

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

Child Welfare Redesign

YouthREX

February 24, 2021

Overview of the Child Welfare Redesign Strategy

- On July 29, 2020, the Ontario government released its plan to redesign the child welfare system.
- The strategy focuses on strengthening families and communities through prevention, early intervention and seeking more permanent homes for children and youth in care when they cannot stay in their own homes or communities.
- The new child welfare strategy was developed with input from youth, families, caregivers, First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners, lawyers, community organizations, frontline workers and child welfare sector leaders. They participated in over 100 engagement sessions over the past year and provided over 3,000 responses to an online survey.

“We are committed to taking the time to get this right and keep children and youth at the heart of everything we do. Their safety, well-being and future success is of utmost importance.” - Minister Dunlop

Child Welfare Redesign Strategy

Vision

An Ontario where every child and youth has the supports they need to succeed and thrive.

Goal and Scope

Working in partnership with the child welfare, residential and community-based services to build a coordinated range of services that strengthen families, focusing on community-based prevention and early intervention services.

These will be high quality, culturally appropriate and truly responsive to the needs of children, youth and families. When children and youth cannot remain at home, they will be supported through family-based placements wherever possible.

We are improving the overall quality of care they receive from children's aid societies and residential services, such as foster care or group homes. Our system will provide children and youth in care with the supports they need to be safe, succeed and thrive as they transition from care to adulthood.

Distinct Indigenous Approach

The ministry continues to implement the **Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy (OICYS)**, the strategic framework co-developed with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and urban Indigenous partners across Ontario to improve outcomes for Indigenous children and youth. The distinct Indigenous approach to the Child Welfare Redesign Strategy will also advance as part of the OICYS.

The Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy

VISION

First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Indigenous children and youth are healthy, happy, resilient, grounded in their cultures and languages and thriving as individuals and as members of their families and Nations/communities

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ▶ Children and youth centred
- ▶ Culture and identity as foundational
- ▶ Respect rights and jurisdictional aspirations
- ▶ Co-development and partnership
- ▶ Outcomes focus
- ▶ Responsive to youth voice
- ▶ Flexibility
- ▶ Shared accountability
- ▶ Reconciliation (acknowledge the past, act now, and look to the future)

PILLARS

First Nations Jurisdiction and Control / Métis, Inuit and Urban Indigenous Control

First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Indigenous communities/ organizations have authority to care for their children and youth.

Prevention, Culture and Opportunities

First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Indigenous children and youth have access to preventive services focused on well-being, culture and opportunities

Coordinated and Responsive Circle of Care

The child and youth service workforce is equipped to provide high quality, integrated and culturally appropriate services

Monitoring, Evaluation and Shared Accountability

Progress is tracked through culturally and contextually appropriate monitoring and evaluation approaches

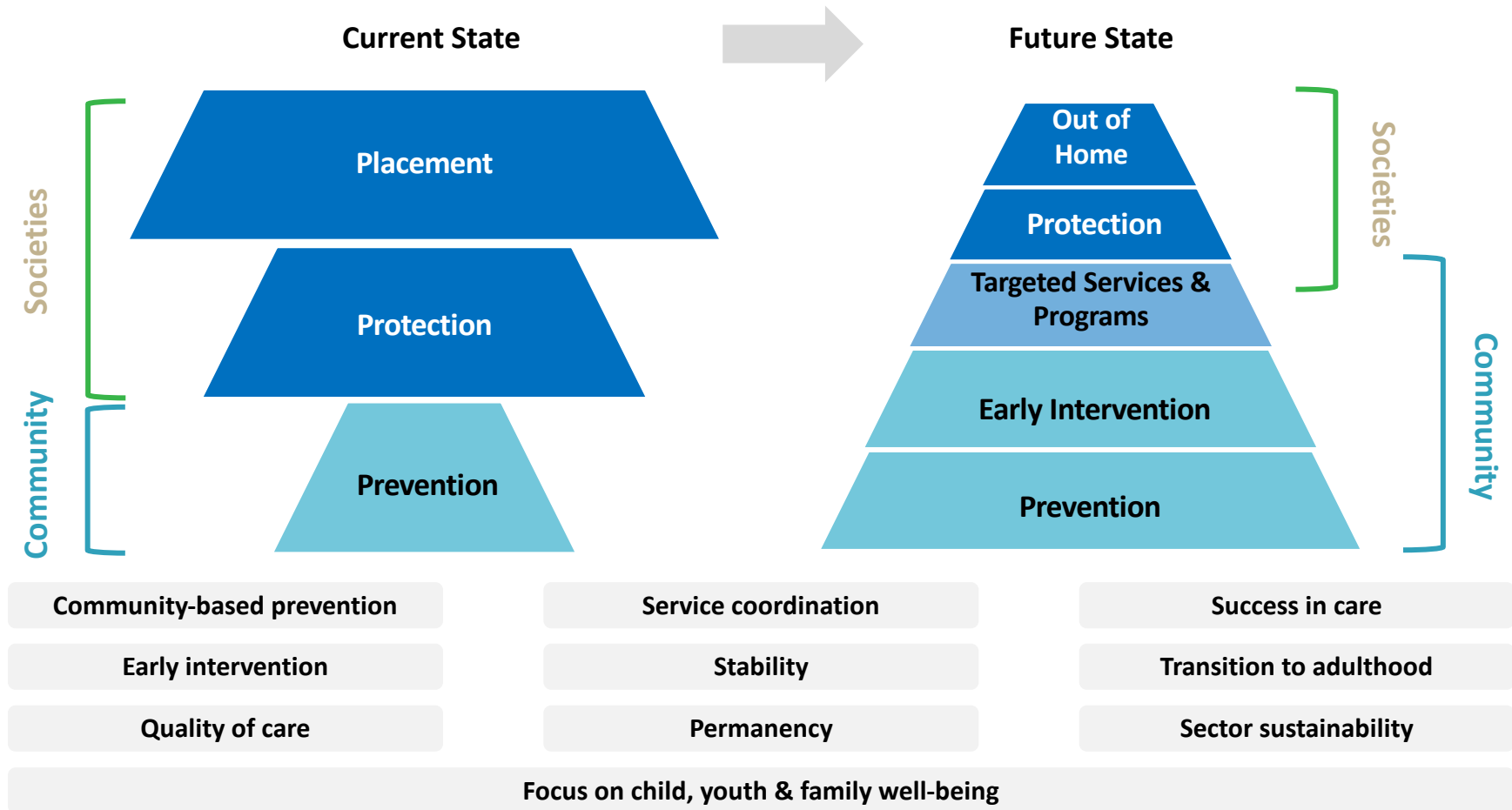
Transformed Relationships and Collaborative, Holistic Action

Systemic change through collaborative action and transformed relationships with First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Indigenous partners



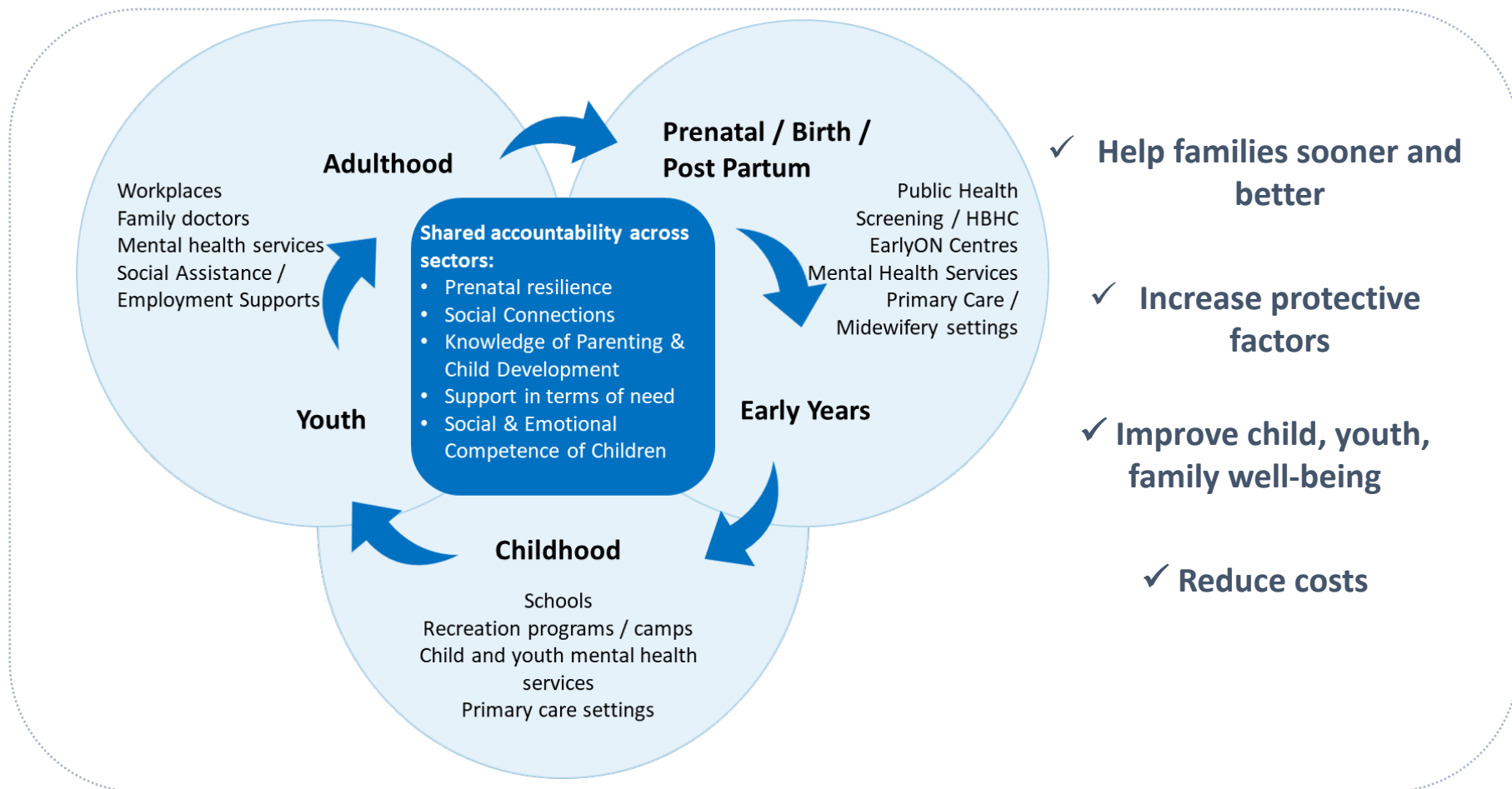
Achieving the future state will require significant transformation

Redesigning the child welfare system is a significant undertaking. It will take time and continued partnership with the child welfare sector, Indigenous communities and other health and social services partners to be successful.



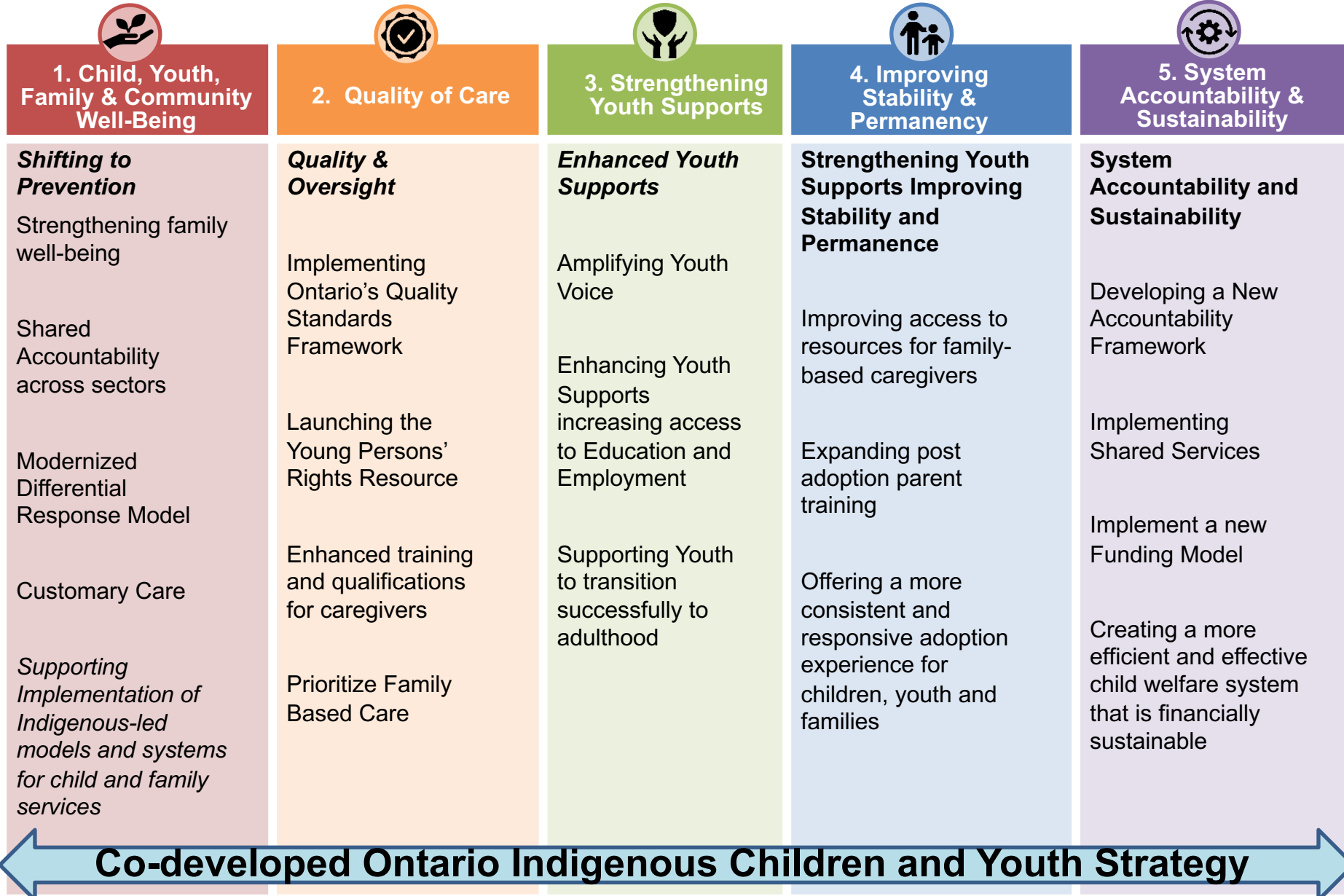
The Path Forward

Collaborative: Redesigning the child welfare system is a significant undertaking. It will take time and continued partnership with the child welfare sector, Indigenous communities and other health and social services partners to be successful.



Redesign Pillars

The Child Welfare Redesign has **five pillars** designed to create change across the service continuum and at the system level:



The Outcomes we're collectively working towards

Safety

Children and youth are safe and safety is achieved by the least intrusive means.

Voice

Children, youth and families are respected, and have their voices heard and their needs met.

Permanency & Stability

Children and youth are safely connected to their family, communities and culture.

Sustainability

The sector is sustainable, efficient, effective, accountable and flexible enough to adjust to the new reality following COVID-19.

Well-Being

Children, youth and families are supported in their communities to succeed and thrive, and meet key developmental milestones.

Equity

Outcome disparities are reduced

Quality

Children and youth are supported to grow through high quality, consistent services that meet their needs.