

# THEORY OF CHANGE

**VISION:** A resilient community that prevents and reduces the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)



**START**

## FIRST STEPS

- There is evidence that ACEs are an issue in Guelph and Wellington
- Local champions (community leaders, decision makers, and human service professionals) demonstrate a will to change

## PATHWAY TO CHANGE

- Champions have knowledge and awareness of ACEs, stigma, resilience and the importance of community and supportive relationships

**COMMUNITIES** are welcoming and make it easy for people to connect with and look out for each other

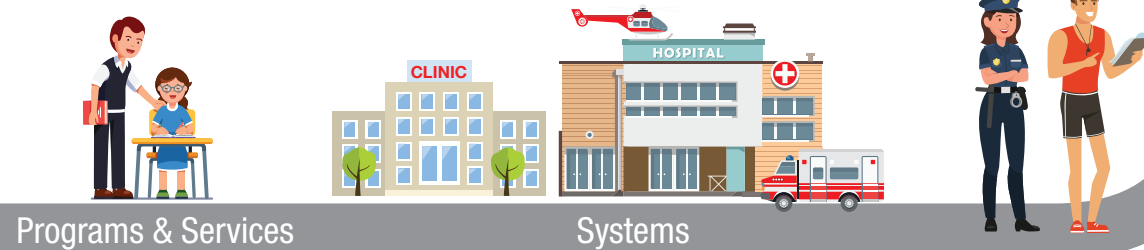


Communities

## COMMUNITY LEADERS

- Community leaders model ACEs-informed behaviour
- Community-led formal and informal spaces are inclusive, accessible and support healthy connections

Children and adults feel that professionals focus on 'what happened to them' not 'what is wrong with them'



Programs & Services

Systems

## DECISION MAKERS AND HUMAN SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

- Human service professionals show empathy and share the tools that prevent and reduce the effect of ACEs
- Decision Makers use ACEs knowledge and research to inform policies and decisions
- Professionals work in a collaborative way with and for children, families and adults to support integrated coordinated services

Children and adults have access to ACEs-informed **SYSTEMS** (e.g. education, health, justice) and **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES** that meet their unique needs

## OUTCOMES

- Adults understand their role in developing protective factors in children's lives
- Children and their parents or primary caregivers have protective factors to **PREVENT** ACEs



- Children and adults have protective factors (e.g. supportive relationships and effective coping skills) that **REDUCE** the effects of ACEs
- Families have knowledge and skills to create a nurturing and health environment for their children
- Children and adults have positive relationships and connections in their naturally-occurring networks



- Children and adults feel a sense of safety
- Children and adults have nurturing and supportive relationships they can rely on
- Children and adults have a sense of belonging