



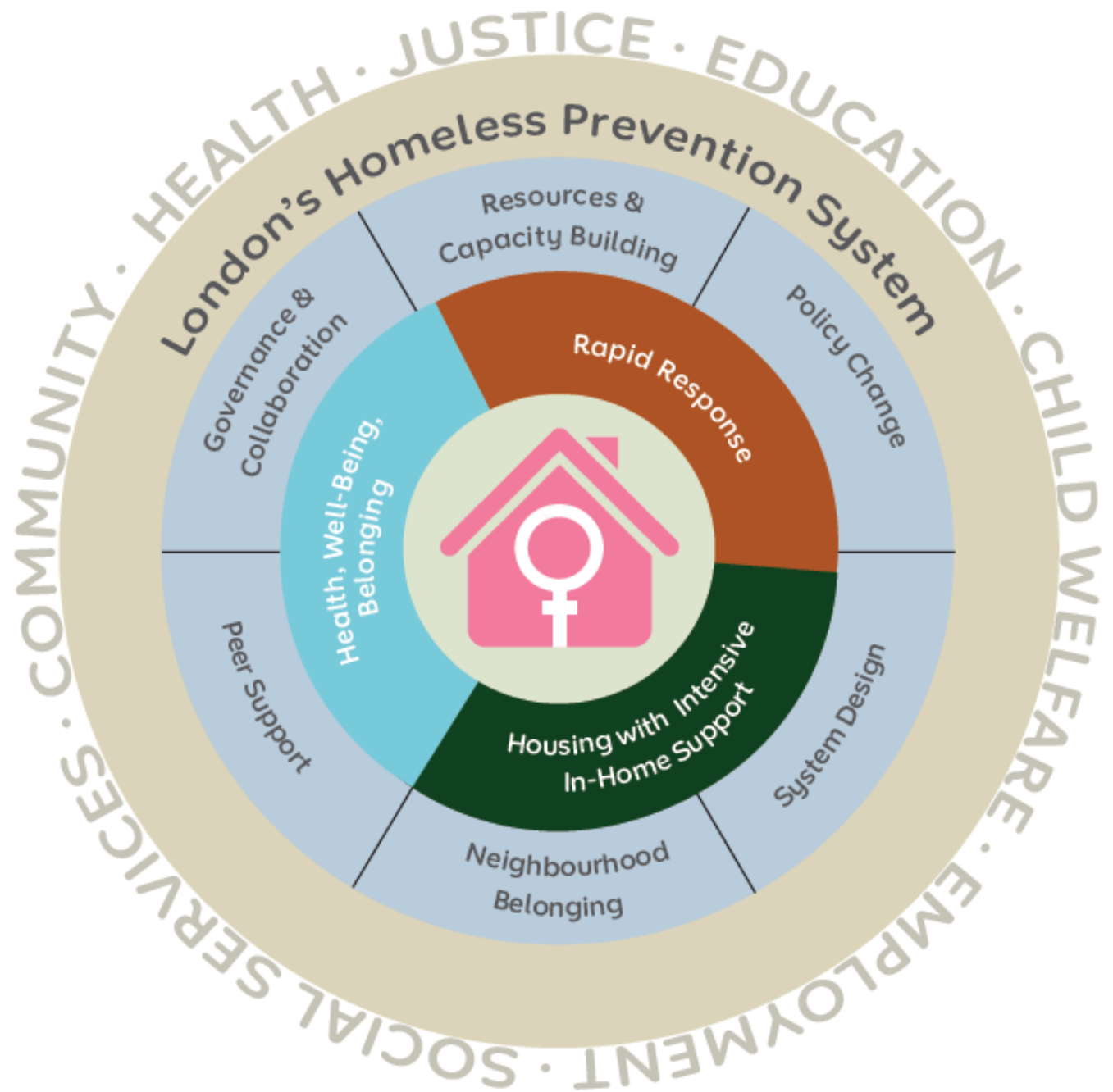
SLWAR

Street Level Women At Risk

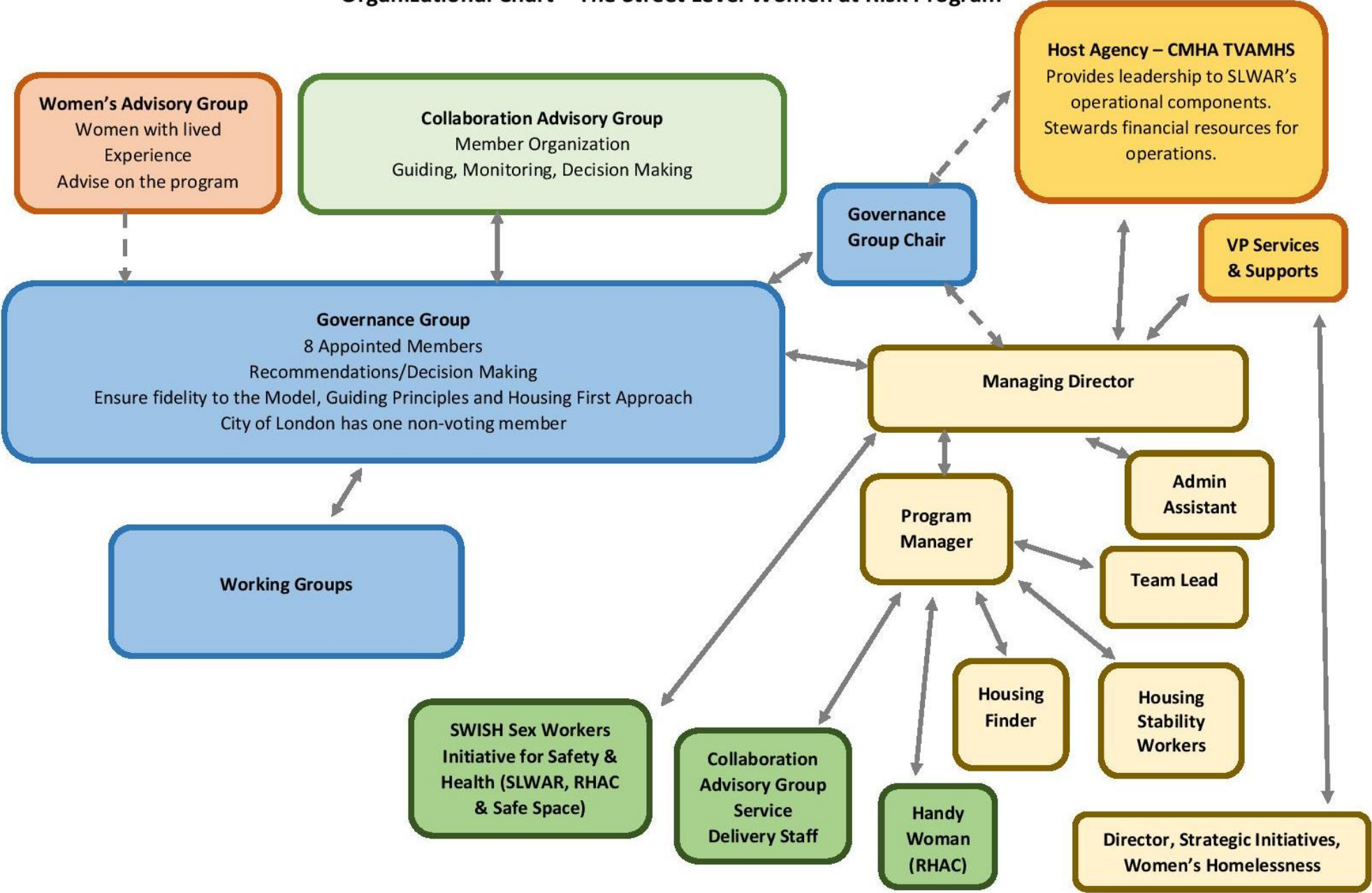


What Is SLWAR?

Conceptual Model



Organizational Chart – The Street Level Women at Risk Program



What is Unique About SLWAR?

- 26 Agency Collaborative Housing First Model
- Women with lived experience continue to consult leadership on operations
- One consent form
- Reallocated staff
- SLWAR has its own referral and matching process

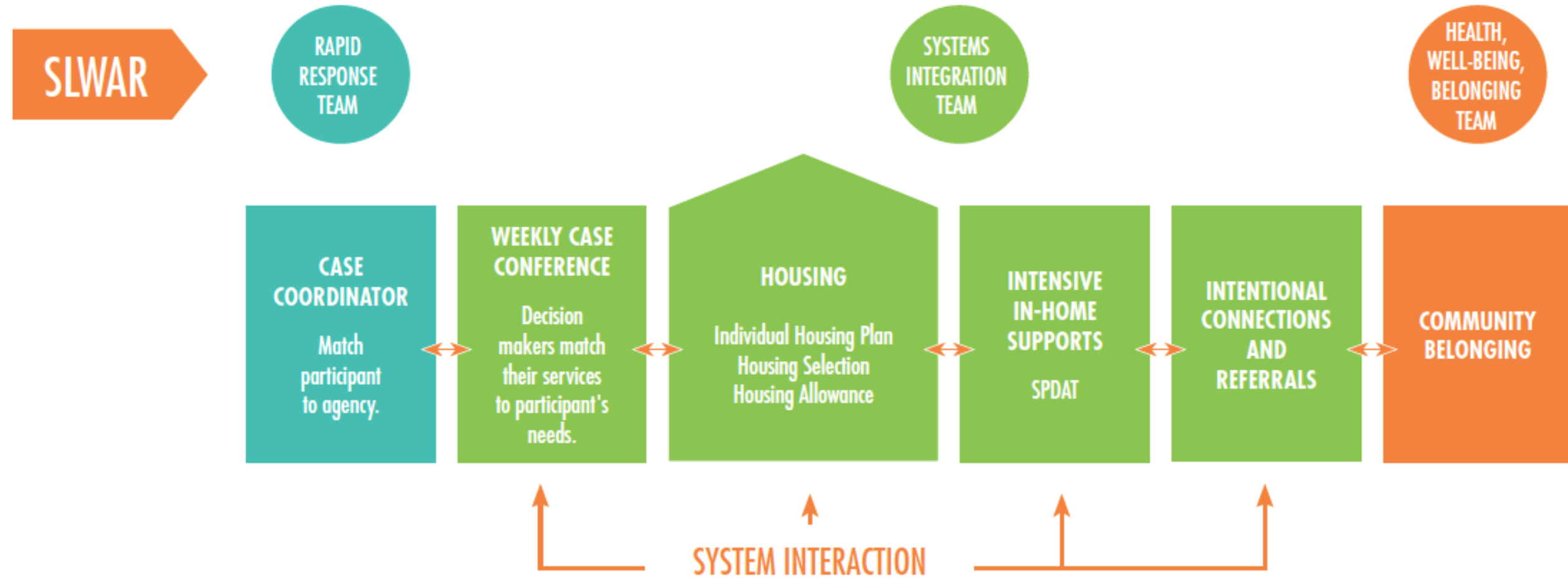
A photograph of two women standing in profile against a building with vertical wooden siding. The woman on the left has long blonde hair and is wearing a dark jacket and jeans. The woman on the right has dark hair tied back, wears glasses, and a dark coat. To their right is a set of brick stairs leading up to a doorway with a metal grate. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent teal filter.

Street Outreach

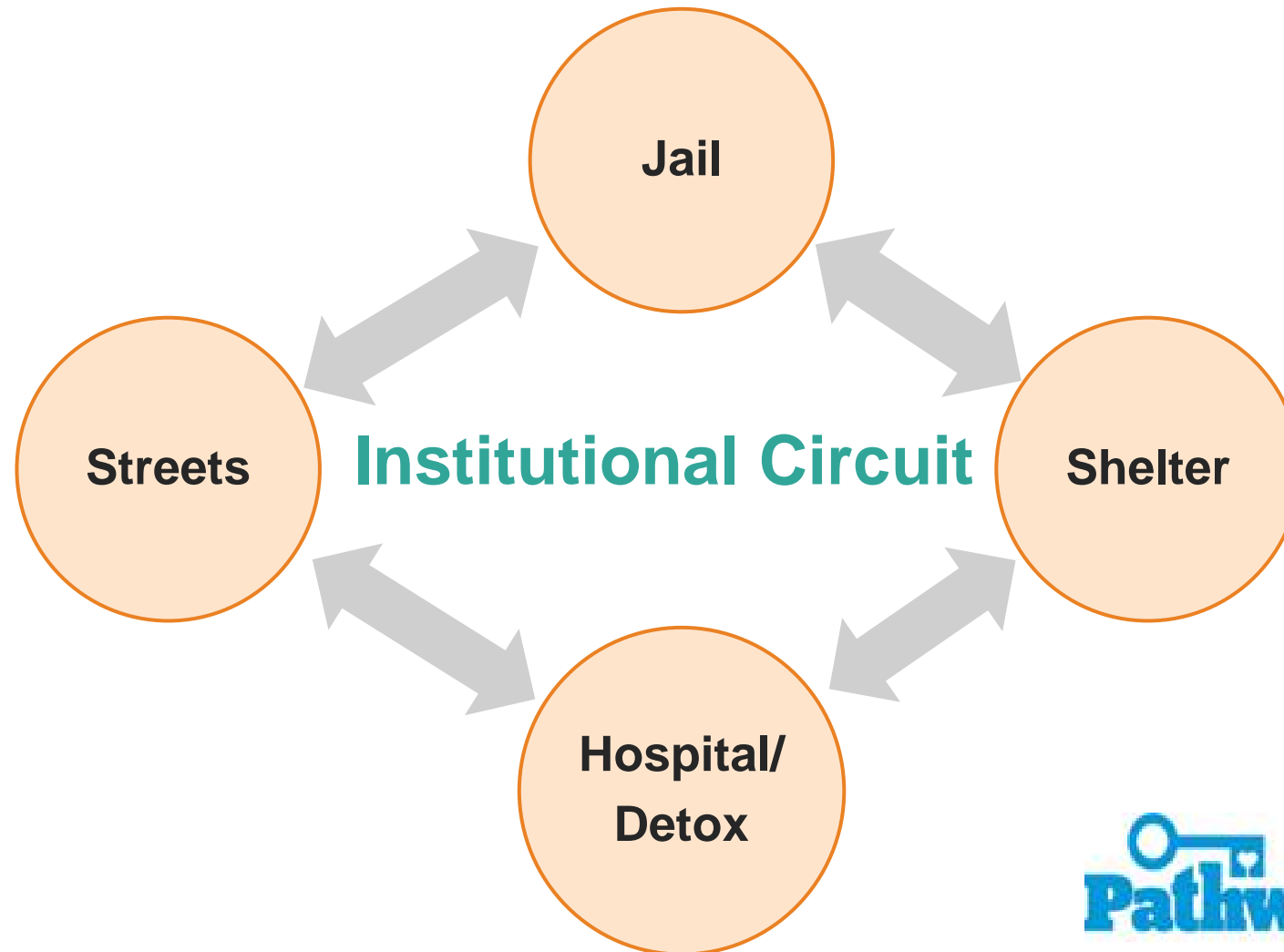


How SLWAR Works

How SLWAR Works



Frequent Use of Acute Care Services



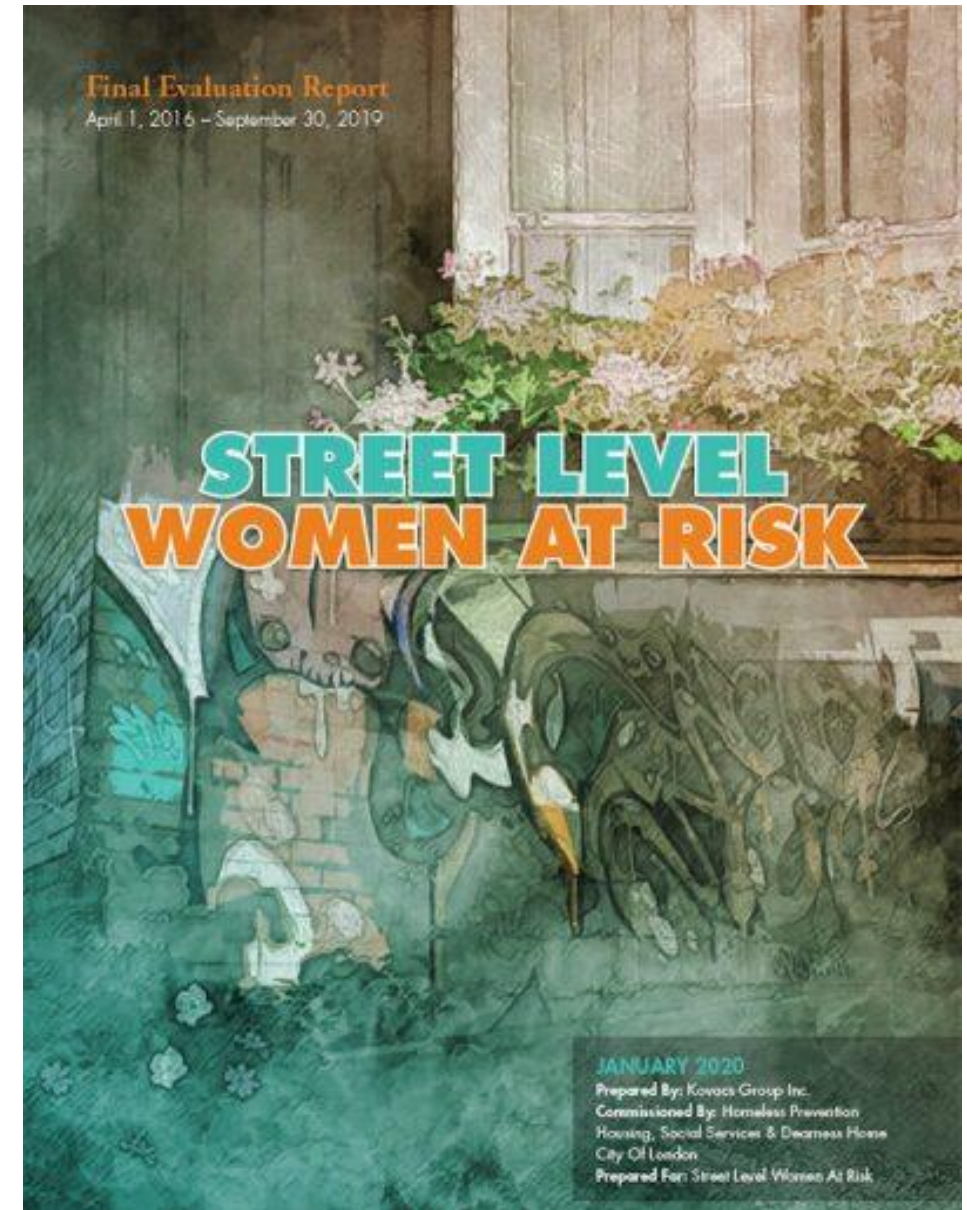


The Impact of SLWAR

How did a collaborative approach change outcomes for street level sex workers in London Ontario?

Results of an extensive 3-year evaluation can be found here:

[Our Impact – SLWAR](#)



Housing and Housing Stability


Securing Permanent Housing (n=54)

100% SECURED
PERMANENT HOUSING



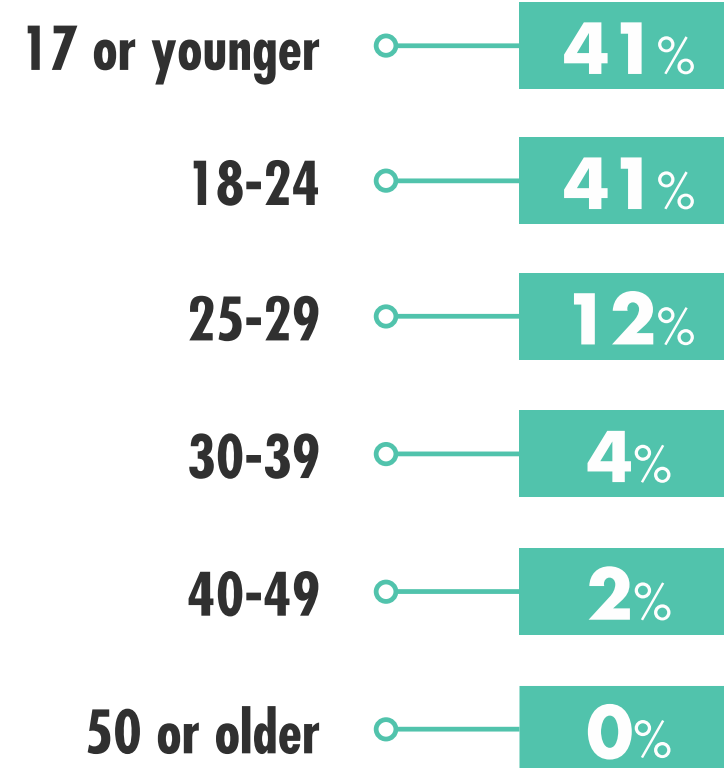
Housing and Housing Stability *Continued...*

Housing Retention (n=58)

76% 
REMAINED HOUSED

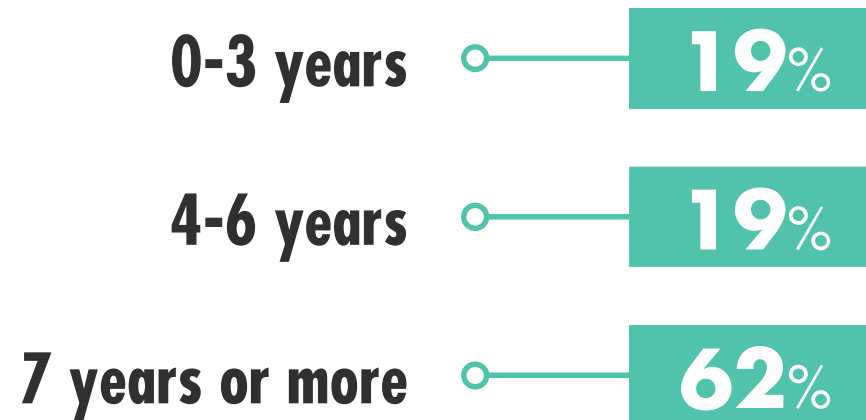
Street Involved Sex Work

*Age Women Became
Engaged In Street
Involved Sex Work
(n=49)*



Street Involved Sex Work *Continued...*

Length Of Time Engaged In Street Involved Sex Work (n=43)

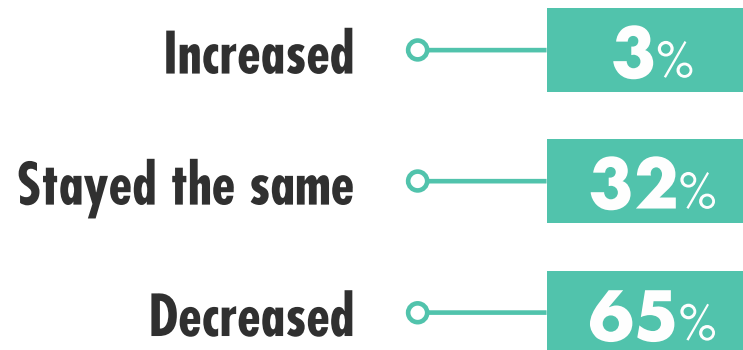


Street Involved Sex Work *Continued...*

Involvement In Sex Work During SLWAR (n=56)

Continued Street Involved Sex Work	Continued Sex Work (No Longer Street Involved)	No Involvement In Sex Work
43%	37%	20%

Level Of Involvement In Sex Work During SLWAR (n=57)



Street Involved Sex Work *Continued...*

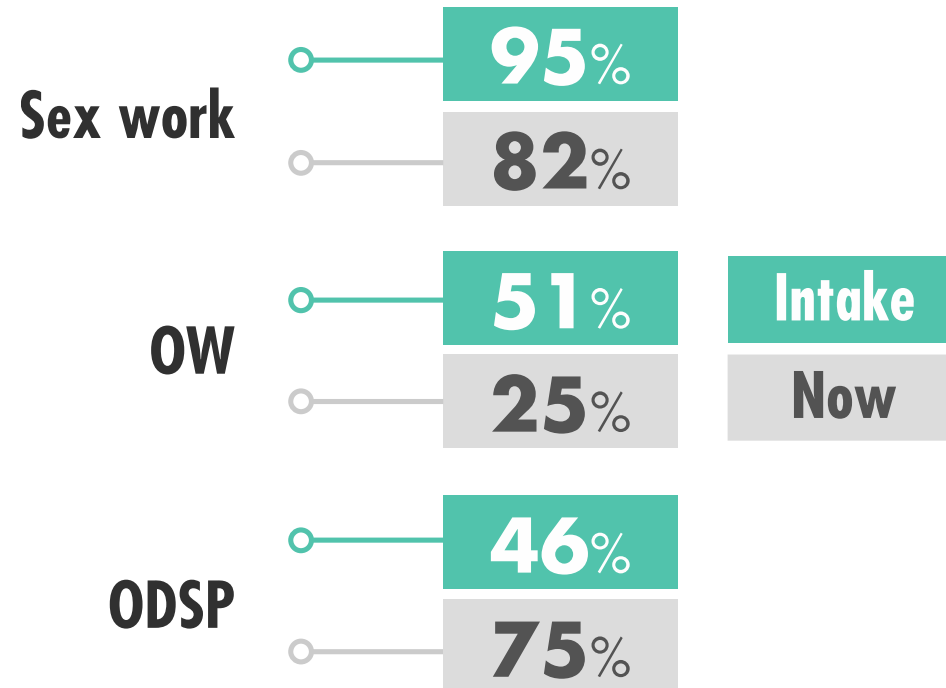
How Involvement In Sex Work Has Changed For Women

The **3** most common ways women's involvement in sex work has changed include:

1. Engaging in sex work less often or no longer engaging in sex work
2. Using safer practices when engaging in sex work
3. Greater control over involvement in sex work and only seeing known, regular clients

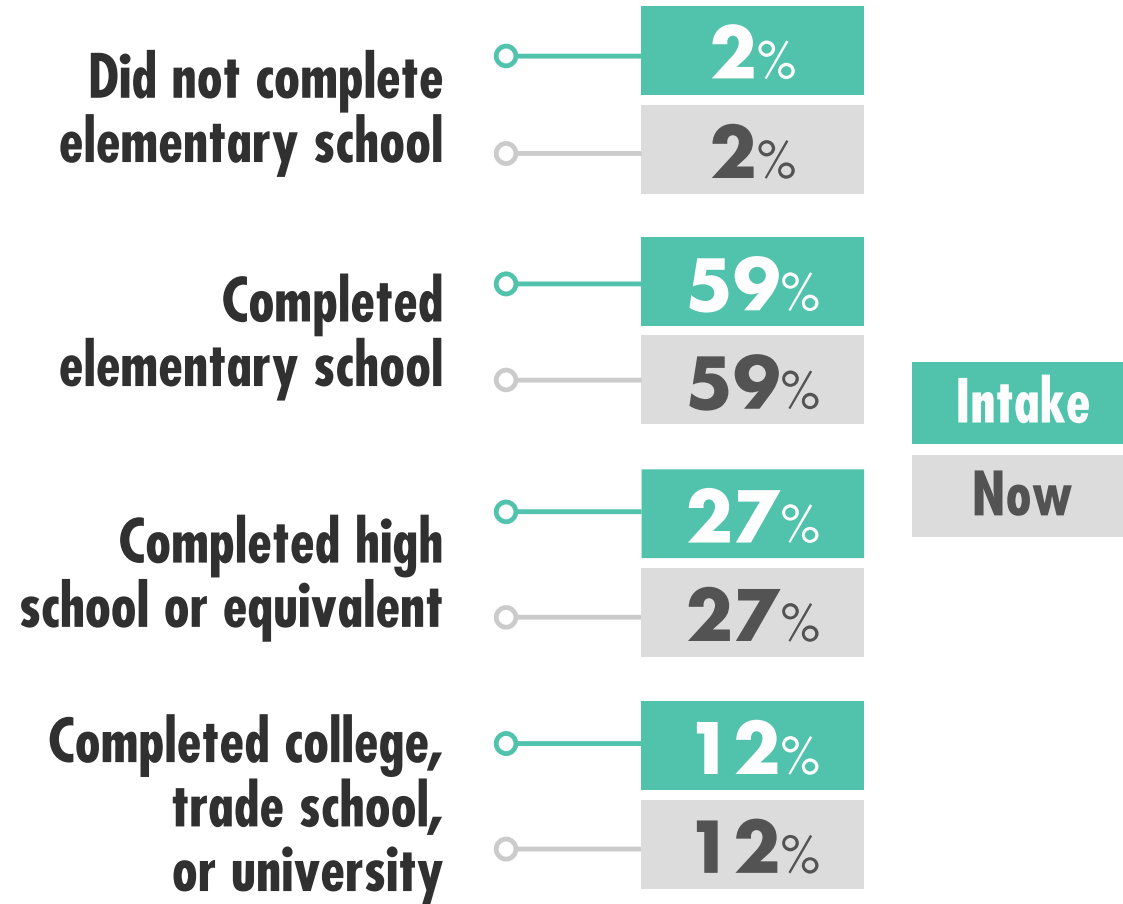
Income

Income Source At Intake And Now (n=57)



Education

*Highest Level Of
Education Completed
At Intake And Now
(n=44)*



Legal Involvement

History Of Criminal Charges At Intake (n=59)



New Charges During SLWAR (n=58)

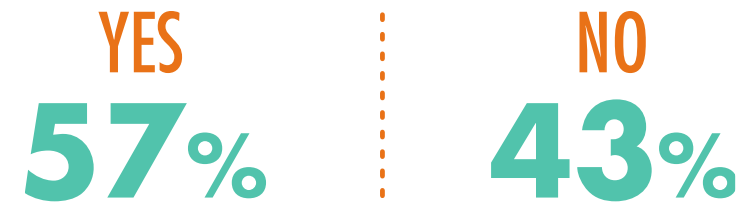


Children

Increased Access To Children During SLWAR (n=47)



Increased Contact With Children During SLWAR (n=49)



Natural Supports

Family Reconnection During SLWAR (n=55)

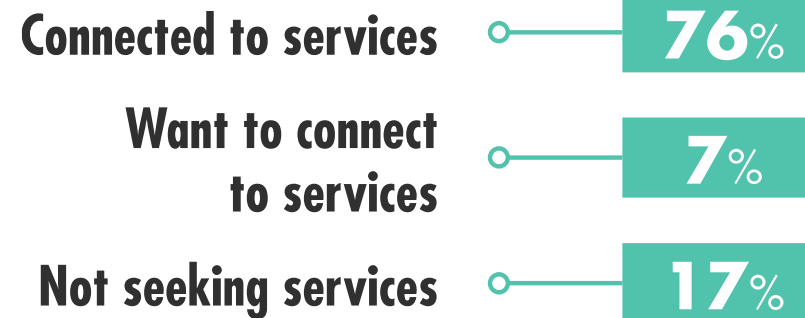


Development Of New Friendships During SLWAR (n=57)

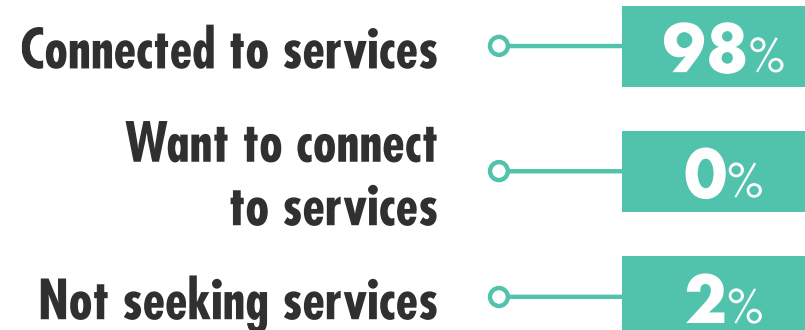


Health

Support To Address A Mental Health Concern (n=42)



Support To Address A Physical Health Concern (n=42)



Health *Continued...*

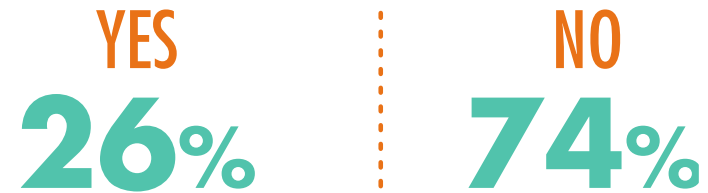
How Mental And Physical Health Has Changed For Women

The **5** most common ways women's health has changed during their time in SLWAR include:

1. Increased access to health
2. Stabilized physical and mental health
3. Greater focus on health and self-care
4. Improved diet and maintaining a healthier weight
5. Improved sleep and having a place to rest

Substance Use

Accessing Substance Use Treatment At Intake (n=57)



Accessing Substance Use Treatment During SLWAR (n=57)

Accessed Substance Use Treatment	Have Not Accessed Substance Use Treatment
81%	19%

Substance Use *Continued...*

How Substance Use Has Changed For Participants

The **3** most common ways women's substance use has changed include:

1. Using more safely and connecting to harm reduction resources
2. Stopped or decreased use of substances
3. Changing the types of substances used

Quality of Life

How Quality Of Life Has Changed For Women

The **7** most common factors positively affecting women's quality of life include:

1. Greater stability and safety with access to permanent housing
2. Improved mental health, happiness, and hope for the future
3. Feeling supported by SLWAR staff and community resources
4. Engaging in daily routines and managing responsibilities
5. Developing stronger, more positive relationships with family, friends, and neighbours
6. Decreased and safer use of substances
7. Increased independence, control, and empowerment



Conclusion

Conclusion

SLWAR is helping women to:

- Exit homelessness
- Secure permanent housing
- Maintain their housing
- Experience improvements in health and well-being
- Increase their choice and safety related to sex work
- Strengthen relationships with children and natural supports
- Decrease their legal involvement
- Achieve personal goals
- Access supports and services
- Engage in recreational and community activities

Conclusion *Continued...*

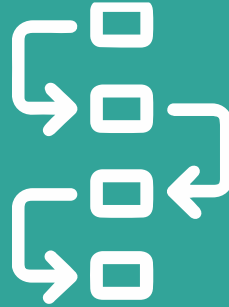
SLWAR is helping organizations to:

- Work together to support women involved in street involved sex work
- Engage in joint decision-making and problem-solving
- Build strong relationships
- Improve communication and information sharing

Conclusion *Continued...*

**SLWAR is helping
WAG members to:**

- Provide experience and expertise by drawing on past experiences
- Improve self-esteem, confidences and skills
- Engage in the community and connect with other women



A Guide to Implement SLWAR

Program Guide Purpose

- To document how SLWAR works, insights and lessons learned, and tools/policies used
- To help guide other communities



A New Strategic Direction

Steward Our Unique Experience

Improve outcomes for communities across Canada supporting women experiencing homelessness and involved in survival sex work.

Strategies:

1

Share SLWAR's knowledge and expertise with other communities across Canada.

2

Learn from evidence-based practices and voices of lived experience to continue to grow within our own work.

Strategic Initiatives, Women's Homelessness

- **Engage and inspire communities on the need for a gendered approach to solving homelessness**
 - Initial consultation for information gathering
 - Creation of a Community Plan for Women at Risk
 - Implement a SLWAR model or components of the model to strengthen good work already happening within communities

Strategic Initiatives, Women's Homelessness

- **Training with a lived experience panel**
 - Topics include:
 - Sex work 101
 - Best practices for Supporting Women on the Sex Work Continuum in Housing
 - Maintenance 101 for Housing Workers
 - Assertive Engagement
 - Acquired Brain Injury and Stages of Change in Housing



Where can you learn more?

Where can you learn more?

- Visit the SLWAR website www.slwar.ca
- Download the Year 3 Evaluation
- Download the Program Guide
- Download London Community Plan Regarding Street Level Women at Risk Report
- Download our Strategic Plan
- Register for upcoming webinars

Contact Information

- **Jaclyn Seeler**
Director of Strategic Initiatives,
Women's Homelessness
jseeler@slwar.ca
- **Kelly Roberts**
Program Manager
kroberts@slwar.ca

www.slwar.ca



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Ontario 



United Way
Elgin Middlesex



London
CANADA