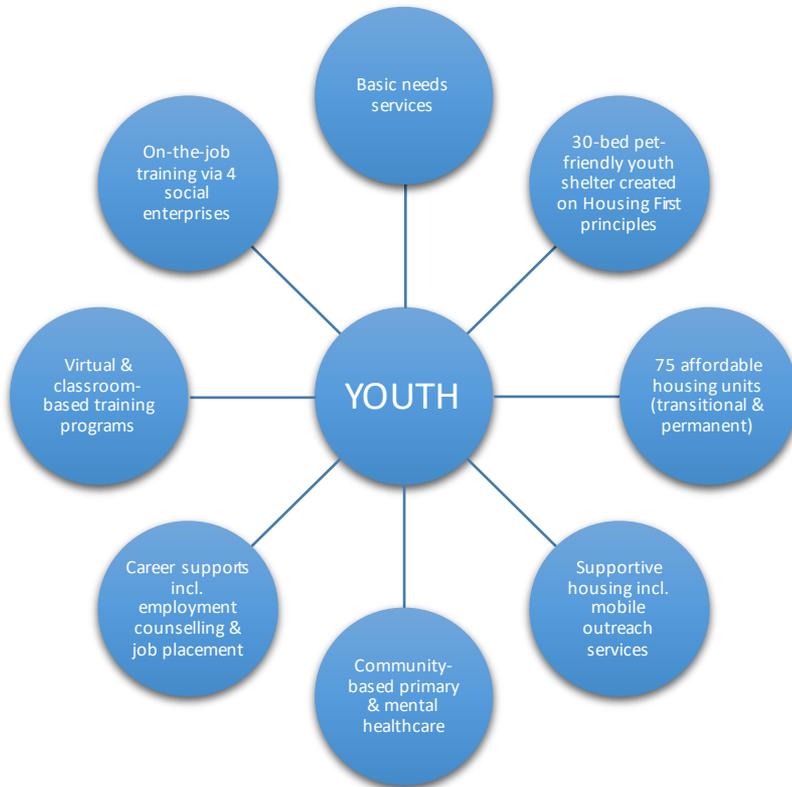
Justice Centre Entrance  
and Intake  
Office/COVID-19  
Screening



Courtroom for in-person  
Justice Centre  
proceedings (date TBC)

Social  
enterprise  
training and  
job  
placement  
at Y.O.U.  
Café

# YOU's Model of Care



- Services are low-barriered, youth-focused and highly integrated
- YOU works closely with partners in healthcare, education, social services and business
- Housing programs include diversion, housing outreach and mobile housing supports
- Social enterprises provide hands-on training forming part of employment preparation supports in a paid work internship model
- Youth in all programs have full access to employment supports through YOU's Employment Ontario and other employment programming

# Transition Services

- 40 affordable housing units
- Daily meals and food security programming
- Health and wellness programming
- Mobile Housing Team
- Community based healthcare



# Career Services

- Employment Counselling
- Job Placement Programs
- Skills Training Programs



# Social Enterprises

- YOU Made It Café
- Mushed Jams & Preserves
- Recycling and Woodshop
- Pre-Construction Training
- <https://store.you.ca/>



# YOU's Most Recent Projects:

## 340 Richmond St

- 6 housing units for youth aging out of CAS care
- 24/7 wraparound support



## Housing First Youth Shelter

- 30-bed pet-friendly facility
- Shelter and basic needs while supported in securing housing



# Under Development: Joan's Place

- 7-storey building
- 39 deeply affordable apartments:
  - 16 studios
  - 15 one-bedrooms
  - 8 two-bedrooms
- Rooftop Children's Play Area, Parenting / Reading Room, Teaching Kitchen
- Youth Wellness Hub including housing, employment, education & healthcare program

