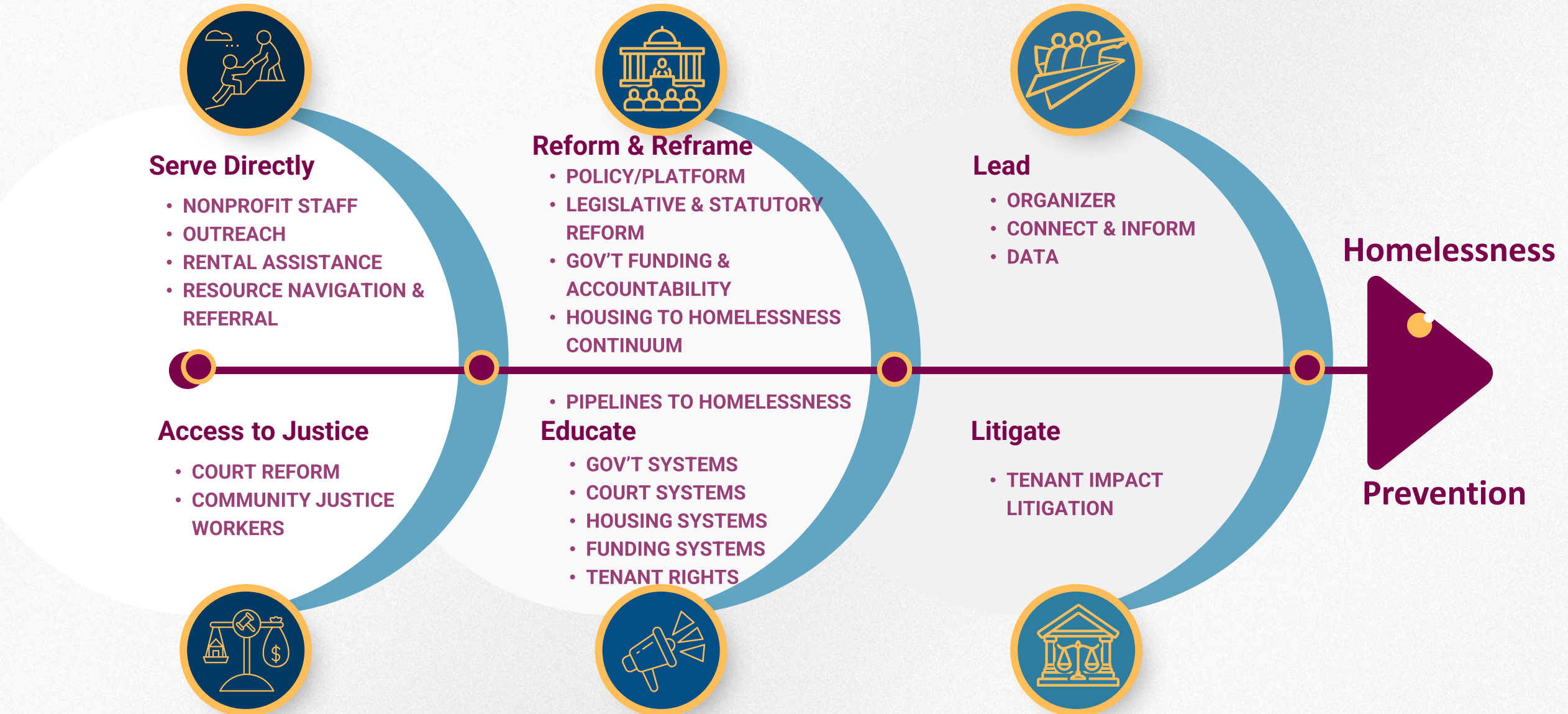


New Mexico Eviction Prevention & Diversion (NMEPD)

Winter L. Torres
CEO & Founder



NEW MEXICO EVICTION PREVENTION & DIVERSION EFFORTS



FRAMEWORKS

Housing to Homeless Continuum

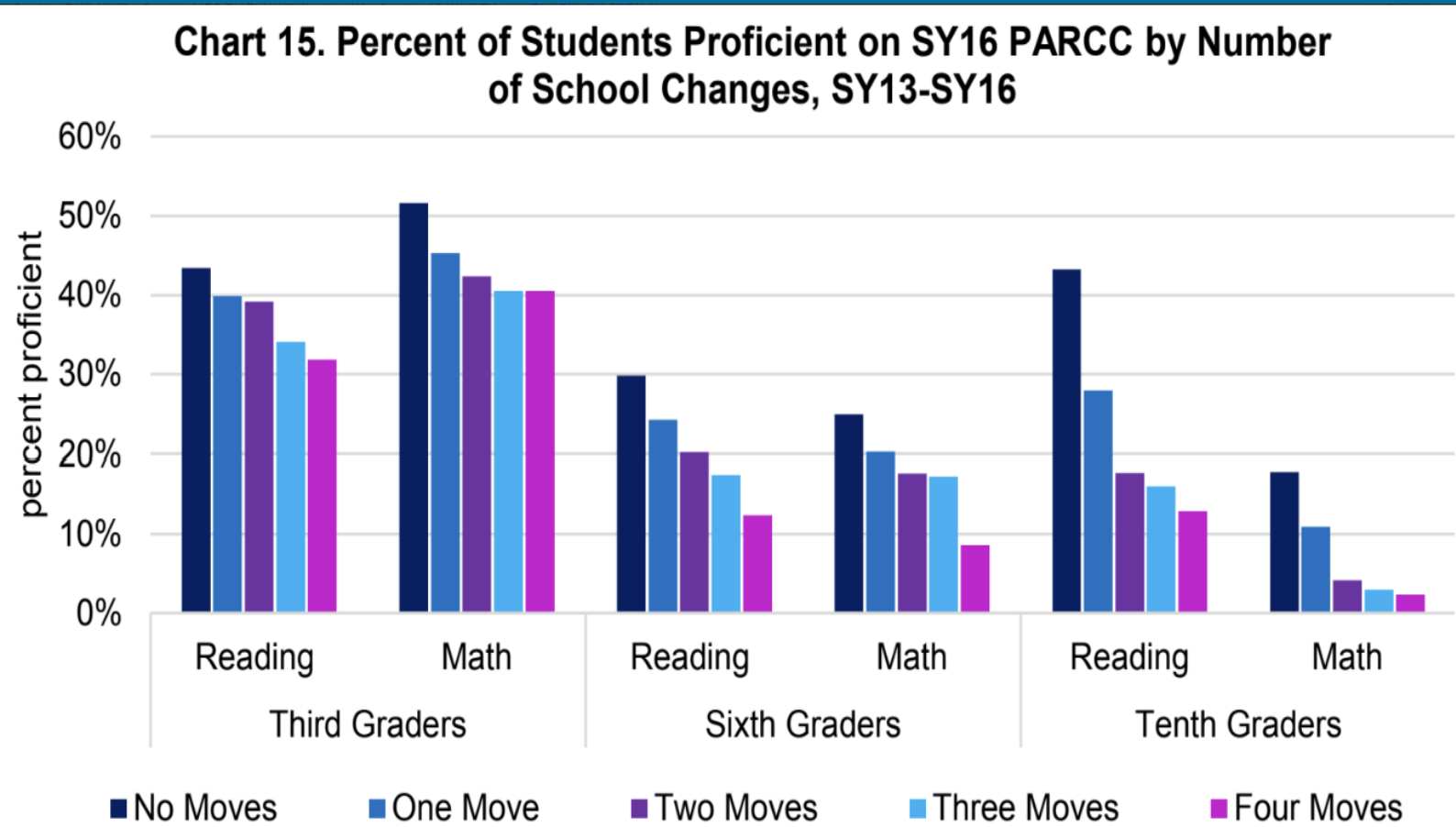
Homelessness Prevention

Far Less Trauma, Far Less Cost

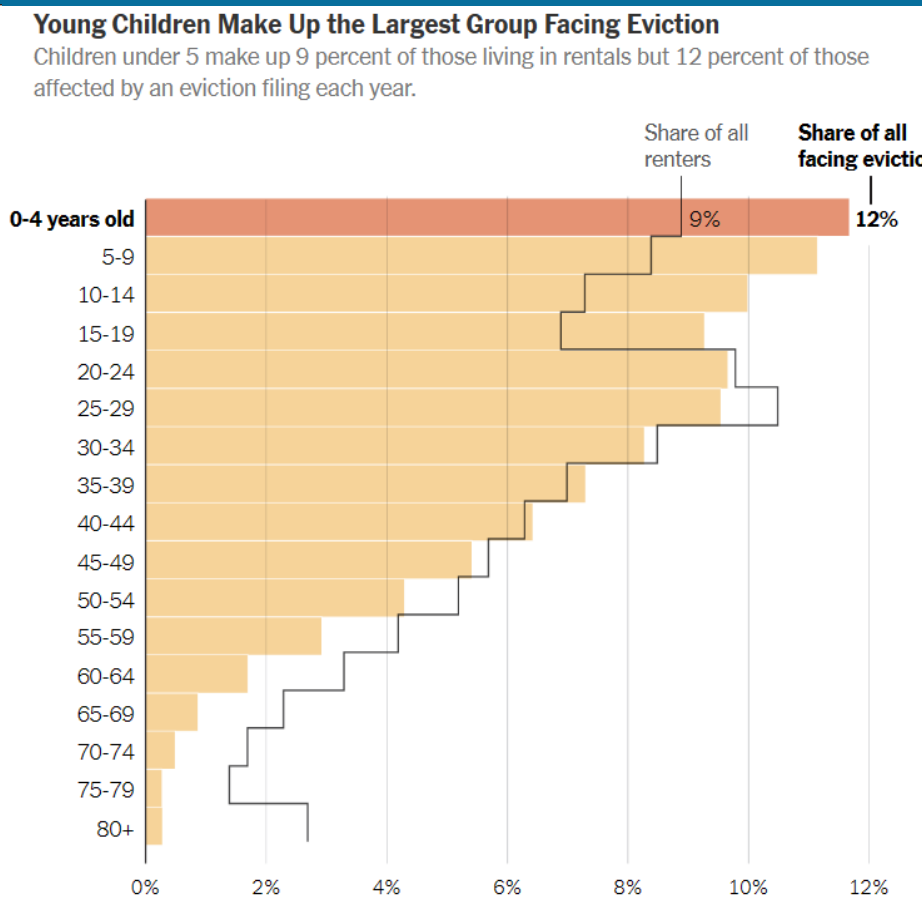
Most Vulnerable

Children of Color, Ages One to Four are the Largest Group of the Evicted

Because they live with single mothers of color, the number one target of eviction



Source: LFC analysis of PED data



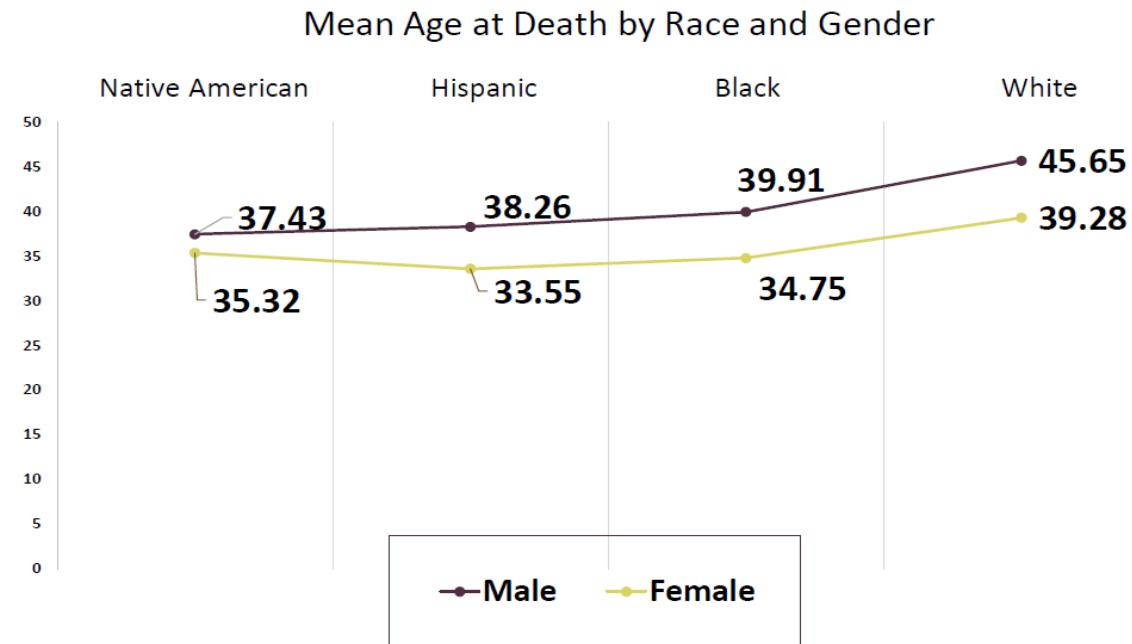
Source: "A Comprehensive Demographic Profile of the United States Evicted Population," by researchers at Princeton, Rutgers and the U.S. Census Bureau - Note: Data covers 2007-2016.

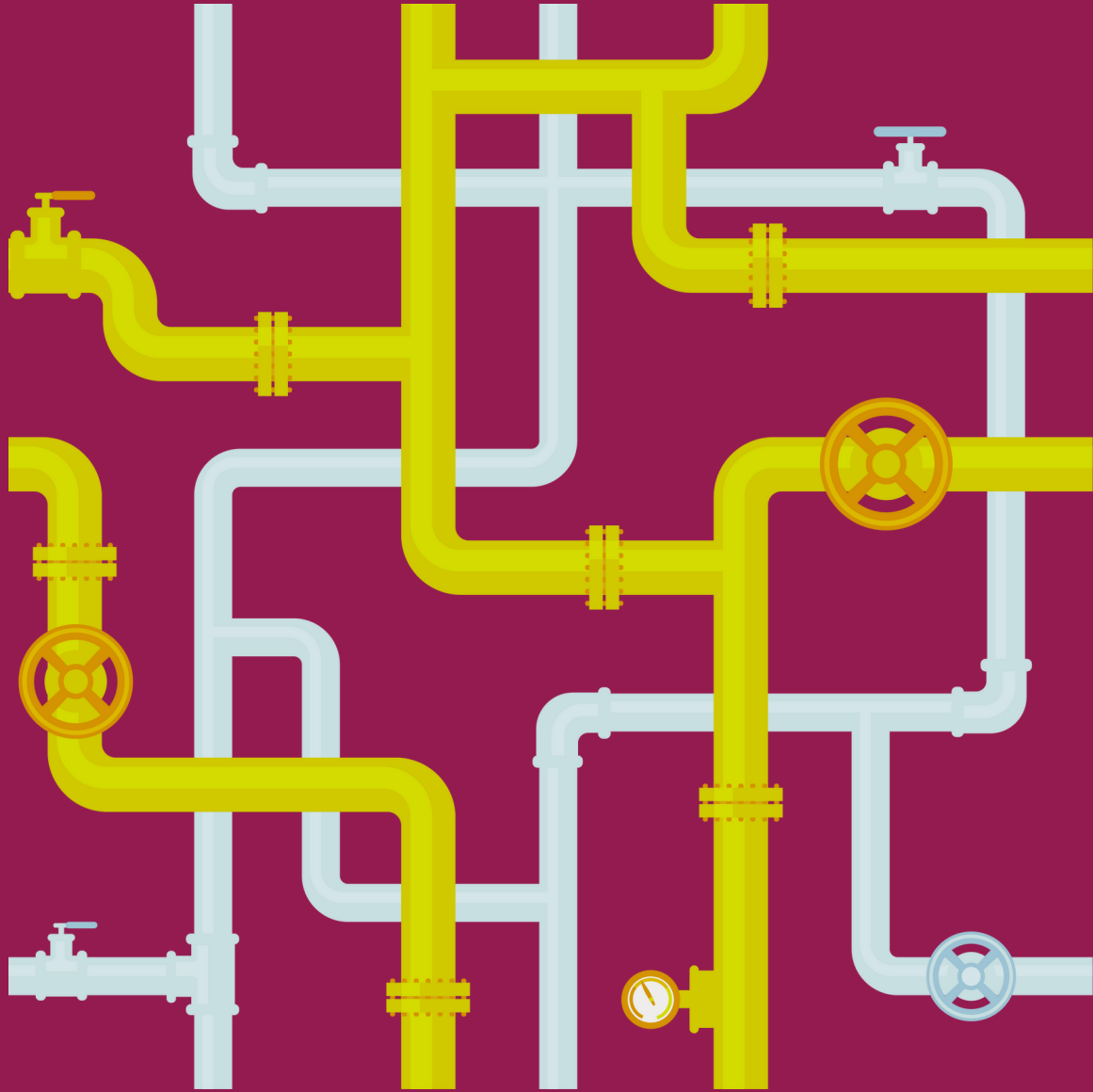
Most Vulnerable

Native Americans suffer the worst socioeconomic ill rates (by race)

Largest racial group to access eviction prevention & rental assistance in NM, behind only Whites

Homeless Mortality in New Mexico





Homelessness/ Eviction Prevention

EVIDENCE:

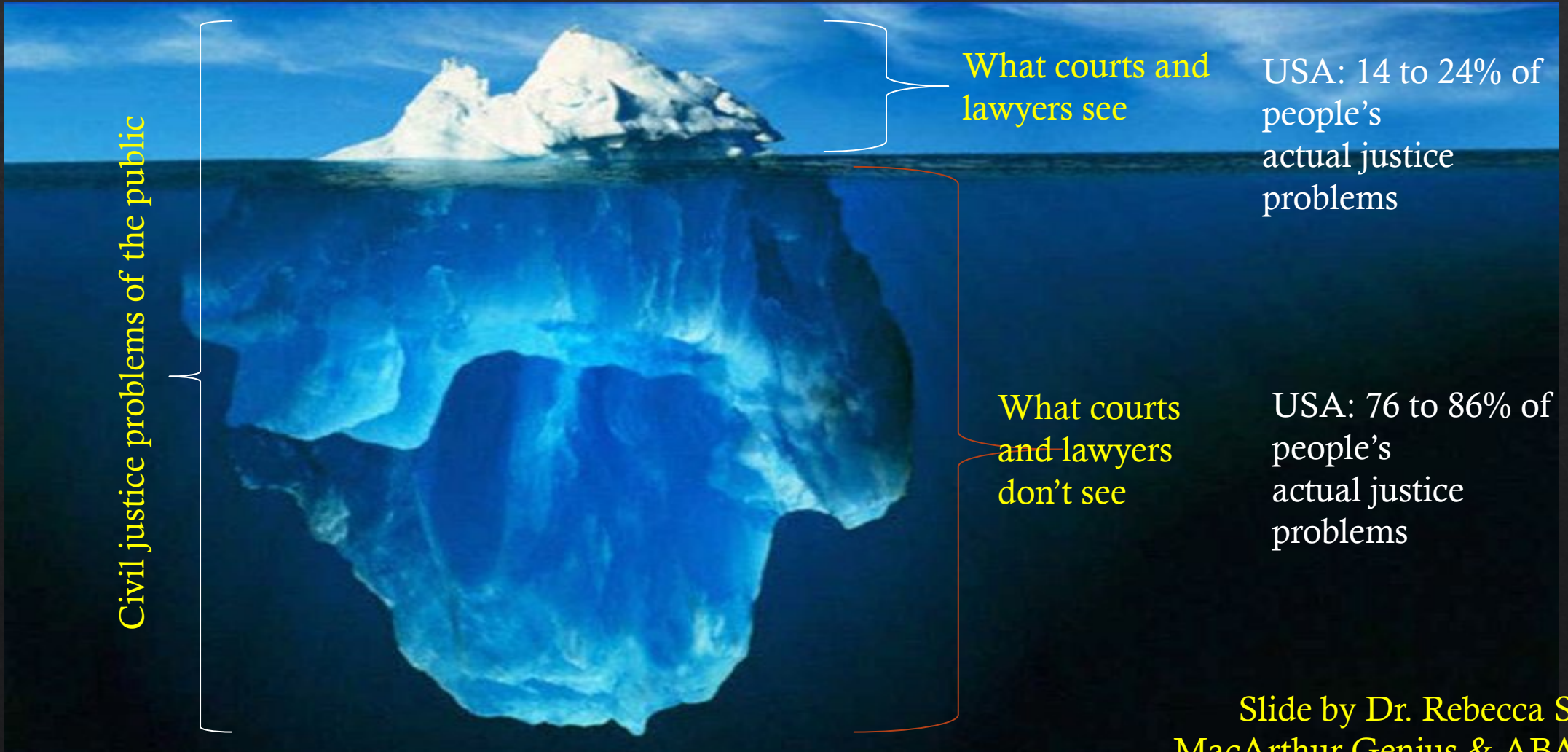
Rental Assistance Works So Does Legal Representation

E.g., Brian Blackwell et al., Early Outcomes from the Los Angeles County Homelessness Prevention Unit (CA Policy Lab, Los Angeles, C.A.), July 10, 2025; Mari Castaldi & Urvi Patel, States Should Fund Rental Assistance as a Frontline Strategy to Address the Housing Affordability Crisis (Ctr. On Budget & Policy Priorities), Aug. 6, 2025; Vincent Reina et al., A Randomized Control Trial of a Cash Rental Assistance Program in Philadelphia, PA: PHLHousing+ Housing Security Outcomes After Two Years, RESEARCH BRIEF (The Housing Initiative at Penn, Philadelphia, P.A.), Aug. 2025.

E.g., M.I. JUSTICE FOR ALL COMM'N, IMPROVING EVICTION PROCEEDINGS IN MICHIGAN: REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS (2024).

Access to Justice

Most Civil Justice Problems Do Not Make It to Law



Slide by Dr. Rebecca Sandefur
MacArthur Genius & ABA Fellow

Northern New Mexico Design

Part I

NEW

Step 1

NMEPD receives daily lists of County Magistrate Court eviction cases and uploads into data system

Step 2

NMEPD Justice Worker downloads and creates case files, document-by-document, and researches court documents and existing NMEPD data system to compile the eviction story and contact information for involved Parties

Step 3

Justice Worker assists referred residents prior to court stage

Step 4

Justice Worker conducts outreach to tenants by email, text, and phone

Step 5

Justice Worker may refer tenant out to partners w/ available rental assistance or eviction/homelessness prevention dollars.

Step 6

Justice Worker provides problem-solving advice and, supervised by an attorney, provides tools, scripts, & simple legal advice to tenants

Northern New Mexico Design

Part II

Step 7

NMEPD sends email & text reminders two and one day(s) before eviction hearing, respectively

Throughout Process

Justice Worker refers tenants to other needed services

Throughout Process

NMEPD documents/ tracks case in existing NMEPD Salesforce data system and Unite Us data system

Step 10

NMEPD documents/ tracks, to the best of their ability, case outcome in existing NMEPD Salesforce data system and Unite Us data system

Step 11

NMEPD monitors Unite Us to determine referral uptake



Access to Justice

- **Contact information required in eviction filings**
- **NM Supreme Court Approved Community Justice Worker program or licensure**

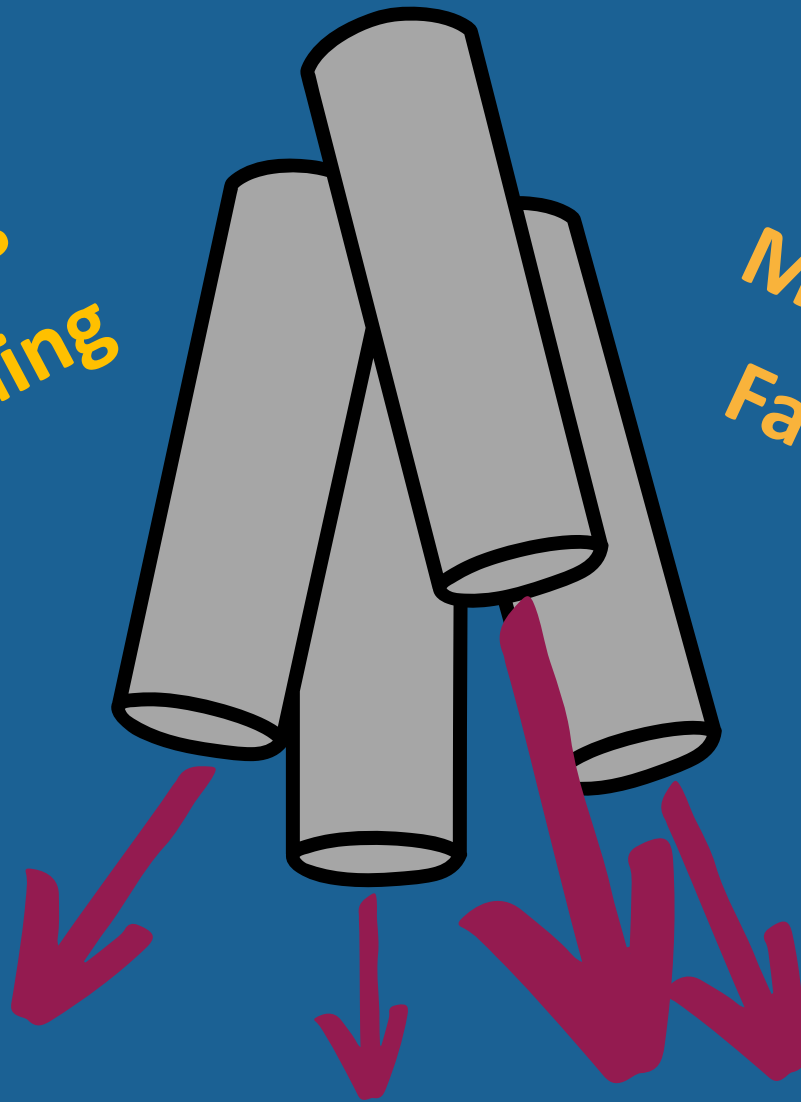


EVIDENCE:

**Homelessness Prevention Approach is
Substantially Less Costly than
Reactive Measures**

E.g., David C. Phillips & James X. Sullivan, Do Homelessness Prevention Programs Prevent Homelessness? Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial, THE REVIEW OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS, May 2023.

Billions Upon Billions
in Add'l Gov't Spending



Massive Trauma to Self,
Family, & Community

HUD Definition of “Chronically Homeless”

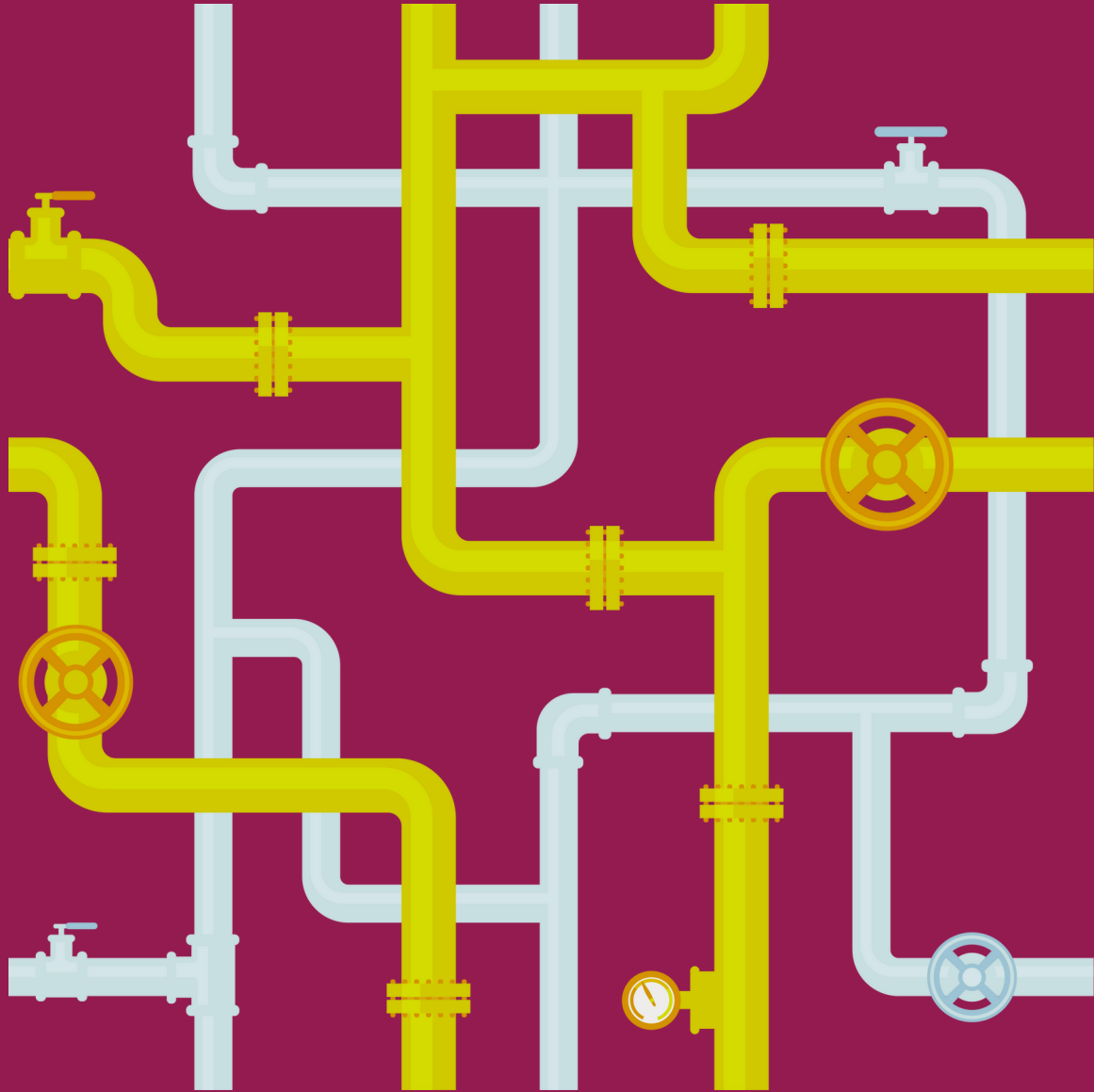


AI Generated Image

Pipelines to Homelessness

When a person is homeless, that means
EVERY SYSTEM HAS FAILED.

Pipelines

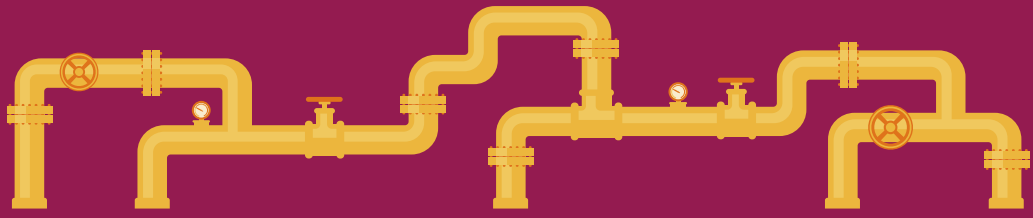


- TRAUMA
- Foster or “Resource” Care
- Returning Citizens (formerly incarcerated)
- Military Veterans
- Fixed Incomes
- Older Adults
- Disability
- Domestic Violence
- Eviction
- Mental Illness
- Substance Use Disorder
- LGBTQ Youth (family rejection)
- Doubling Up
- Short-Term Motels
- Couch Surfing
- Substandard Housing



PIPELINES ARE FAILED SYSTEMS

- EDUCATION – Schools→Teacher Pay; Literacy; STEM; carrying water for failed social systems
 - LEGAL - Courts; Prosecutors; Overloaded Systems; Domestic Violence
 - HEALTHCARE - Trauma; Mental Illness; Substance Use Disorder
 - CYFD - Foster Care & Aging Out
 - LAW ENFORCEMENT, CORRECTIONS, & CUSTOMS - Domestic Violence; Reentry; Drugs
-
- HOUSING - Vouchers; Zoning, Lack of Fair Housing, Safety, & Anti-trust Enforcement; Affordability
 - FAMILY & RELIGIOUS- LGBTQIA Youth; Domestic Violence
 - TRIBAL - Urban Natives
 - REGULATORY- Big Pharma/Opioids
 - EXECUTIVE FINANCE - Failure to Push out Gov't Funding
 - LEGISLATIVE - “Tough on Crime Backend”



PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

**We know who is
at risk**

There's literally gov't lists

OUTREACH

Walk Alongside

**Ask for/Offer Help much
further up the pipeline**

***Avoid Substantial Add'l
Trauma & Save Billions***



Thank you

Winter L. Torres, CEO & Founder, NMEPD

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