PATH Process:

An Indigenous Community Grown Journey
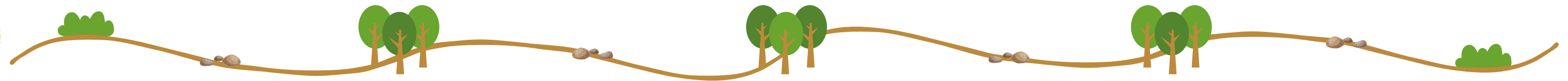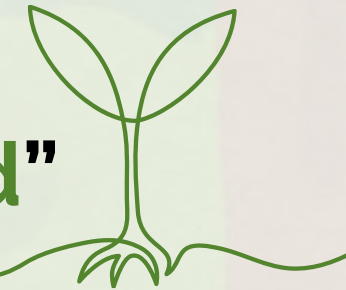
PATH Process: An Indigenous Community Grown Journey

This is a Living Document to be tailored by four pilot communities.
Feedback will be used to grow a national level framework for
future communities who tailor and implement PATH,
looping back to continually improve the Process for all.

START

END

Acknowledgement: "We are stewards of the land"

We acknowledge the many unceded traditional Indigenous territories, including the Métis Nation homeland, from coast-to-coast-to-coast.

We thank and honour the past and present ancestors
and guardians of the lands, winds, waterways, and skies,
whose footsteps have marked these paths for generations.

PREFACE

PATH is an Indigenous-led process developed for use in **Reaching Home**,
in which the Directives mandate that a common and unified assessment process
must be applied across all population groups in a community to evaluate
service needs and assist in prioritizing housing resources.

Further, Reaching Home states that an assessment is part of more in-depth or
intensive service planning to gain a deeper understanding of people's needs, strengths,
and preferences. Overall, the assessment process spans the full continuum of interactions
with people as they are supported within their housing journey.

The need for a tool to assist with prioritization directly speaks to system failure.
The PATH Process is not a solution but a necessity to bridge the gap
of a failed system that continues to operate with inadequate housing stock
and supports combined with a lack of mental health and
addiction services despite a growing national homelessness crisis.

START

END

Notably, **rates of homelessness among Indigenous persons are significantly higher than non-Indigenous persons**, resulting in Indigenous persons comprising an inequitable portion of those experiencing homelessness.

These disproportionate rates continue for other equity-deserving groups. Despite this Indigenous-led effort to create the PATH Process, lasting system change cannot be found in prioritization but instead in adequately funded housing stock, supports, and services, which reflects disproportionate rates.
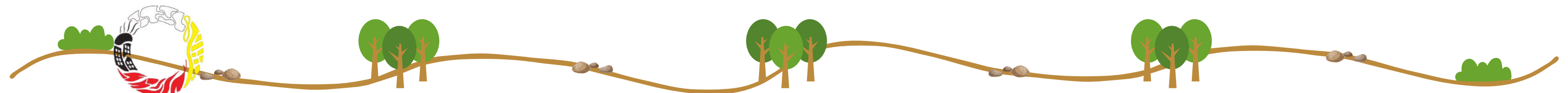
For the purposes of the PATH Process,
the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee's (2019)
Indigenous homelessness definition will be used:

"Indigenous Peoples who are in the state of having no home due to
colonization, trauma and/or whose social, cultural, economic, and political
conditions place them in poverty. Having no home includes: those who
alternate between shelter and unsheltered, living on the street, couch surfing,
using emergency shelters, living in unaffordable, inadequate, substandard and
unsafe accommodations or living without the security of tenure;
anyone regardless of age, released from facilities (such as hospitals,
mental health and addiction treatment centres, prisons, transition houses),
fleeing unsafe homes as a result of abuse in all its definitions,
and any youth transitioning from all forms of care."
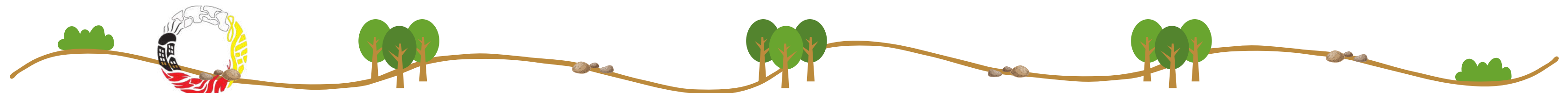
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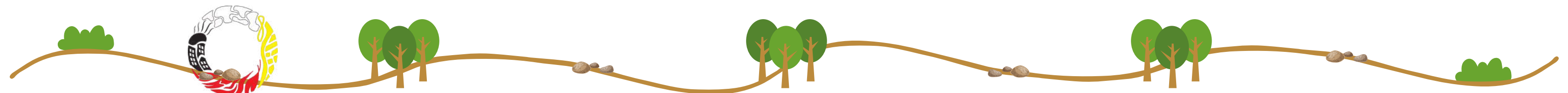
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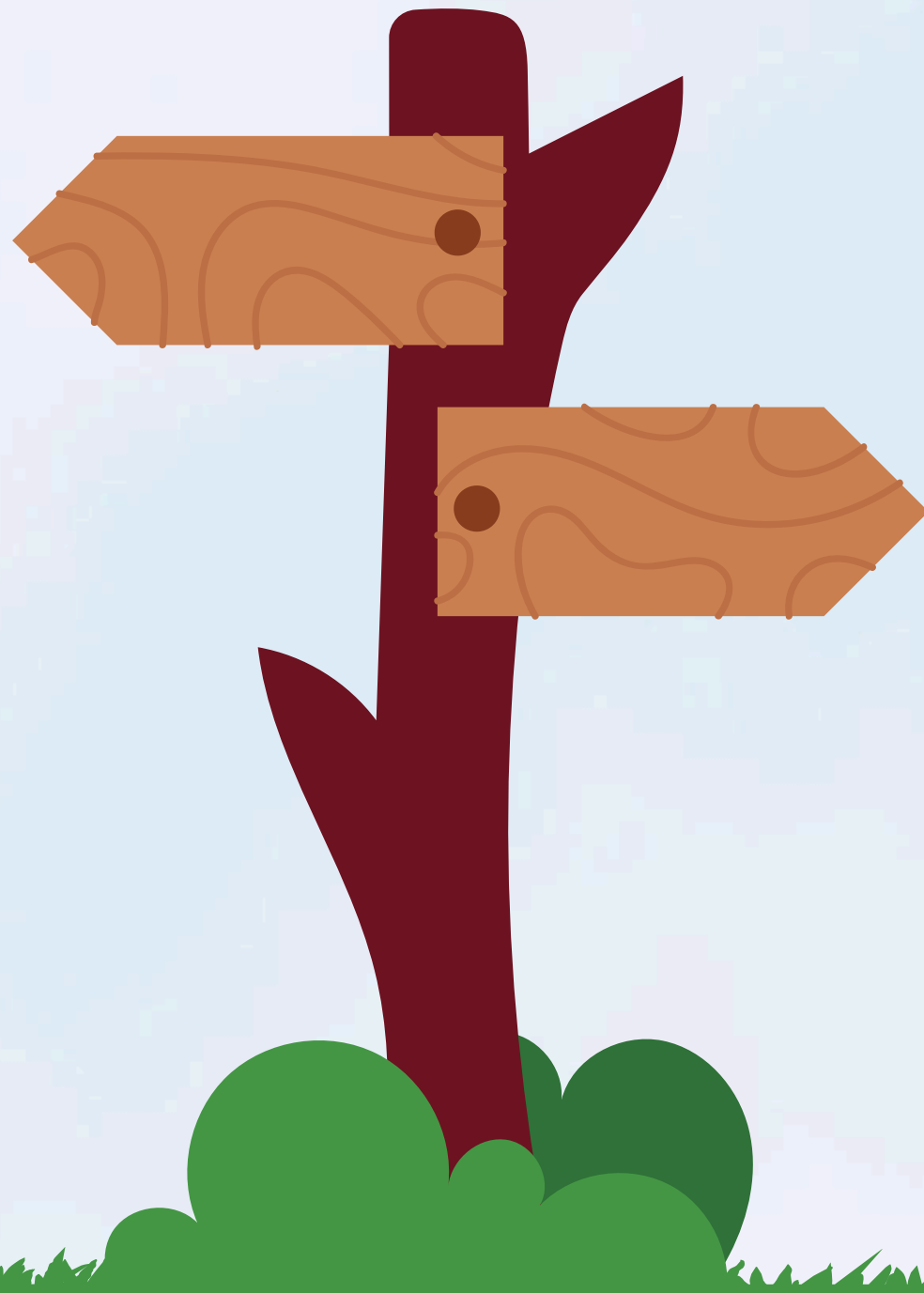
SUMMARY

Within this document,
Path Walker refers to <u>**both**</u>
workers and **persons with living experience**
to emphasize and embody the importance
of power equality within the relationship.

START
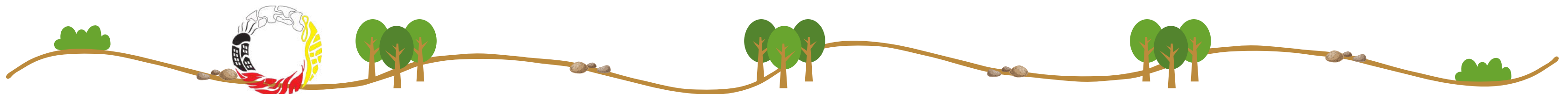
END

SUMMARY

Purpose

The PATH (Personalized Assistance to Housing) Process identifies the Path Walker's (living experience) housing vision, resiliencies, needs, and system-level barriers and obstacles to accessing and retaining housing.

Throughout the process, relational, strength-based, trauma-informed and empowerment practices are foundational elements that connect the person with matched housing opportunities and an interim bridge of services and resources.

Lastly, the PATH Process provides an **Indigenous-led prioritization component**.

START

END
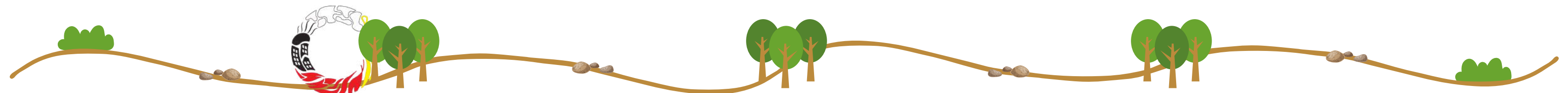
SUMMARY

Instructions

PATH can be used with **individuals (youth, adults, and seniors), couples, or families.** The PATH Process, between the Path Walkers *(Worker(s) and Person(s) with living experience),* may be brief (a single meeting) or occur over several meetings.

The **Primary Path Walker (living experience) shares their story conversationally** <u>BUT</u> at their pace. Further, telling their story is a 'living' record & therefore, a continual process, which requires the Worker(s) to update the recorded PATH Process information periodically.

This relational approach allows time for safety and trust to be built, and **deeper narratives may be disclosed when the person is ready** to tell their story.

START   END
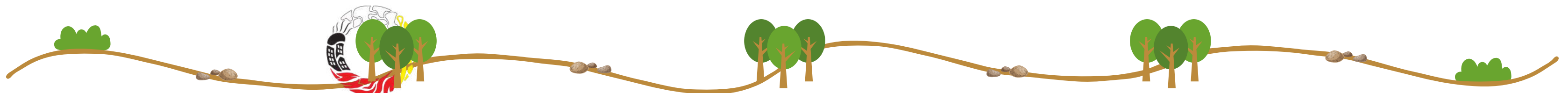
Path Walker [worker] Profile:
Section containing identity and work setting information will be completed before the *initial meeting*.

Disclaimer:
Workers must complete this section before each meeting, which provides reminders and accountability for case note recording and limits of confidentiality.

Sections

Overview

Checklist:
Tool used to communicate program, worker, and person responsibilities/ expectations with the Path Walker (living experience) and will be completed at the beginning of the *initial meeting* and *before proceeding* with the PATH Process.

This checklist provides transparency for proceeding with the PATH Process and will be tailored by each community.

START
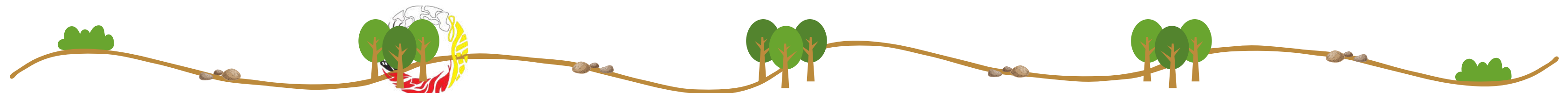
END

Path Walker [living experience] Profile:
Section contains identity, health status, household composition, and housing/homelessness information. This section will be completed at the *initial meeting* and *updated* as required.

Community Connections:
Section contains information on organizations, programs and/or workers the Path Walker (living experience) is connected to. This section will be completed at the *initial meeting* and *updated* as required.

Sections

Overview

Housing Vision, Resiliencies, and Needs: -AND- **Barriers & Obstacles to Accessing Housing:**
These sections will *start in the initial meeting*. *Over time*, as the PATH Walker [worker] learns about the person's story, newly identified information can be recorded and *updated* as required.

Meetings Information:
Information on meeting details, safety check-in, and interim supports/ resources. This section will be completed *after each meeting*.

START

END

PATH Process – Path Walker [worker] Profile

Instructions: Users must <u>register</u> in the system to complete their profile

Information: *Note: Items can be customized by communities.* *Items marked with * are required.*	Response Options: *Note: Options can be customized by communities.*	Why is this information included?
Name* Pronouns Organization* Contact Information Type of Worker	Last, First Drop-down Options: She/Her, He/Him, They/Them, Ze (or Zie)/Zir, Sie/Hir, Other ____ Drop-down (community defined) Email: Phone: Ext: Drop-down (community defined)	Identification
Work Setting	Drop-down Options: Office, Outreach/Community, Both, Other _____	Wise Practice – Accessibility
Does the Path Walker (worker) have access to the community(ies)'s CA shared database?	Drop-down Options: Yes, No, Other ____	Wise Practice – Community-wide Circles of Care
Self-identify as Indigenous or a part of a Racialized/visible minority community Note: This info will not be visible to ALL users	Drop-down Options: First Nation ([non]status or [non]treaty), Inuit, Métis, Racialized person, Unknown, Prefer not to answer Specify (optional): _____	Wise Practice – Understanding & acknowledging the percentage of workers who are Indigenous or Racialized person/visible minority, and have lived experience
Self-identify as having lived experience of homelessness? Note: This info will not be visible to ALL users	Drop-down Options: Yes, No, Prefer not to answer	

START

END

Disclaimer

Instructions: Users must complete this pop-up window upon *each login.*

Documentation is required to be observable and factual versus subjective information, as records have the potential to be viewed by parties who were not intended to see the information. Specifically, organizations and/or workers can receive a subpoena that requests confidential client information.
A legal subpoena is a mandate to provide written records or oral court testimony with or without client consent.

I acknowledge that I have read and fully understand the disclaimer information. I acknowledge my professional responsibility to ensure all recorded information is observable and factual.

Type Initials ____

Limits of confidentiality were summarized with the Path Walker [living experience] at the onset of the meeting.

Type Initials ____

Check List

Program:

☐ Review program supports

☐ Review the reality of waiting lists and prioritization

☐ Review of housing options, including rules/boundaries

Worker:

☐ Review the level of worker support, including expected intervals of check-ins

☐ Provide information on possible imminent referrals

Person:

☐ Requirements for being document ready (i.e., tax notice of assessment, identification)

☐ Review the level of control over Path Walker's (living experience) preferred choice of housing options

Upon providing the Path Walker (living experience) with the required information, ask the following questions:

Do you have any questions?

After hearing the responsibilities and expectations (program, worker, and you) would you like to move onward with the PATH Process? [Yes, No, Uncertain, Other____]

Preference for drop-in or booked appointments?
[Drop-in, Booked, Mix of Drop-in & Booked, No Preference, or Other ____]

During our meetings, do you have any accessibility needs? [Short Answer Field]

START   END

PATH Process – Primary
Path Walker [living experience] Profile

Instructions: This section contains identity, health status, household composition, and housing/homelessness information. Complete at the <u>initial meeting</u> and <u>update</u> as required.

Topic Area: Identity

Information: *Note: Items can be customized by communities.* *Items marked with * are required.*	Response Options: *Note: Options can be customized by communities.*	Why is this information included?
Name* Gender* Pronouns Contact Information*	Short Answer Field (Last, First OR Preferred Name) Specify ____ Specify ____ She/Her, He/Him, They/Them, Ze (or Zie)/Zir, Sie/Hir, Other ____ Email: Phone: Mailing Address: Other ____	Identification
Date of Birth*	MM/DD/YYYY	Prioritization – Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix
Self-identify as Indigenous* Note: Communities can tailor this question to include status and non-status	Drop-down Options: First Nation ([non]status or [non]treaty), Inuit, Métis, Unknown, Prefer not to answer	Wise Practice – Acknowledging and addressing the disproportionate number of people experiencing homelessness who are Indigenous
Self-Identify: 2SLGBTQQIA+ Community* Terminology Resources: 1.) [2SLGBTQI+ Terminology](#) 2.) https://www.queerevents.ca/hubs/queer-101	Drop-down Options: Yes, No, Unknown, Prefer not to answer, Other	Prioritization – Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix **Continued next page >**

START

END

**PATH Process – Primary
Path Walker [living experience] Profile**

Instructions: This section contains identity, health status, household composition, and housing/homelessness information. Complete at the <u>initial meeting</u> and <u>update</u> as required.

Topic Area: Identity (cont'd)

Self-Identify: Equity Deserving Groups*

- ☐ Racialized person
- ☐ Specify [optional] _____
- ☐ Immigrant
- ☐ Refugee
- ☐ Person with disabilities (self-defined)
- ☐ Veteran
- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Youth in extended care
- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ Other _____ e.g., criminal record, substance use disorder, domestic violence, single parent

Wise Practice – Acknowledging and addressing the disproportionate number of people experiencing homelessness who are from equity-deserving groups
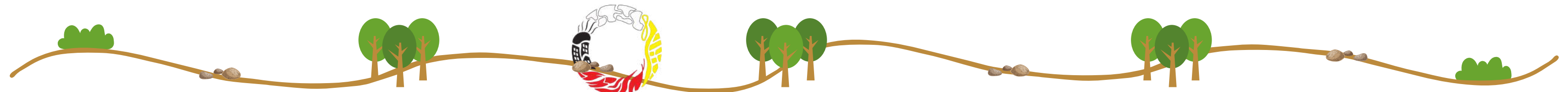
Home/affiliated community

Short Answer Field

Wise Practice – Understanding and addressing relocation from home/affiliated community as a barrier to accessing housing

Relocation

Short Answer Field (location traveled from)
Specify reason for relocation:

- ☐ Medical travel
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Mainstream Child and Family Services
- ☐ Natural disaster (fire, flood, etc.) Specify: _____
- ☐ Crisis or safety concern: Specify: _____
- ☐ Immigration
- ☐ Refugee
- ☐ Access resources/services unavailable in the community Specify: _____
- ☐ Other: _____

PATH Process – Primary
Path Walker [living experience] Profile

Instructions: This section contains identity, health status, household composition, and housing/homelessness information. Complete at the <u>initial meeting</u> and <u>update</u> as required.

Topic Area: Health Status

Information:
Note: Items can be customized by communities.
*Items marked with * are required.*

Does the person have a severe _____, which is defined as affecting their ability to access housing?*

Response Options:
Note: Options can be customized by communities.

Check all that apply and specify [drop-down] if diagnosed, presenting, or reported

- ☐ Mental illness
- ☐ Physical illness
- ☐ Addiction
- ☐ Disability

Why is this information included?

Prioritization – Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix

Topic Area: Household Composition

Household Members & Dependents*

*Include ALL family (including chosen family) and others who will reside in the household

Note: Communities can tailor this question to include status and non-status

For each household member indicate:

- Age (MM/DD/YYYY)
- Relationship:
- Dependant child, Dependant Youth, Significant other/spouse, Extended family, Chosen family, or Other _____

☐ Is the household member pregnant with a due date within 3 months?

Identify as Indigenous:
First Nation ([non]status or [non]treaty), Inuit, Métis, Unknown, Prefer not to answer, Other

Identify as member of 2SLGBTQQIA+ community:
Yes, No, Unknown, Prefer not to answer, Other

Prioritization – Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix

**PATH Process – Primary
Path Walker [living experience] Profile**

Instructions: This section contains identity, health status, household composition, and housing/homelessness information. Complete at the initial meeting and update as required.

Topic Area: Household Composition cont'd

Cont'd >   Household Members & Dependents*

*Include ALL family (including chosen family) and others who will reside in the household

For each household member indicate:

Identify with an equity seeking group:

- [ ] Racialized persons   Specify [optional] _____
- [ ] Immigrant
- [ ] Refugee
- [ ] Person with disabilities (self-defined)
- [ ] Veteran [Canadian Military or RCMP]
- [ ] Prefer not to answer
- [ ] Other_____ e.g., criminal record, substance use disorder, domestic violence, woman, single parent, youth aging out of foster care

Prioritization – Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix

Child & Family Services Involvement*

Note: Age will be defined by the community

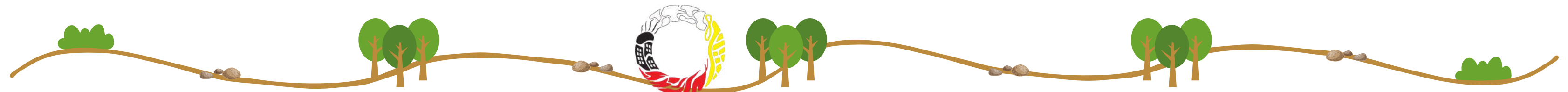**For each household dependant under the age of [18], indicate:**

Is Child & Family Services involved:
Yes or No

If Yes, is the dependant in Child & Family Services care?
Yes or No
AND Anticipated date of return: MM/DD/YYYY

If No, is there risk of Child & Family Services becoming involved due to homelessness?
Yes, No, Uncertain, Prefer not to answer, Other _____

Prioritization – Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix

PATH Process – Primary
Path Walker [living experience] Profile

Instructions: This section contains identity, health status, household composition, and housing/homelessness information. Complete at the <u>initial meeting</u> and <u>update</u> as required.

Topic Area: Housing & Homelessness

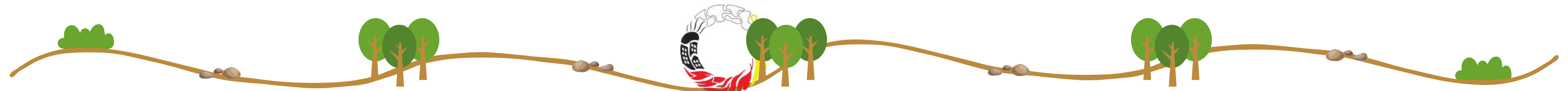| **Information:** *Note: Items can be customized by communities. Items marked with * are required.*	**Response Options:** *Note: Options can be customized by communities.*	**Why is this information included?**
Total amount of time spent homeless over the past 4 years?*	Drop-down (# of days)	Prioritization – Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix
Current situation* Note: Options based on the **Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee's (2019) Indigenous Homelessness Definition**	Check all that apply: ☐ Alternating between shelter and unsheltered ☐ Living on the street ☐ Couch surfing ☐ Using emergency shelters ☐ Living in unaffordable, inadequate, substandard, and/or unsafe accommodations. Specify [optional] _____ ☐ Living without the security of tenure [i.e., landlord can end tenancy at any time] ☐ Released from a facility (Indicate type: hospitals, mental health and addiction treatment centers, prisons, transition houses). Specify [optional] _____ ☐ Fleeing an unsafe home as a result of abuse (in all its definitions) ☐ Youth transitioning from care (all forms) ☐ Other _____ Notes:	Prioritization – Circle Guide
Available for Housing Date*	MM/DD/YYYY	Prioritization – Circle Guide

START   END

PATH Process – Community Connections

Topic Area: Community

Information:
Note: Information items can be edited by communities.
*Items marked with * are required.*

Workers, programs, or organizations connected to the Path Walker [living experience]

Response Options:
Note: Responses can be customized by communities.

Worker:
Organization & Program:
Method of Contact: phone, email, in-person
Date of last connection: YYYY/MM/DD
Notes:

Why is this information included?

Wise Practice – Community-wide Circles of Care

START

END

PATH Process –
Housing Vision, Resiliencies, and Needs

Instructions: Record housing vision, resiliencies, and needs disclosed in the initial meeting. Over time, as the PATH Walker [worker] learns about the person's story, newly identified information can be recorded and updated as required.

Topic Area: Housing Vision

Prompts – Where do you see yourself living? What does being housed mean to you?

Information:
*Note: Information items can be edited by communities. Items marked with * are required.*

Response Options:
Note: Responses can be customized by communities.

Why is this information included?

Preferred housing location*

☐ Do not exclude based on preference, open to all locations

Drop-down [Tailored to local options]

Wise Practice – Empowerment Approach

Prioritization – Circle Guide

Preferred Housing Type(s)*

Note: Housing types will be defined by community (such as what is low-barrier supportive housing).

Check all that apply:

☐ Youth
☐ Senior
☐ Transitional/permanent supportive
☐ High acuity supportive
☐ Low barrier supportive housing
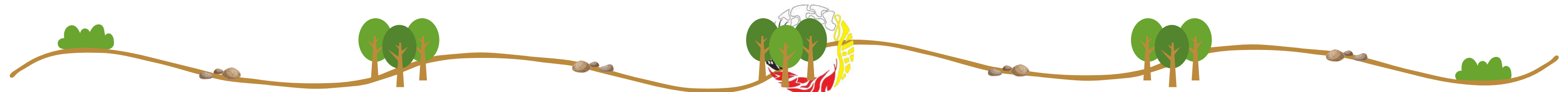☐ Culturally appropriate housing
☐ Other _____

Wise Practice – Empowerment Approach

Prioritization – Circle Guide

Continued next page >

START   END

PATH Process –
Housing Vision, Resiliencies, and Needs

Instructions: Record housing vision, resiliencies, and needs disclosed in the initial meeting.
Over time, as the PATH Walker [worker] learns about the person's story,
newly identified information can be recorded and updated as required.

Topic Area: Housing Vision cont'd   *Prompts – Where do you see yourself living? What does being housed mean to you?*

Housing Requirements & Preferences*

Check all that apply [indicate if preference or required]:

- ☐ Accessibility/ADL Unit Modifications   Specify _____
- ☐ No stairs in unit
- ☐ Service/emotional support animal
- ☐ Pet-friendly
- ☐ Use of wheelchair, scooter, walking aid, or mobility issues and require elevator/lift
- ☐ Accessible smoking unit (e.g., balcony)
- ☐ Visitors allowed
- ☐ Other _____
  (e.g. house, apartment, basement suite, garage, yard, balcony)

Wise Practice – Empowerment Approach

Prioritization – Circle Guide

Topic Area: Resiliencies

Information:
*Note: Information items can be edited by communities.
Items marked with * are required.*

Response Options:
Note: Responses can be customized by communities.

Why is this information included?

Strengths*
Use this tool to identify strengths

1.____
2.____
3.____

Wise Practice – Strength-based Approach

Prioritization – Circle Guide

Hobbies*
Hobbies Prompt - *What do you like to do to keep yourself busy?*

1.____
2.____
3.____

START

END

PATH Process –
Housing Vision, Resiliencies, and Needs

Instructions: Record housing vision, resiliencies, and needs disclosed in the initial meeting. <u>Over time</u>, as the PATH Walker [worker] learns about the person's story, newly identified information can be recorded and <u>updated</u> as required.

Topic Area: Needs

Prompt - *What are your immediate spots of high tension or difficulty,which are in the way of you accessing or keeping housing, that we can help address? Afterwards we can look at the rest.*

Information:
Note: Information items can be edited by communities.
*Items marked with * are required.*

Top 3 needs (i.e., action items) required for <u>accessing</u> housing and <u>retaining</u> housing*

Note: Do not list housing as a need. Needs are defined as what a person requires to access and retain housing. For example, it could be documentation, financial resources, mental health support, or addictions support. Even access to transportation to arrive to work on time could be a need. Needs are defined collaboratively between Path Walkers and only the top 3 imminent needs are listed. These needs can be replaced if a higher priority need arises, or the item is completed.
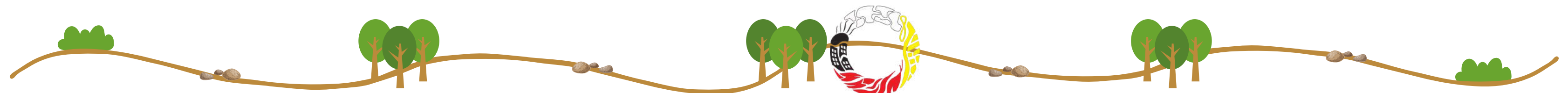
Response Options:
Note: Responses can be customized by communities.

1. ____
2. ____
3. ____

Why is this information included?

Wise Practice – Bridge of Services and Resources

START

END

PATH Process –
Barriers & Obstacles to Accessing Housing

Instructions: Record barriers and obstacles disclosed in the initial meeting.
Over time, as the PATH Walker [worker] learns about the person's story,
newly identified information can be recorded and updated as required.

This section is NOT meant to be a question-based approach but rather a tool to easily record disclosed barriers and obstacles discovered during a conversational approach.

Prompt: What is blocking or holding you back from successfully accessing and keeping your housing?

Topic Area: Barriers & Obstacles – Housing

Instructions: Required - Review each numbered item and if applicable, then use next column to check off all CURRENT barriers and obstacles experienced. **Optional** - Additional information can be specified in the far-right hand column.

Additional information (optional)

1. Unable to afford housing costs

Due to (check all that apply):
- ☐ Upfront lump sum payment for house insurance
- ☐ Damage deposit
- ☐ First & last month rent
- ☐ Monthly rental rate exceeds budget
- ☐ Need co-signer
- ☐ Requires address for rental funding
- ☐ Waiting for rent subsidy (long period of time) or late payments
- ☐ Other _____

Continued next page >

START   END

Prompt: *What is blocking or holding you back from successfully accessing and keeping your housing?*

Topic Area: Barriers & Obstacles – Housing cont'd

Instructions: Required - Review each numbered item and if applicable, then use next column to check off all <u>CURRENT</u> barriers and obstacles experienced. **Optional** - Additional information can be specified in the far-right hand column.

Additional information (optional)
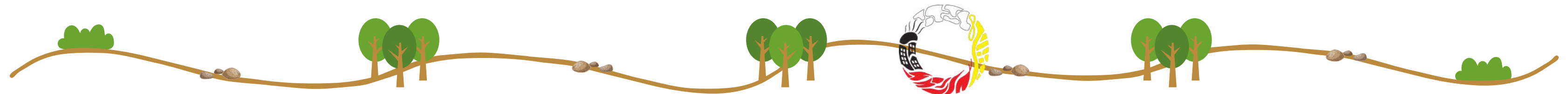
2. Not eligible for Housing Program(s)

Due to (check all that apply):
- ☐ Couch surfing
- ☐ Not meeting acuity level for housing
- ☐ Size of household
  [i.e., family with many members requiring a large home]
- ☐ Income exceeds eligibility criteria
- ☐ Requires support worker
- ☐ Other _____

Continued next page >

Topic Area: Barriers & Obstacles – Housing cont'd

Instructions: Required - Review each numbered item and if applicable, then use next column to check off all <u>CURRENT</u> barriers and obstacles experienced. **Optional** - Additional information can be specified in the far-right hand column.

Additional information (optional)

3. Mismatched Housing
–
☐ Passed on housing option
☐ Loss of housing retention

Due to (check all that apply):

☐ Unsafe housing - Specify (such as, substance use/violence)
☐ Location - Specify (such as, transit, near basic amenities (grocery store), disconnected from home community, fear of neighbourhood)
☐ Housing policies/programs - Specify (such as, visitors, pets, smoking access)
☐ Housing size does not accommodate their dependents - Specify (such as, children in care, extended family, chosen family/significant others)
☐ Requires housing specific to age - Specify (such as, seniors or youth housing)
☐ Requires higher level of housing supports - Specify (such as, mental health including subclinical, addictions, nursing, meals, etc.)
☐ Requires transitional housing (i.e., hybrid between shelter and housing)
☐ Requires low-barrier supportive housing - Specify _____
☐ Faith-based housing option not a good fit
☐ Dwindling post-housing supports - Specify _____
☐ Lease (i.e., required to sign year lease vs. preference is month-to-month)
☐ Other _____

Prompt: *What is blocking or holding you back from successfully accessing and keeping your housing?*

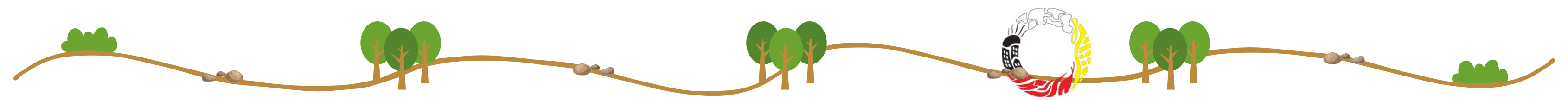## Topic Area: Document Ready

Instructions: Required - Review each numbered item and if applicable, then use next column to check off all <u>CURRENT</u> barriers and obstacles experienced. **Optional** - Additional information can be specified in the far-right hand column.

Additional information (optional)

4. Difficulty obtaining documents required to accessing housing

Indicate required document(s):

- ☐ Notice of assessment
- ☐ Identification - Specify _____
- ☐ References
- ☐ Confirmation of finances (budget) letter
- ☐ Rental form
- ☐ Bank account
- ☐ Credit score
- ☐ Notice of eviction OR landlord tenant board summons
- ☐ Other _____

Due to (check all that apply):

- ☐ Missing documents due to 60's scoop
- ☐ Non-registered birth
- ☐ Ministry of Child and Family Services Involvement
- ☐ Relocation
- ☐ Cost of obtaining documents
- ☐ No fixed address
- ☐ Require ID to obtain the required document
- ☐ Excessive amounts of paperwork to complete
- ☐ Other _____

START

END

Prompt: *What is blocking or holding you back from successfully accessing and keeping your housing?*

Topic Area: Stereotypes, Discrimination, & Racism

Instructions: Required - Review each numbered item and if applicable, then use next column to check off all <u>CURRENT</u> barriers and obstacles experienced. **Optional** - Additional information can be specified in the far-right hand column.

Additional information (optional)

5. Housing application refused or de-prioritized due to stereotypes, discrimination, and/or racism

Due to (check all that apply):

- [ ] Self-identification as Indigenous
- [ ] Self-identification as a racialized person
- [ ] Name provided on the application
- [ ] Source of income
- [ ] Recipient of rental subsidy
- [ ] Assumed perception of risk by landlord (such as, addictions/solvent use, mental illness, sex worker, history of chronic homelessness etc.)
- [ ] Rental history (such as, previous arrears, evicted etc.)
- [ ] Internal organizational hierarchy for housing placements
- [ ] Exclusion from accessing program/service due to past concerns
- [ ] Housing option opted out of serving the homeless population
- [ ] Identified as transitioning from a correctional facility
- [ ] Physical appearance (including clothing, etc.)
- [ ] Support worker present during the rental process
- [ ] Large family size
- [ ] Pets
- [ ] Other _____

START

END

Topic Area: Supports

Instructions: Required - Review each numbered item and if applicable, then use next column to check off all <u>CURRENT</u> barriers and obstacles experienced. **Optional** - Additional information can be specified in the far-right hand column.

Additional information (optional)

6. Requires housing supports to obtain and retain housing

Specify required supports/resources:
- ☐ Mental Health Supports
- ☐ Trauma Specific Supports -
  Specify if intergenerational   Yes ___ No___ Unknown___
- ☐ Substance Use/Addictions Supports
- ☐ Grief Supports
- ☐ Disability Supports
- ☐ Home Care Supports
- ☐ Other _____

7. Unable to connect with a needed service/resource required for accessing or retaining housing

Specify needed service/resource: _____

Due to (check all that apply):
- ☐ Does not meet eligibility criteria
- ☐ Worker refused support assuming access to on-reserve resources/service
- ☐ Worker unaware of the availability of service/resource in the community
- ☐ Service/resource is unavailable in the community
- ☐ Path Walker [living experience] needs support to complete the required paperwork to obtain resource
- ☐ Service/resource has a long waitlist
- ☐ Transportation not available to access resource
- ☐ Other _____

START   END

Prompt: *What is blocking or holding you back from successfully accessing and keeping your housing?*

Topic Area: Appointments

Instructions: Required - Review each numbered item and if applicable, then use next column to check off all <u>CURRENT</u> barriers and obstacles experienced. **Optional** - Additional information can be specified in the far-right hand column.

Additional information (optional)

8. Feels uncomfortable accessing an organization, which is required to navigate for successfully accessing and retaining housing

Due to (check all that apply):

- ☐ Lack of trust
- ☐ Lack of warm transfer
- ☐ High frequency of changeover between staff
- ☐ Not feeling welcome
- ☐ Organizational environment triggering (such as locked doors)
- ☐ Fear of child apprehension
- ☐ Not wanting to disclose their personal story, including trauma history
- ☐ Not given time to share their personal story, including difficult experiences
- ☐ Non-Indigenous staff or organization
- ☐ Staff lack lived experience
- ☐ Not offered cultural support/resources
- ☐ Lack of cultural awareness (such as cultural norms or intergenerational trauma)
- ☐ Lack of confidential space
- ☐ Other _____

START

END

Prompt: *What is blocking or holding you back from successfully accessing and keeping your housing?*

Topic Area: Appointments cont'd

Instructions: Required - Review each numbered item and if applicable, then use next column to check off all <u>CURRENT</u> barriers and obstacles experienced. **Optional** - Additional information can be specified in the far-right hand column.

Additional information (optional)

9. Unable to successfully attend required appointments for accessing housing

Due to (check all that apply):

- ☐ Not having consistent access to a phone
- ☐ Not having consistent access to transportation
- ☐ Double-booked appointment conflict
- ☐ Missed appointments due to time disorientation
- ☐ Language barrier
- ☐ Low retention of information when dysregulated (fight/flight mode)
- ☐ Zero tolerance policies for attending appointments when using substances
- ☐ Unable to navigate multiple service providers to access housing
- ☐ Other _____

START

END
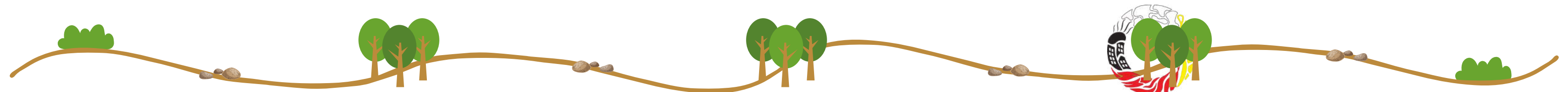
Prompt: *What is blocking or holding you back from successfully accessing and keeping your housing?*

Topic Area: Travel

Instructions: Required - Review each numbered item and if applicable, then use next column to check off all <u>CURRENT</u> barriers and obstacles experienced. **Optional** - Additional information can be specified in the far-right hand column.

Additional information (optional)

10. Relocation, displacement, & migration from
- ☐ Outside Canada
- ☐ Inside Canada - Specify from:
    - ☐ Northern community
    - ☐ Home/Affiliated Community
    - ☐ Remote Community
    - ☐ Other_____

Due to (check all that apply):
- ☐ Medical travel
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Mainstream Child and Family Services
- ☐ Natural disaster (fire, flood, etc.) - Specify _____
- ☐ Crisis or safety concern - Specify _____
- ☐ Access resources/services unavailable in the community - Specify _____
- ☐ Refugee
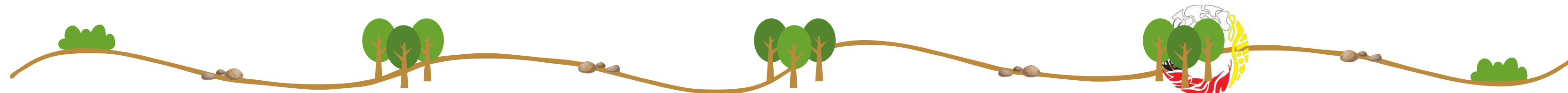- ☐ Immigration
- ☐ Other _____

Experiencing:
- ☐ Culture shock
- ☐ Other_____

Total Number of Obstacles & Barriers to Accessing Housing Experienced: [#]
This section will not be visible but will be taking place as a background calculation for the prioritization component of the process.

START

END

PATH Process – Meeting Notes

Topic Area: Meeting Details

Information:
*Note: Information items can be edited by communities. Items marked with * are required.*

Response Options:
Note: Responses can be customized by communities.

Why is this information included?

Information	Response Options	Why is this information included?
Meeting Date*	Pre-populate upon login	Prioritization – Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix
Amount of Time*	Allotted: Hours/Minutes Actual: Hours/Minutes	Wise Practice – Bridge of Services and Resources
Prior to the meeting, were Coordinated Access shared database or other database files reviewed by the Path Walker [worker]?* Prior to the meeting, with consent, were applicable community partner agency(ies) worker(s) contacted for updates?*	Yes, No, Not Applicable - Specify _____, Other_____ Yes - Specify _____, In Progress - Obtaining Consent, No - Consent Not Present, No - Other _____	Wise Practice – Trauma Informed Approach (i.e., reducing the number of times someone is expected to share story)
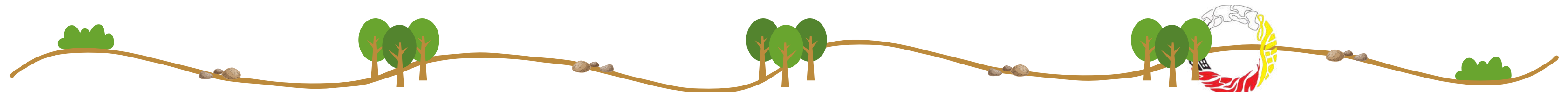
START

END

PATH Process – Meeting Notes

Topic Area: Safety Check-In

Information:
*Note: Information items can be edited by communities. Items marked with * are required.*

Has an urgent safety need been identified in the meeting or previously identified?*

Note: Urgent cases are flagged by the worker and a description is required for prioritization. Once a case has been flagged as urgent, it remains prioritized as an immediate priority.

If yes, was a safety plan co-developed in the session?

If yes, did the worker provide immediate safe housing?

Response Options:
Note: Responses can be customized by communities.

Check all that apply:
- [ ] Violence
- [ ] Abuse
- [ ] Exploitation
- [ ] Rough sleeping negatively impacting physical/ mental health issues
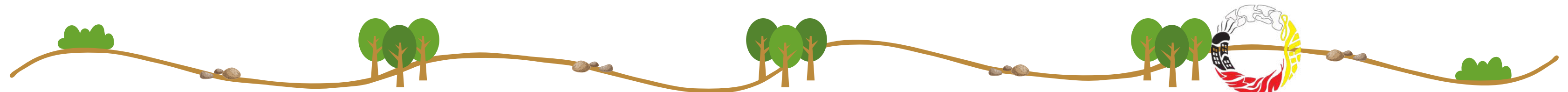- [ ] Severe health issues due to current living standards
- [ ] Other_____

Description (short answer field)

Drop-down menu options: Yes, No, Other _____

Drop-down menu options: Temporary housing, Long-term housing, Shelter, or Immediate housing unavailable

Why is this information included?

Prioritization – Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix

START

END

PATH Process – Meeting Notes

Topic Area: Interim Supports & Services

Information:

*Note: Information items can be edited by communities. Items marked with * are required.*

What resources/services were provided during the meeting?*

Response Options:

Note: Responses can be customized by communities.

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Phone access
- ☐ Printer
- ☐ Open bank account
- ☐ Complete application
- ☐ Gift card
- ☐ Health kit
- ☐ Backpack/clothing
- ☐ Outdoor gear
- ☐ Packed food/beverages
- ☐ Financial support
- ☐ Provide message service
- ☐ Laundry
- ☐ Shower
- ☐ Baby supplies
- ☐ Healthy snacks
- ☐ Transportation (e.g., bus passes/taxi voucher, etc.)
- ☐ Service/support - Specify _____
- ☐ Other _____

Why is this information included?

Wise Practice – Bridge of Services and Resources

START

END
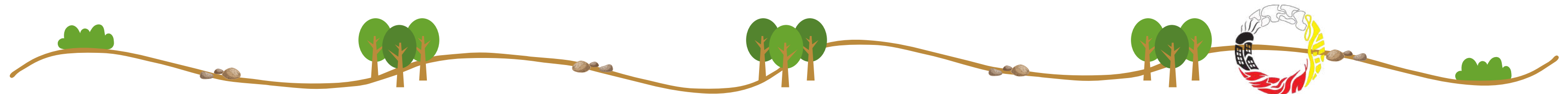
PRIORITIZATION

Introduction

An important undertaking of the PATH process is ensuring prioritization within a landscape of limited resources is an Indigenous-led process built upon Indigenous community knowledge from coast-to-coast-to-coast.

Notably, the need for prioritization directly results from a failing system. Specifically, a lack of housing, addiction, and mental health support leaves communities with impossible decisions in allocating housing, as ALL people experiencing homelessness are at high risk.

Prioritization within Coordinated Access systems often uses acuity
(i.e., who will be harmed to a greater extent the longer they are homeless)
as a determining factor for allocating limited housing opportunities.
Further, mainstream methods use numerical acuity scores for prioritization
by assigning varying weight to personal vulnerability factors.

The following prioritization framework, an optional component of the
PATH Process, focuses on system barriers and obstacles versus
personal vulnerability factors to guide prioritization decisions for housing.
The PATH Prioritization Framework accounts for intergenerational trauma
and historical/current impacts in decision-making by accounting for
system-level barriers and obstacles (the root cause) versus
solely relying on personal vulnerability factors (root cause symptoms).

Prioritization Framework

There are TWO equally important HALVES
to the PATH Process prioritization framework:

The first half of prioritization, an automated process,
is creating a Housing List based on the
Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix.
The Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix is based on
Indigenous community knowledge and can be altered
based on pilot community feedback.

Upon application of the Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix,
the resulting Housing List should **NOT** be used as a sole
decision-making tool for allocating housing;
the resulting Housing List is a starting point for
mindful consideration of each person's unique circumstance
(i.e., intersectionality).

1st Half

2nd Half

Note:
The term **Housing List** does NOT indicate
sequential order for prioritization.
Candidates for an available housing
opportunity may be pulled from anywhere
within the list based on housing opportunity
criteria and current community equity targets.

The second half
of prioritization, a non-automated process,
is utilizing the **Circle Guide**'s reflective
questions to determine which candidates
from the Housing List receive the housing
opportunity; the reflective questions are
intended to increase housing retention through
a thoughtful strength-based matching process.

START

END

Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix

The following definition parameters are examples, and will be defined by each community:
- Primary applicant is defined as the head of the household
- Senior is defined as [65+] years
- Youth is defined as [18] years or younger
- Youth transitioning from care is defined as a young person who is transitioning from care; age not applicable and applies to transitions within [2] years of official care end date

Level of Priority	Considerations		Urgent Layer	1st Layer	2nd Layer	3rd Layer
Immediate Priority	Urgent Safety Concerns (Such as, fleeing violence or suicide risk) AND/OR -Dependents (children and/or youth) involved PLUS risk or current involvement of the Mainstream Child & Family Services [MCFD] due to homelessness -Youth transitioning from care	**Recommendation:** **Immediate action required.** If not document ready [i.e., Reaching Home's priority list], then **safety planning and interim temporary housing** needs to be put in place & person/family remains an immediate priority until stably housed	1. Urgent safety concern(s) and children/youth involved 2. Dependent children/youth involved with current or risk of MCFD involvement 3. Urgent safety concern(s) 4. Dependent children/youth involved OR expecting to have a child in next 3 months OR youth transitioning from care	1. Primary applicant is an Elder/senior, youth, and/or 2SLGBTQQIA+ **PLUS**, severe condition(s) affecting ability to access housing (ordered by # of conditions) 2. Primary applicant is an adult **PLUS**, severe condition(s) affecting ability to access housing. Example., Mental illness, physical illness, addiction, or disability (ordered by # of conditions) 3. Primary applicant **OR** a member of the household is an Elder/senior, youth, or 2SLGBTQQIA+ 4. Primary applicant and household members are adults	Number of barriers/obstacles Note: If an identical number of barriers/obstacles have been identified, those who have faced stereotyping, discrimination and/or racism are prioritized	1. Length of time of homeless (number of days in past 4 years) 2. Date of intake

START

END

Intersectionality Decision Making Matrix

The following definition parameters are examples, and will be defined by each community:
- Primary applicant is defined as the head of the household
- Senior is defined as [65+] years
- Youth is defined as [18] years or younger
- Youth transitioning from care is defined as a young person who is transitioning from care; age not applicable and applies to transitions within [2] years of official care end date

Circle Guide next page >

| Level of Priority	Considerations		1st Layer	2nd Layer	3rd Layer	Circle Guide next page >
High Priority	Population: Elder/Senior, Youth, and/or 2SLGBTQQIA+ AND Adults PLUS severe condition(s) affecting ability to access housing	**Recommendation:** **Immediate action required.** Providing immediate referrals required to address severe condition(s) affecting ability to access housing.	1. Primary applicant is an Elder/senior, youth, and/or 2SLGBTQQIA+ **PLUS**, severe condition(s) affecting ability to access housing (ordered by # of conditions) 2. Primary applicant is an adult PLUS, severe condition(s) affecting ability to access housing. Example., Mental illness, physical illness, addiction, or disability (ordered by # of conditions) 3. Primary applicant **OR** a member of the household is an Elder, youth, or 2SLGBTQQIA+	Number of barriers/obstacles Note: If an identical number of barriers/obstacles have been identified, those who have faced stereotyping, discrimination and/or racism are prioritized	1. Length of time of homeless (number of days in past 4 years) 2. Date of intake	*Use Circle Reflective Questions Determine the eligible persons/families from the Housing List who meet the available housing opportunity criteria, including: does the available housing date align, and current community equity targets. **For the final decision-making steps**, which are NOT automated, see the **Circle Guide**
Priority	Population: Adult		4. Primary applicant and household members are adults			

START   **END**

The **PATH Circle Guide** is the second half of prioritization considerations and a non-automated process.
The PATH Circle Guide consists of reflective questions to help determine which candidates receive the available housing opportunity; the reflective questions are intended to increase housing retention through a thoughtful strength-based matching process.
The questions are ideally discussed within a group but can be reflected upon by a single worker.

1.) How does the housing vacancy MATCH the primary applicant's vision/chosen housing options (i.e., location, type, & preferences/requirements) and available date for housing?
2.) Does the primary applicant (or household members) MATCH the community equity targets?
3.) Reflect & discuss strengths/hobbies & how they will be fostered within the housing opportunity.
4.) Reflect & discuss current barriers or obstacles, and current living situation, then identify if the housing opportunity will positively or negatively impact them.

Decide on a candidate for the housing opportunity and **record a short narrative** on decision-making factors considered.

Record a narrative of the discussion/decision-making process

Rural

Urban
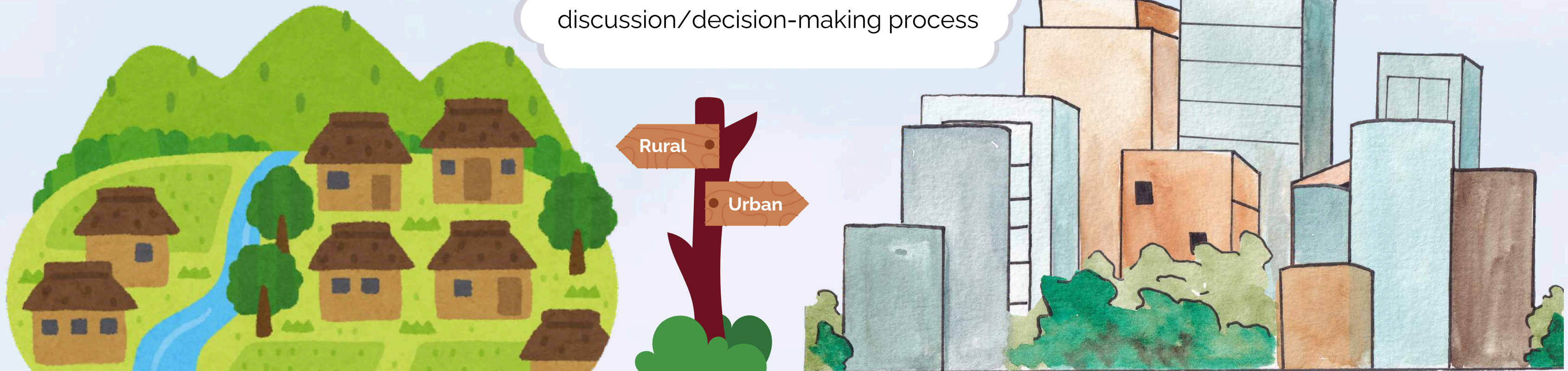
START

END

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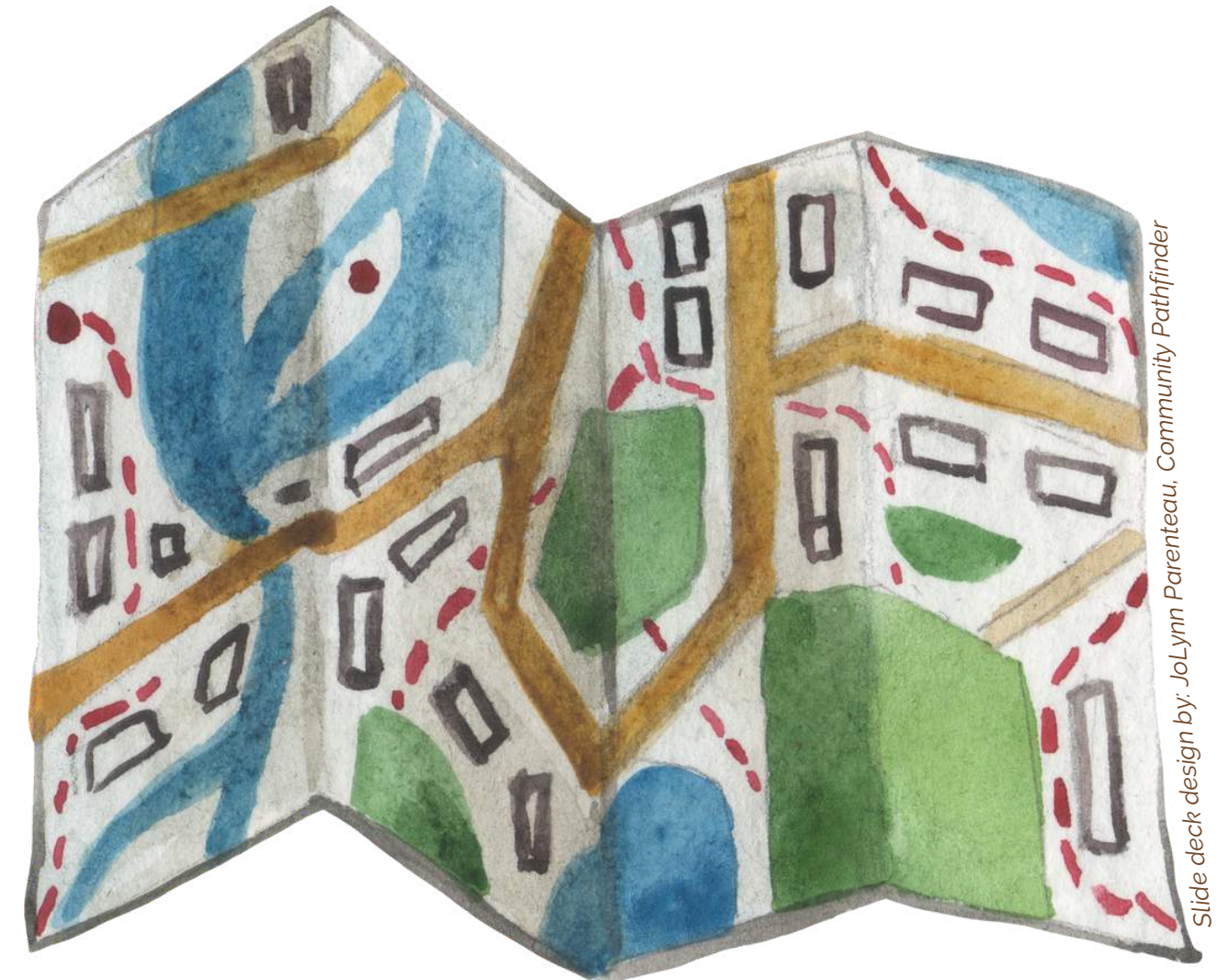
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🌐 **Visit our website**

Slide deck design by: JoLynn Parenteau, Community Pathfinder

START

END