

Question One

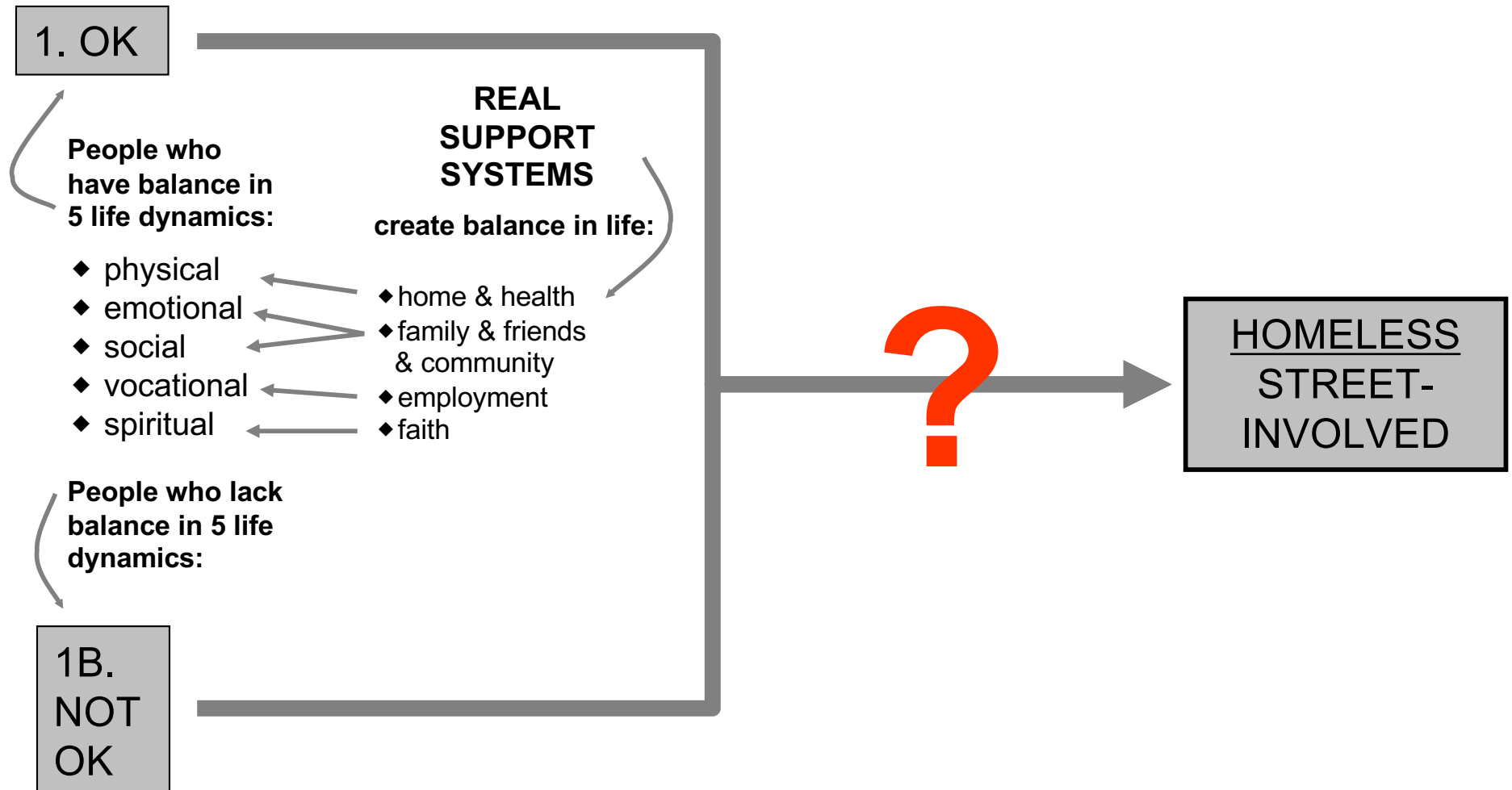
How does Starlight Ministries understand the current homeless/street-involved system in Boston?

How do people get into the system, what is “in” like, and how do people get out?

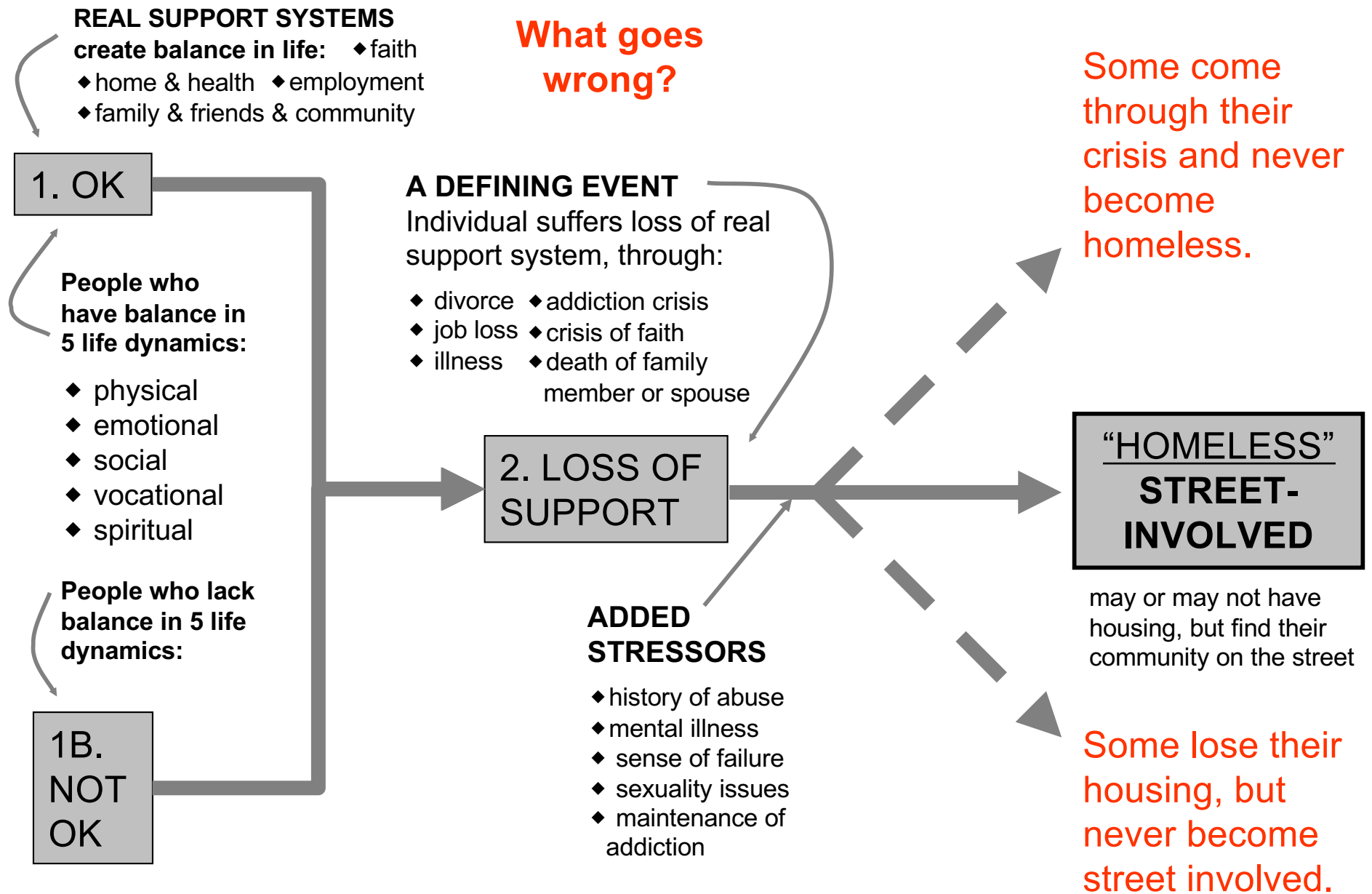
SYSTEM OF STREET-INVOLVEMENT

Who becomes homeless or street involved?

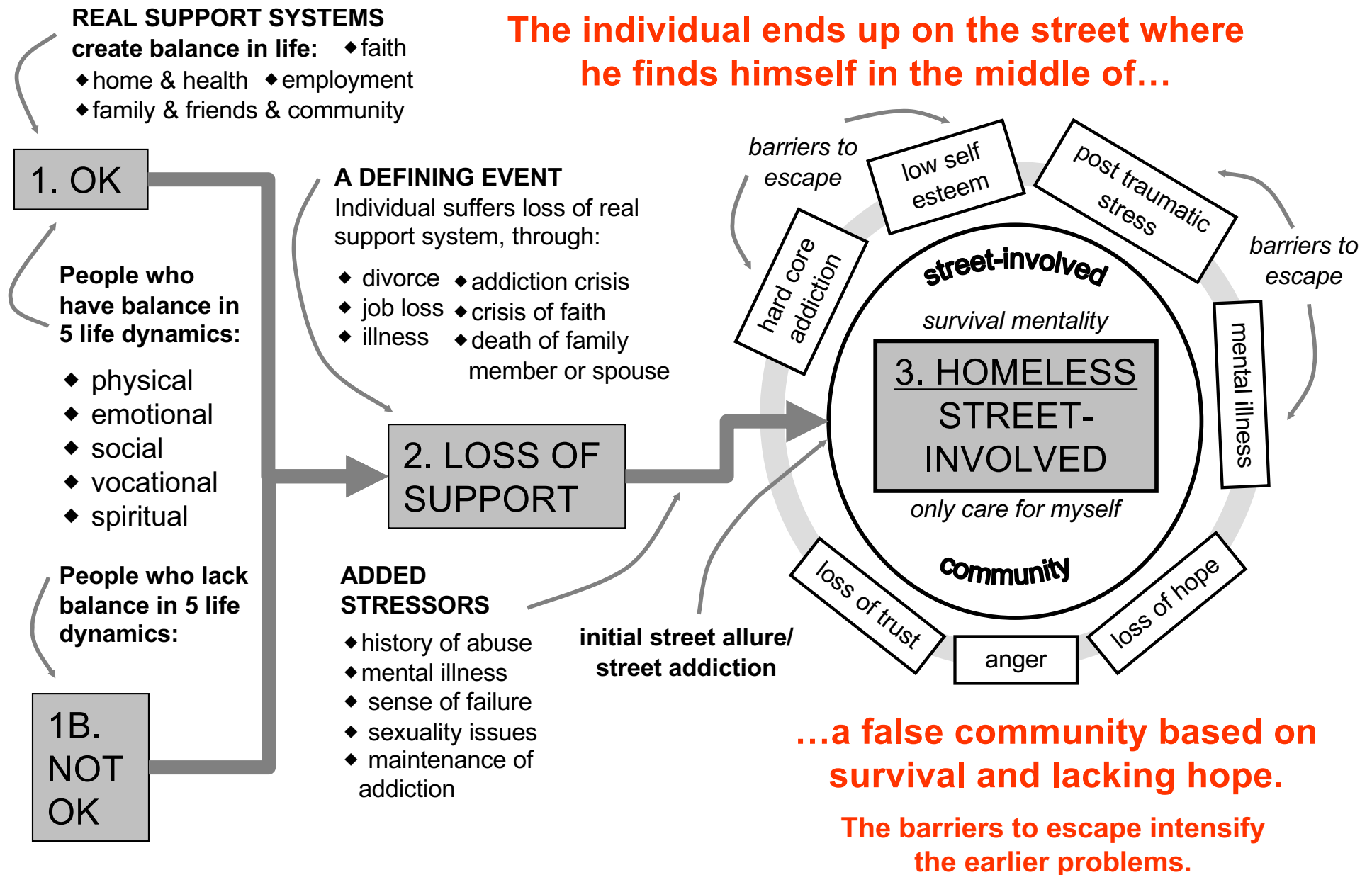
What supports a balanced life?



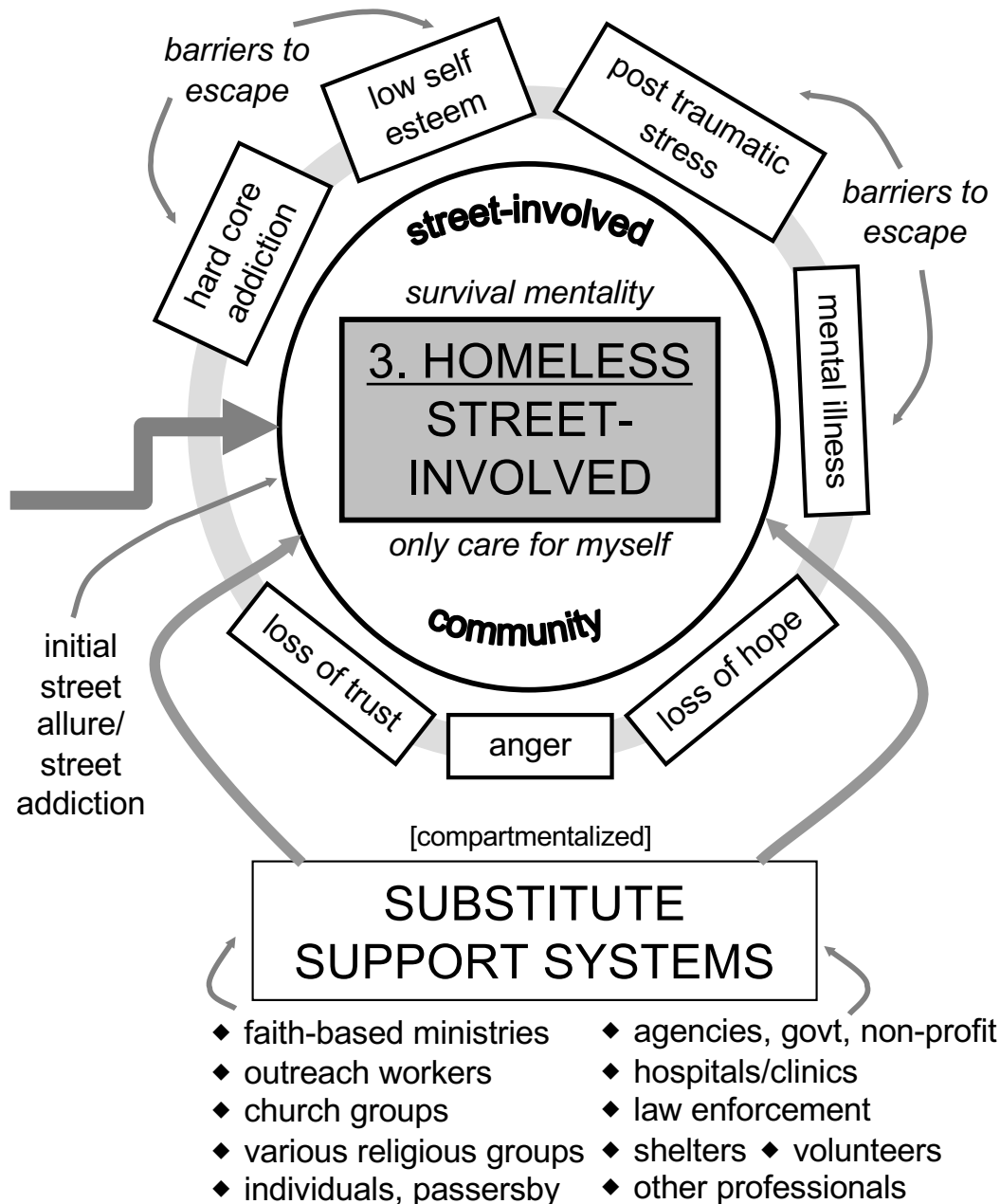
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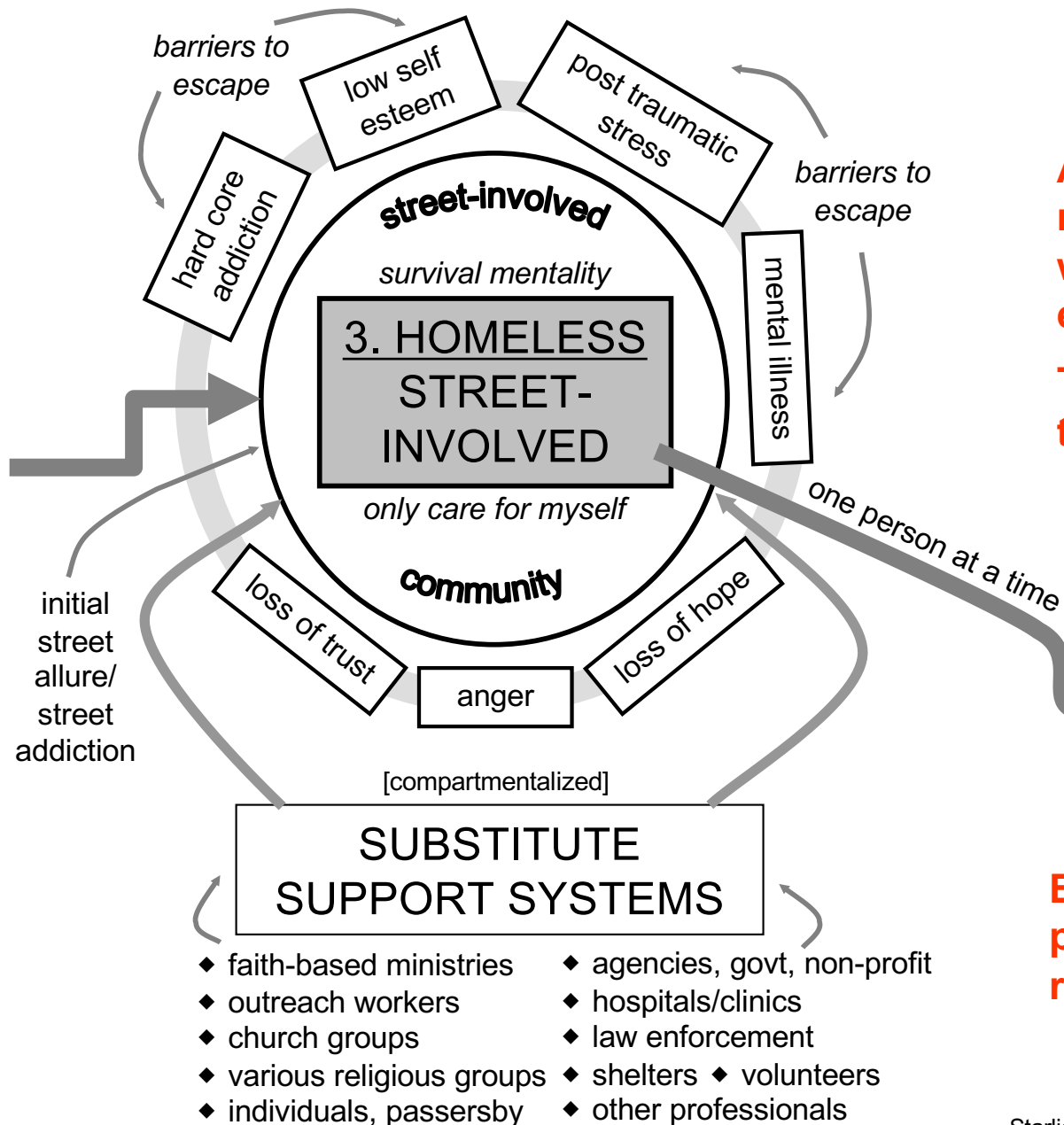
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The street-involved community is undergirded by substitute support systems:

- These tend to be **compartmentalized**, each dealing with a different aspect of the person's life.
- Some groups are at odds with or antagonistic toward others
- Some services tend to **maintain the street-involved community rather than provide a pathway out.**

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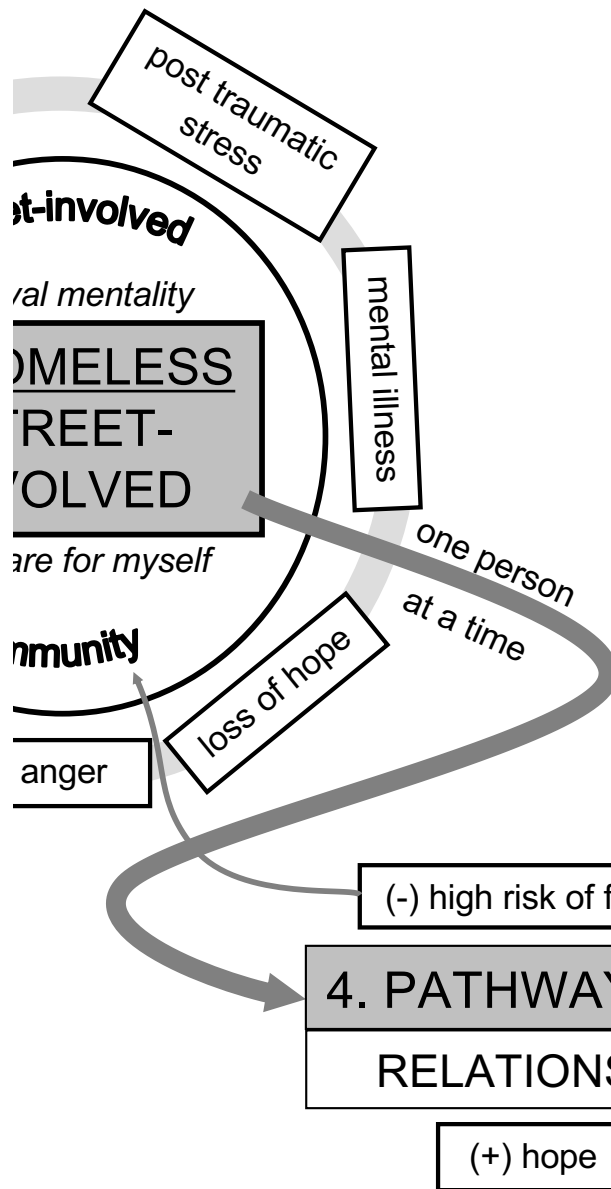
**The pathway out is a
RELATIONSHIP:**

A street-involved person forms a relationship with a caring person who offers hope, resources, and empathy.

The helping person needs to be trained, supported, and equipped.

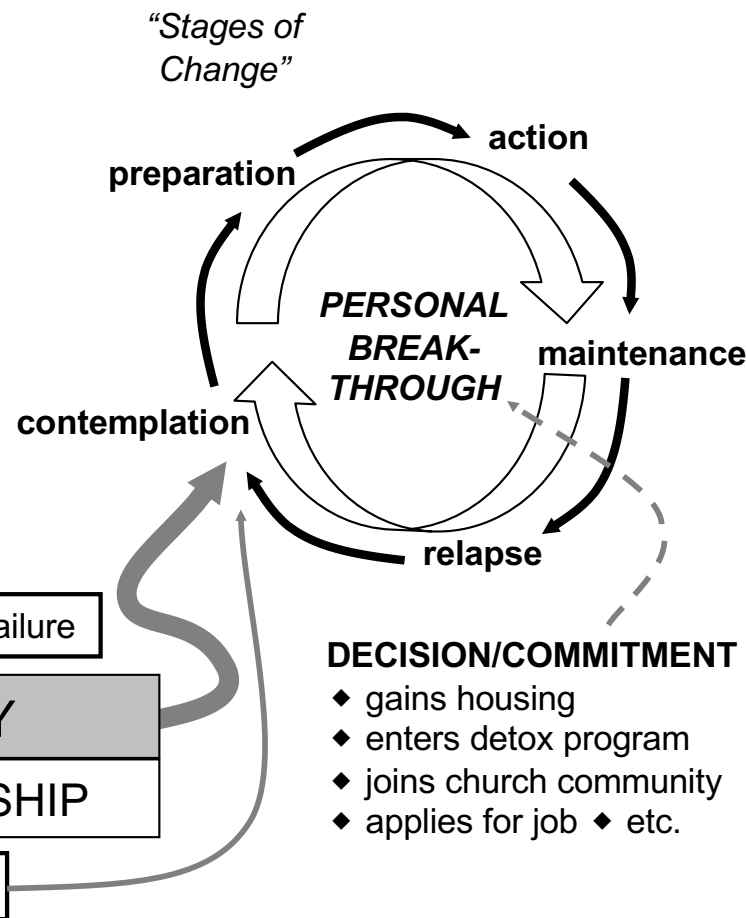
Each person is unique and faces personal issues which they must resolve themselves.

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First Engine: Personal Breakthrough

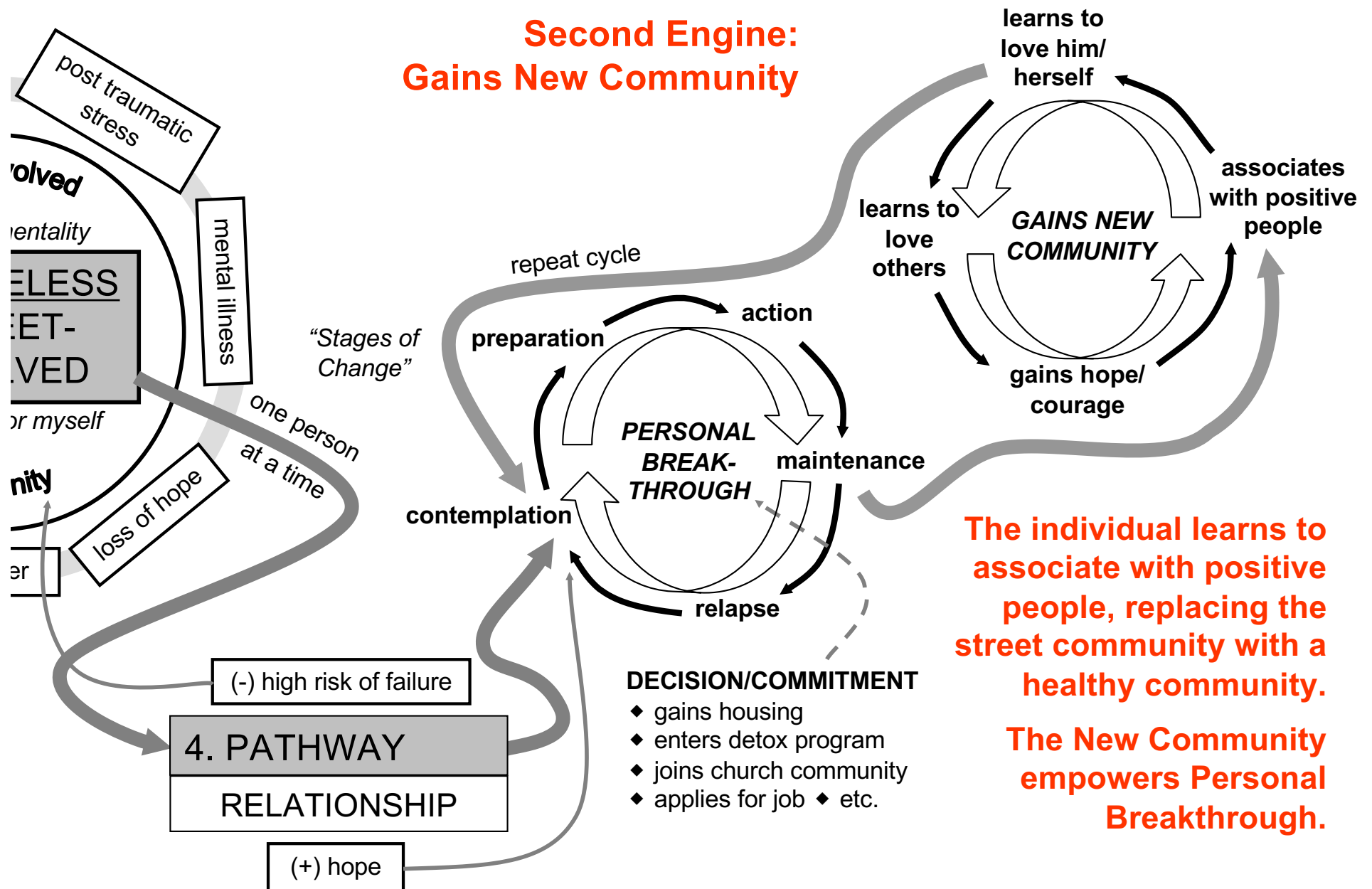
Someone walks with the individual through the “stages of change,” offering hope and encouragement, one decision after another.



Problem: the Personal Breakthrough engine is a negative loop. It requires a strong, external support system to maintain momentum.

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Second Engine: Gains New Community

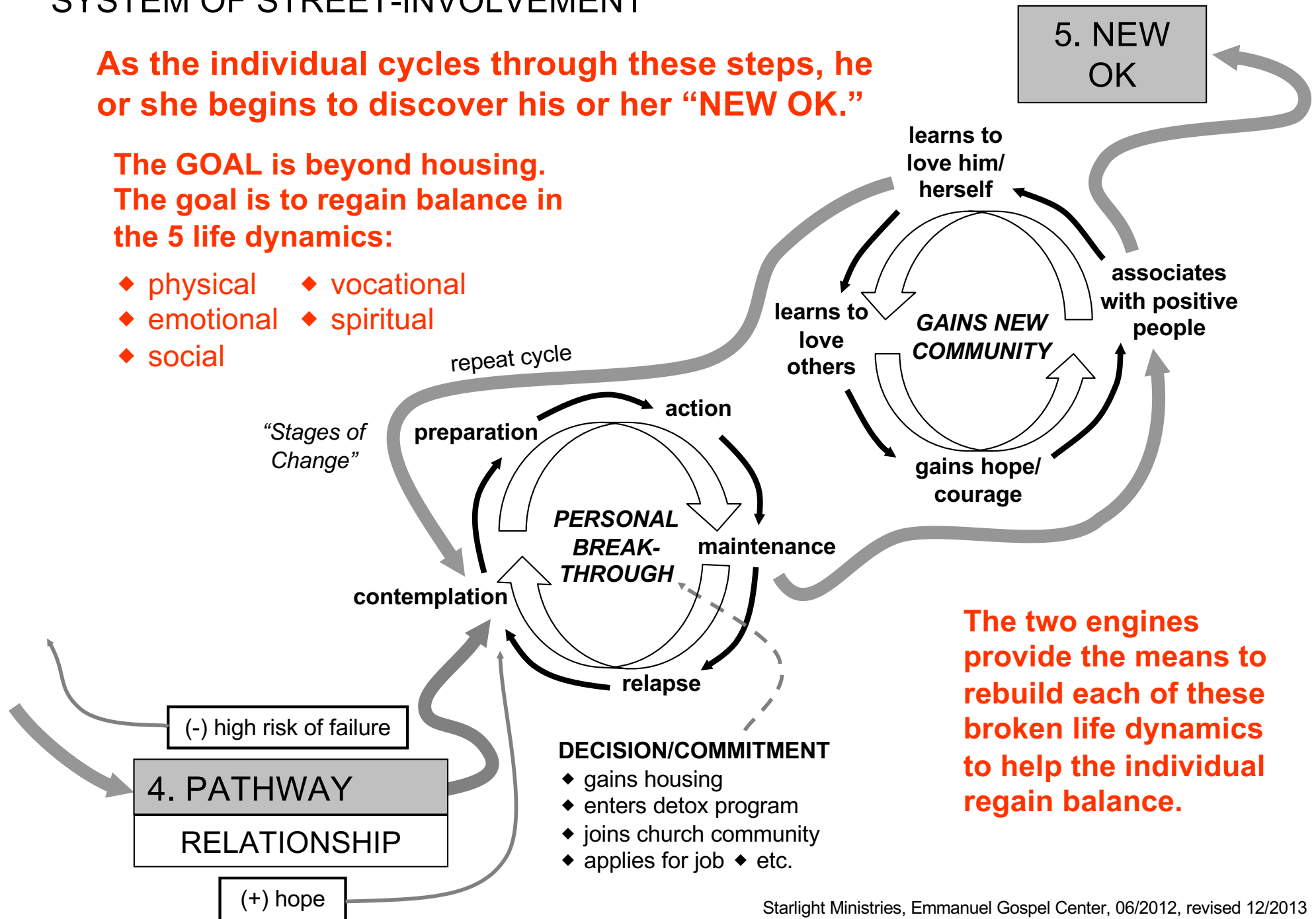


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As the individual cycles through these steps, he or she begins to discover his or her “NEW OK.”

The **GOAL** is beyond housing.
The goal is to regain balance in the 5 life dynamics:

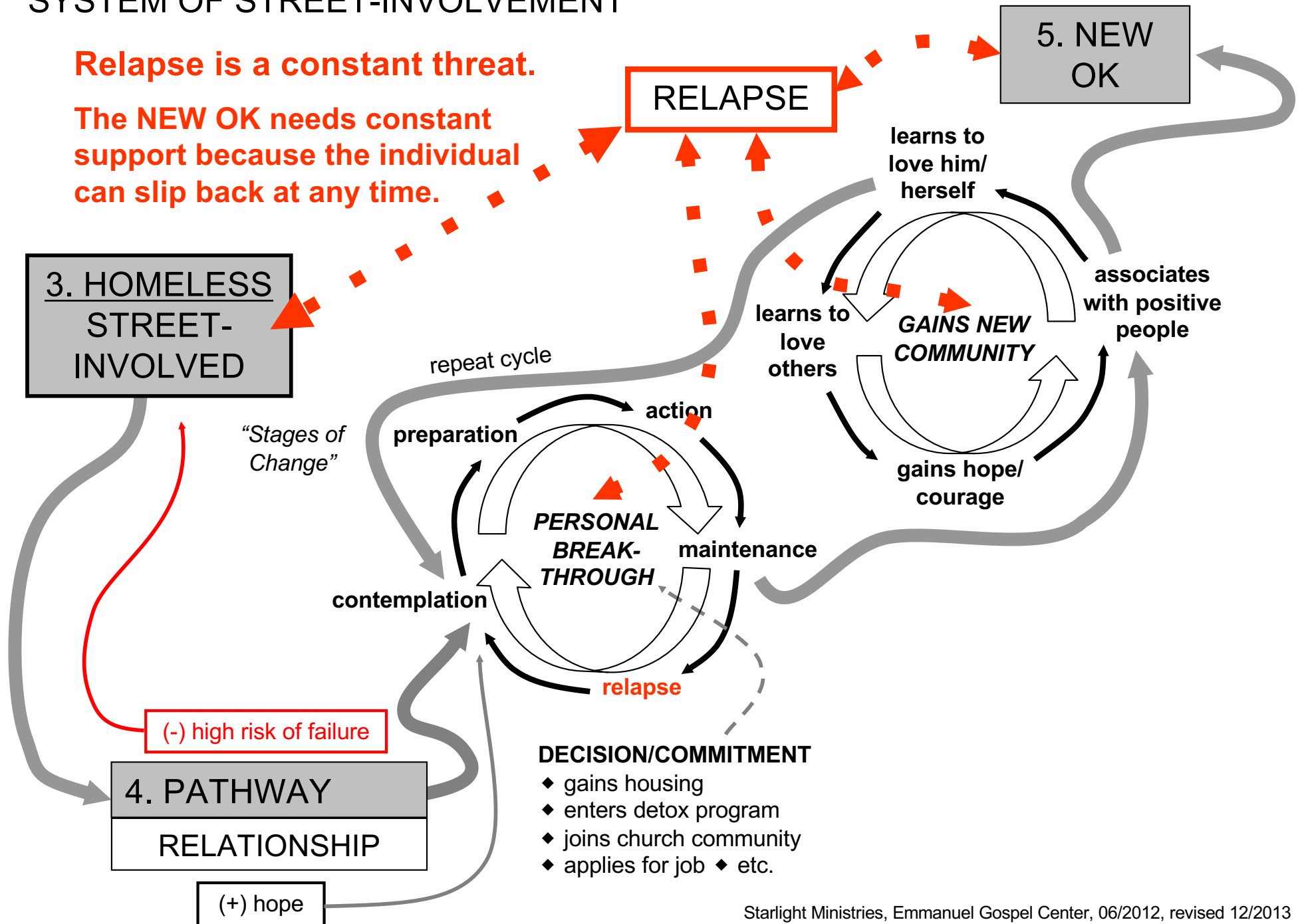
- ♦ physical
- ♦ vocational
- ♦ emotional
- ♦ spiritual
- ♦ social



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Relapse is a constant threat.

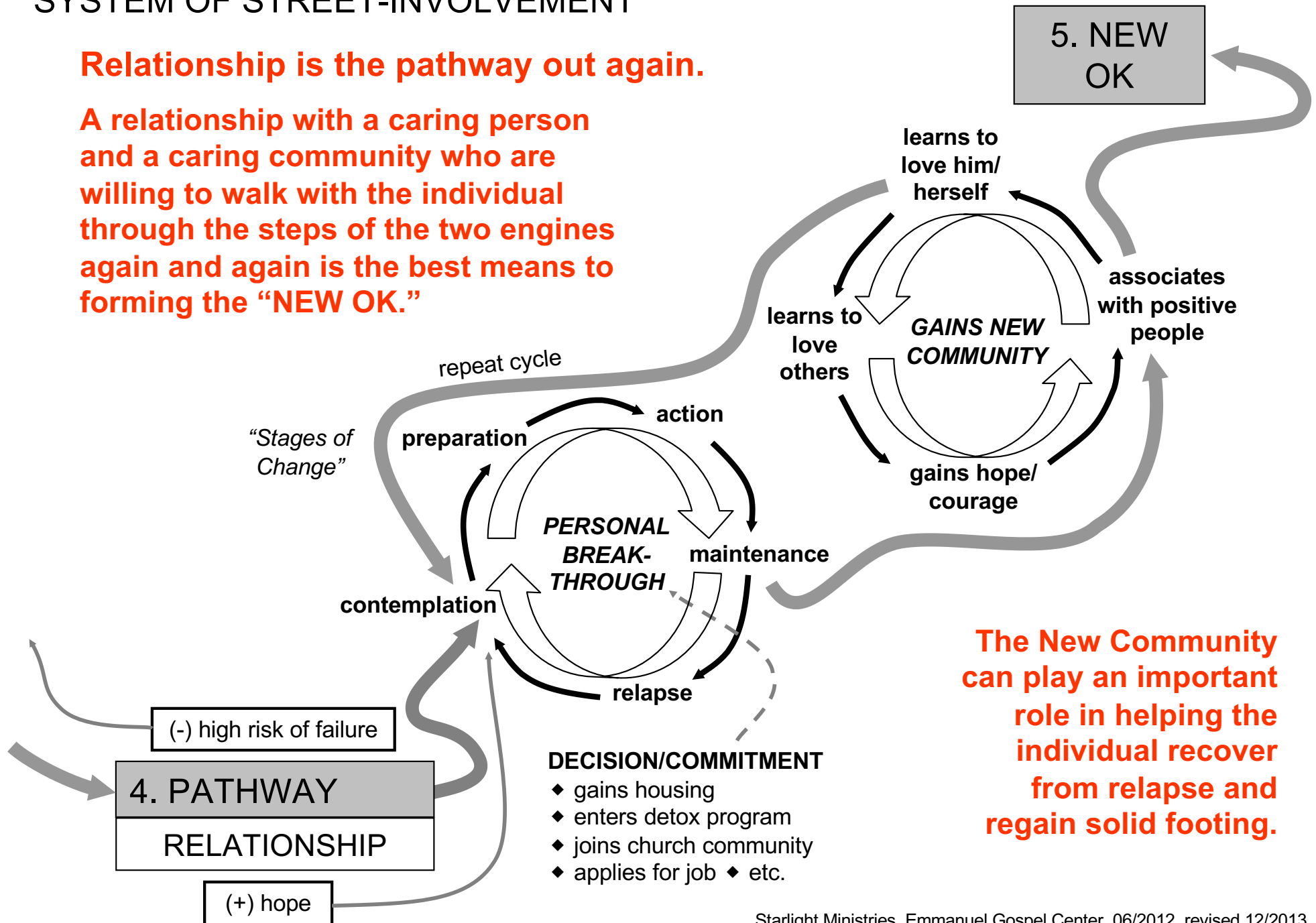
The NEW OK needs constant support because the individual can slip back at any time.



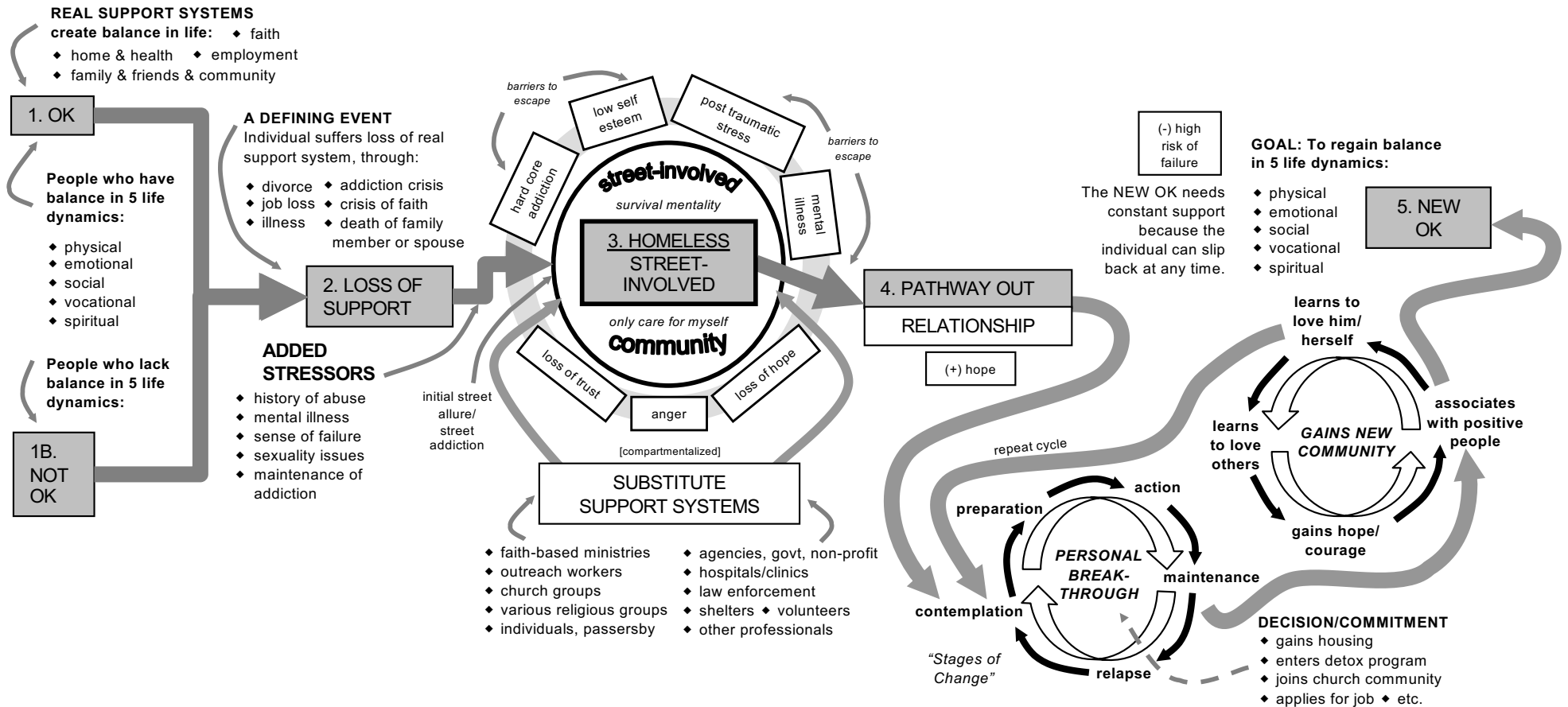
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Relationship is the pathway out again.

A relationship with a caring person and a caring community who are willing to walk with the individual through the steps of the two engines again and again is the best means to forming the "NEW OK."



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Question Two

From Starlight's understanding, how can churches effectively engage the homelessness system to make system-wide impact?

ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

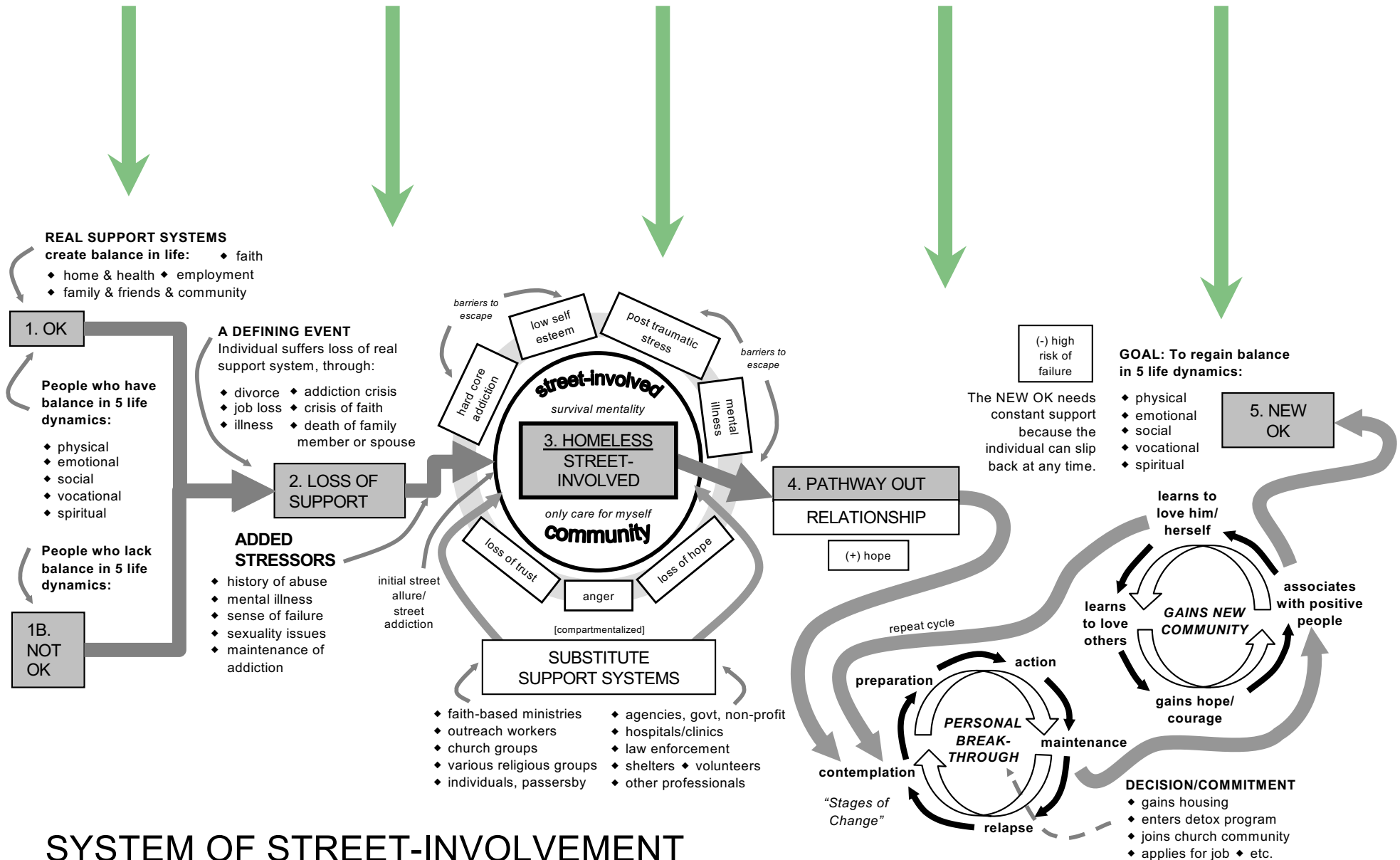
1. Prevention

2. Intervention

3. Incarnation

4. Redemption

5. Restoration

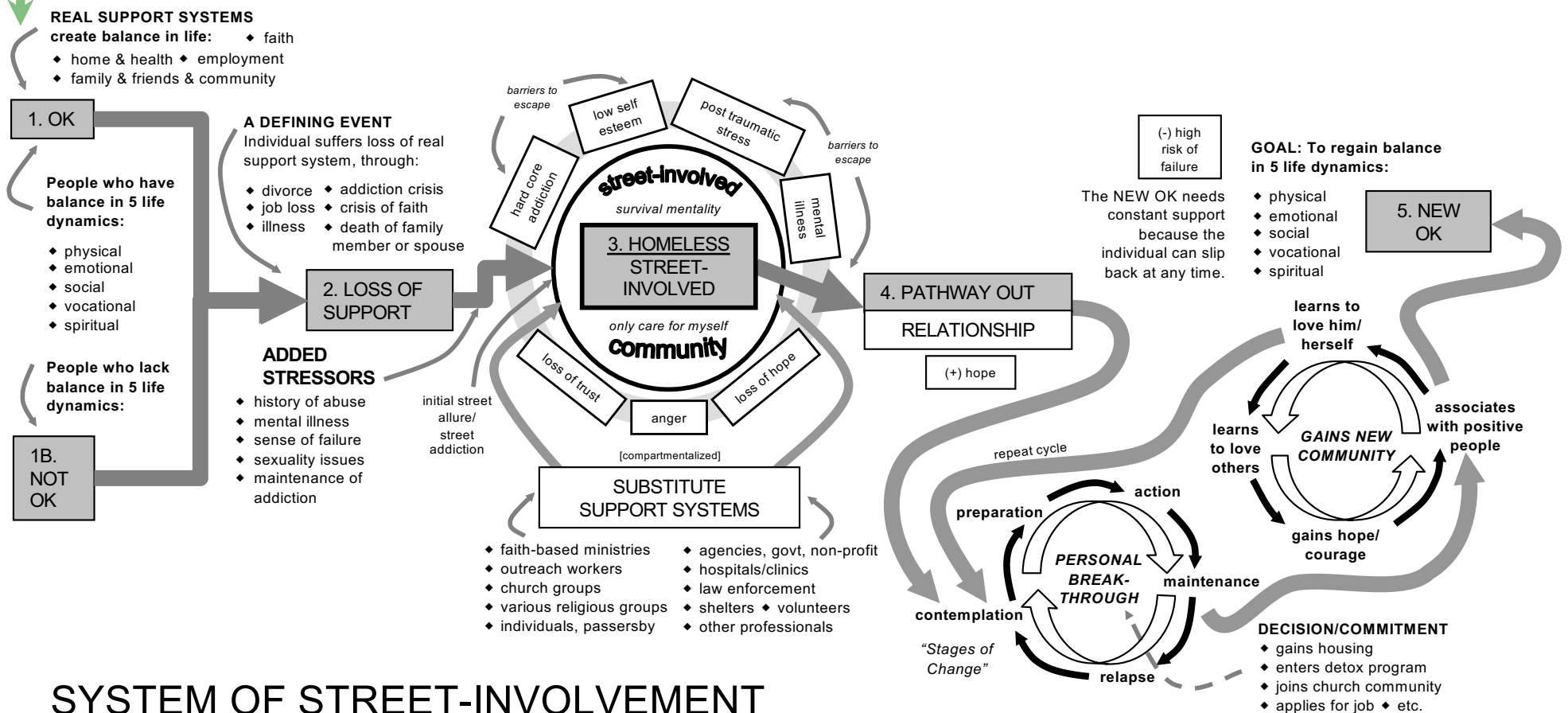


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ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

1. Prevention

- church intentionally integrates people into a vibrant faith and life community
- close relationships nurture people to maintain balance and health in life dynamics

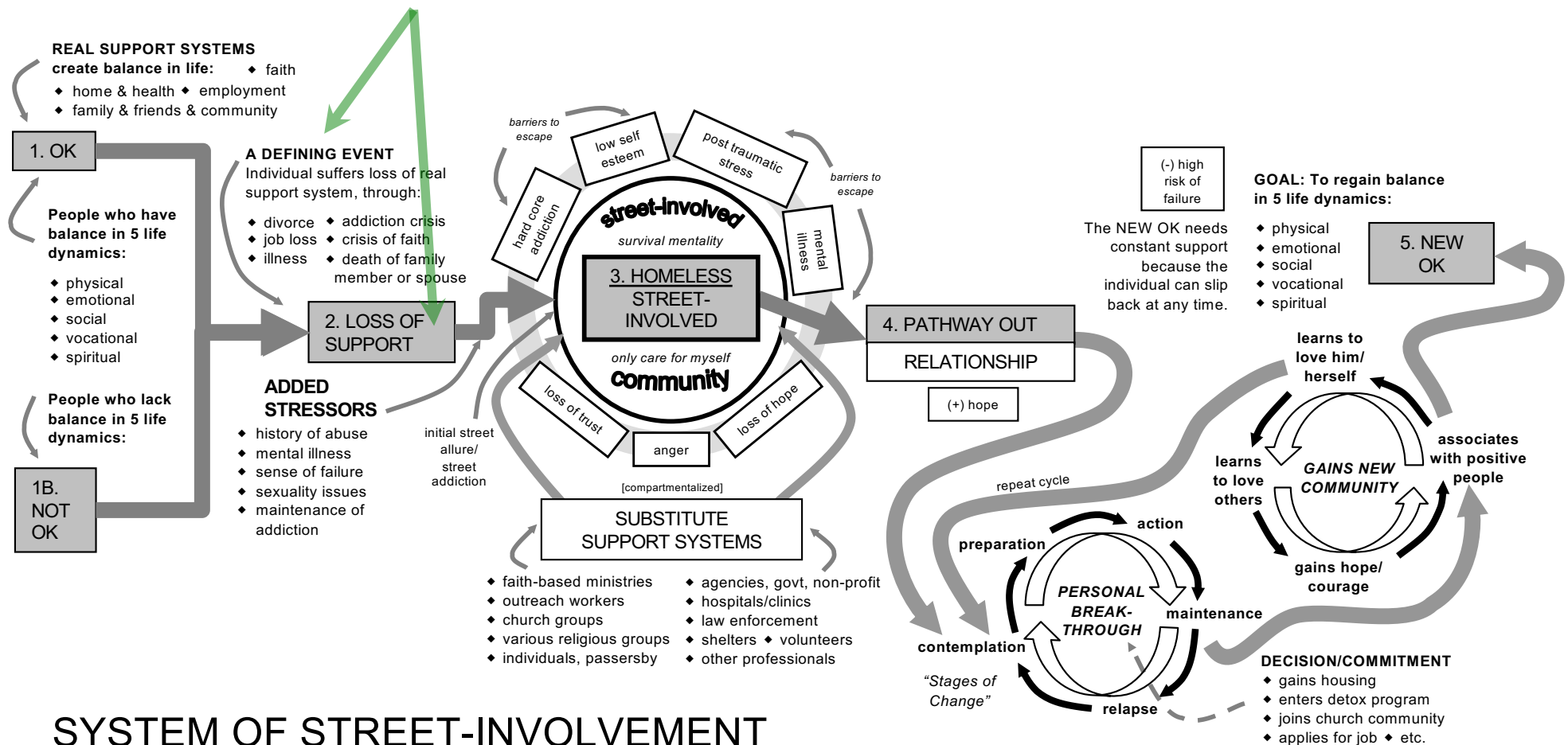


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ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

2. Intervention

- church community is aware of people's needs and rallies around people who suffer loss
- church offers effective intervention and recovery programs to help people navigate life crises (addiction, divorce, grief, illness, etc.)

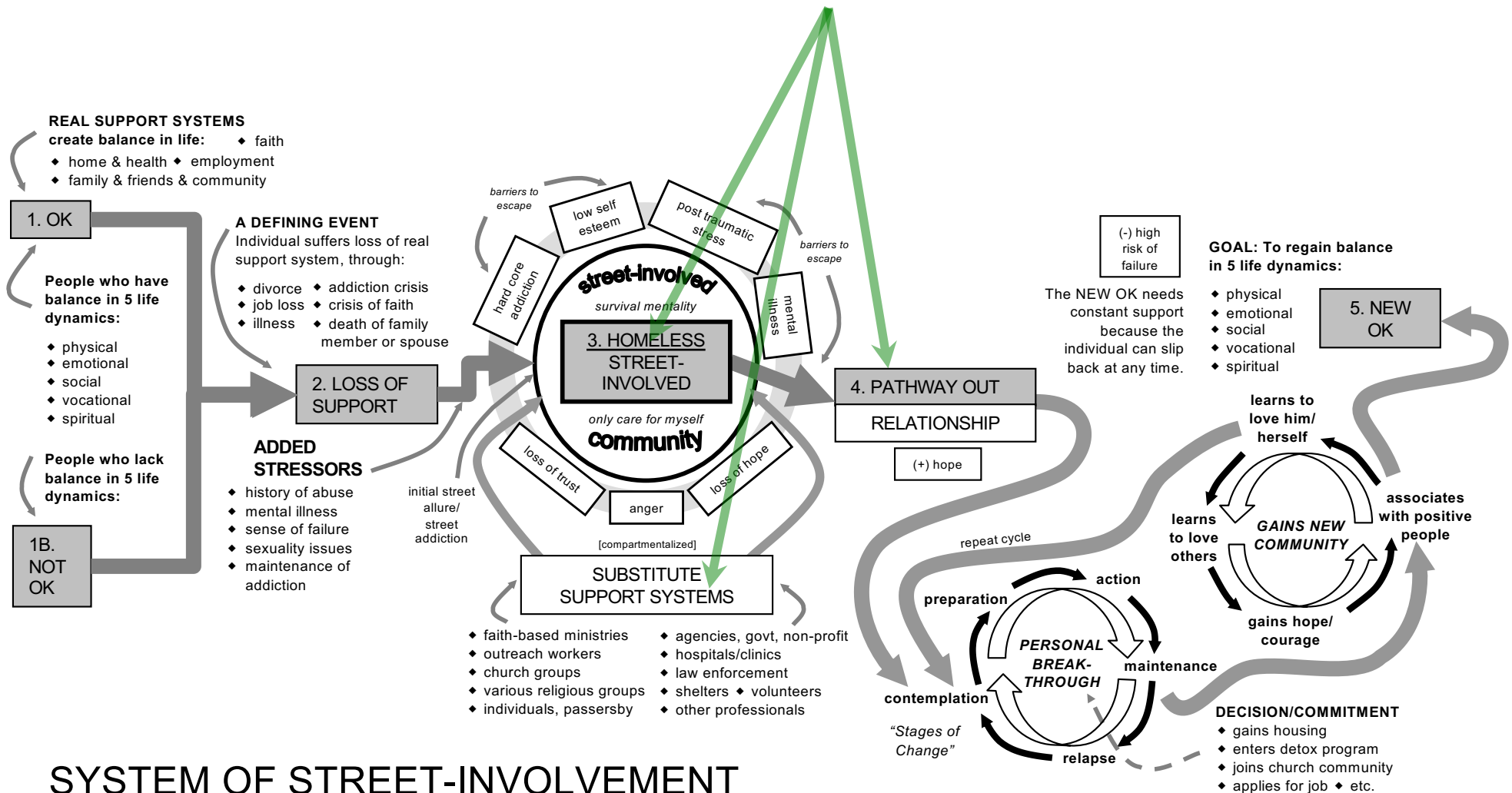


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ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

3. Incarnation

- trained, supported, and networked outreach workers build relationships with people who are street-involved and offer them a pathway out

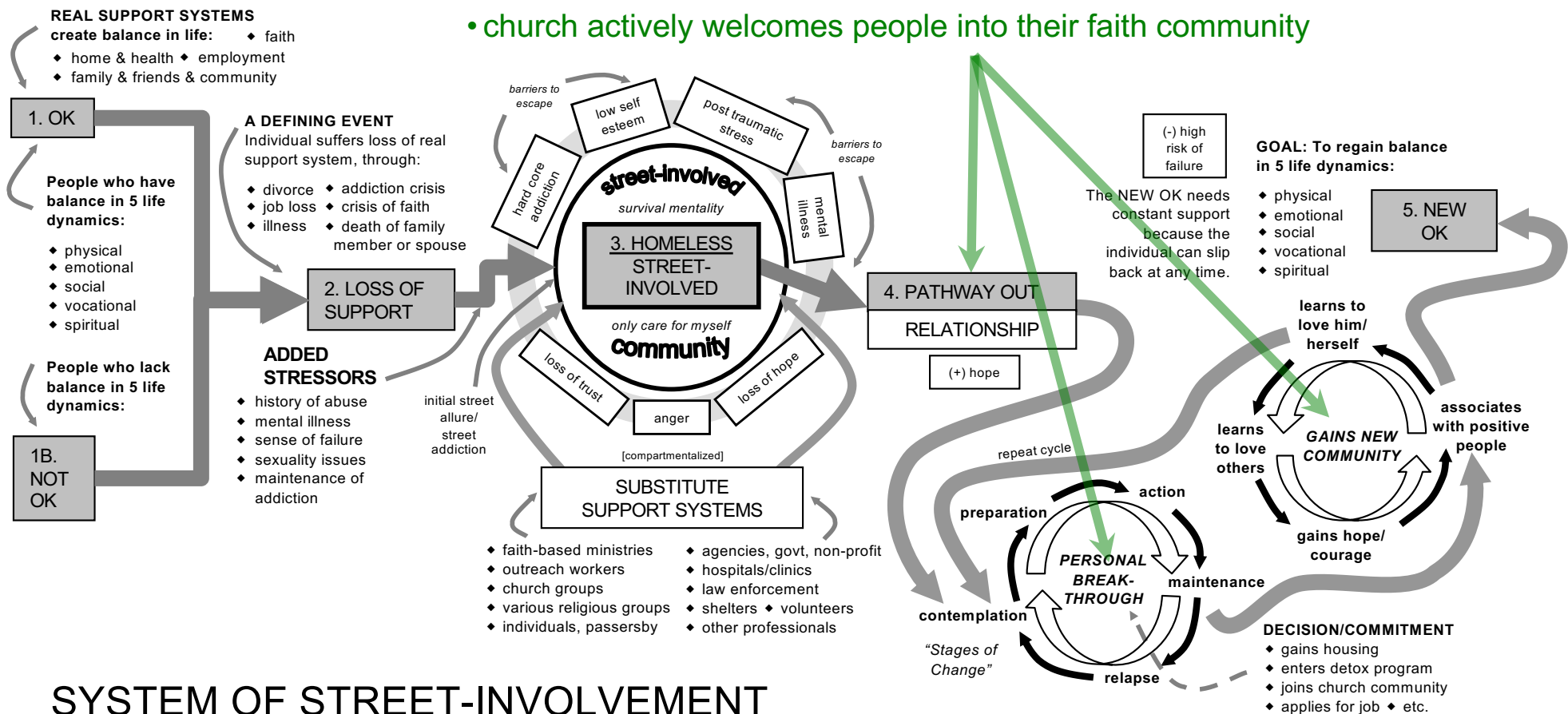


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ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

4. Redemption

- trained outreach workers walk people through “stages of change”
- church offers job programs, addiction recovery programs, etc., to help people make positive choices toward a healthy and balanced life
- church offers effective programs to build relationships with people in shelters, motels, SRO facilities, residential programs, etc.
- church actively welcomes people into their faith community

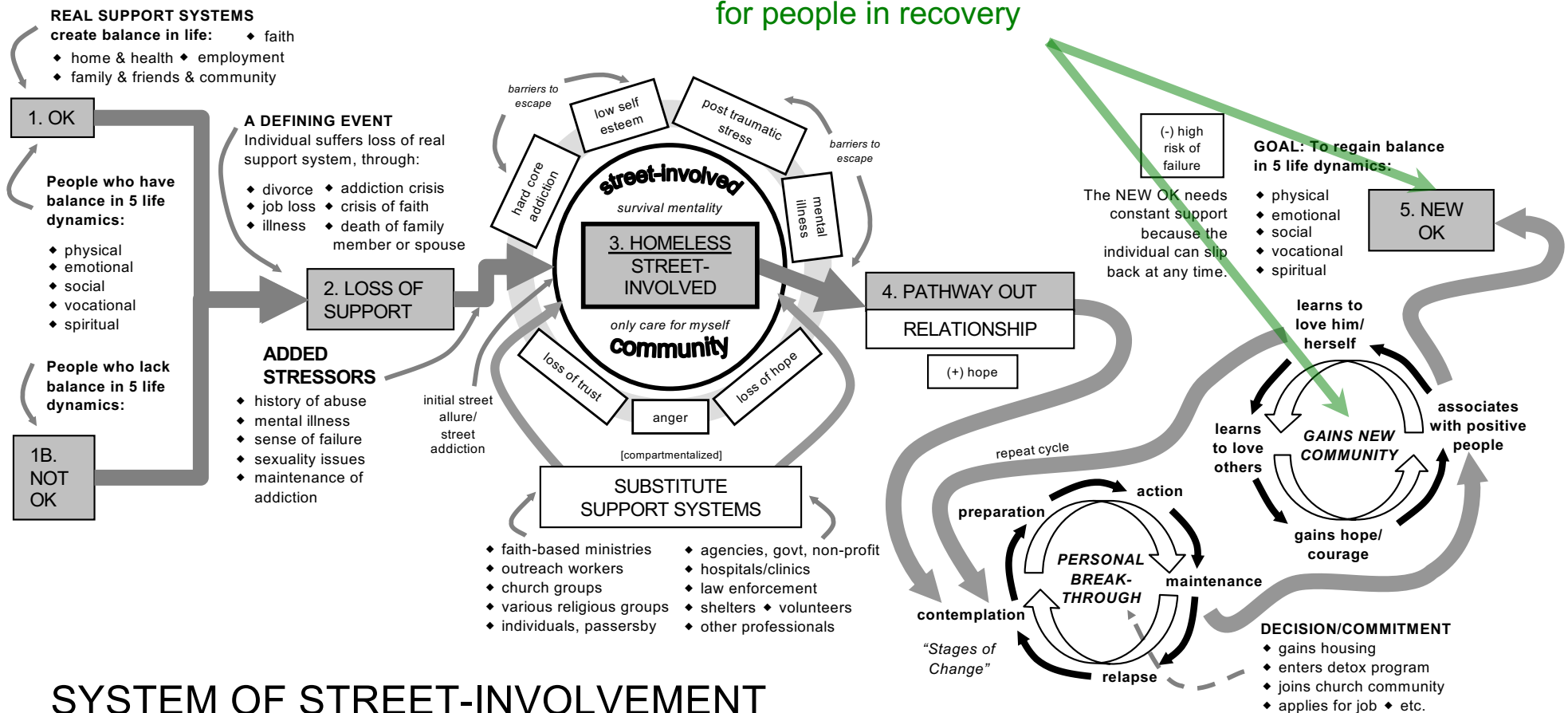


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ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

5. Restoration

- church intentionally and fully integrates people into a vibrant faith and life community
- close relationships nurture people to maintain balance and health in life dynamics
- church offers a generous measure of real support for people in recovery



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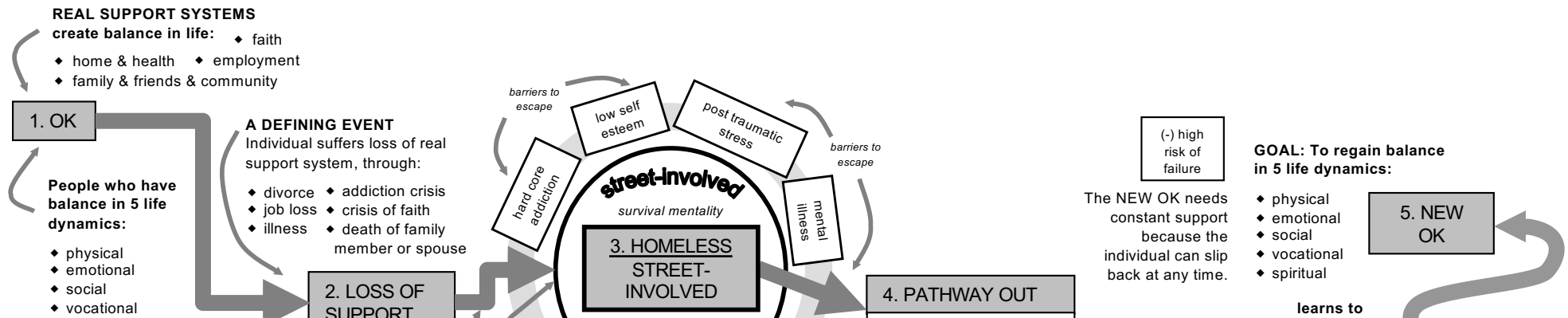
ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

Numbers needed

"Is there a place for me?"



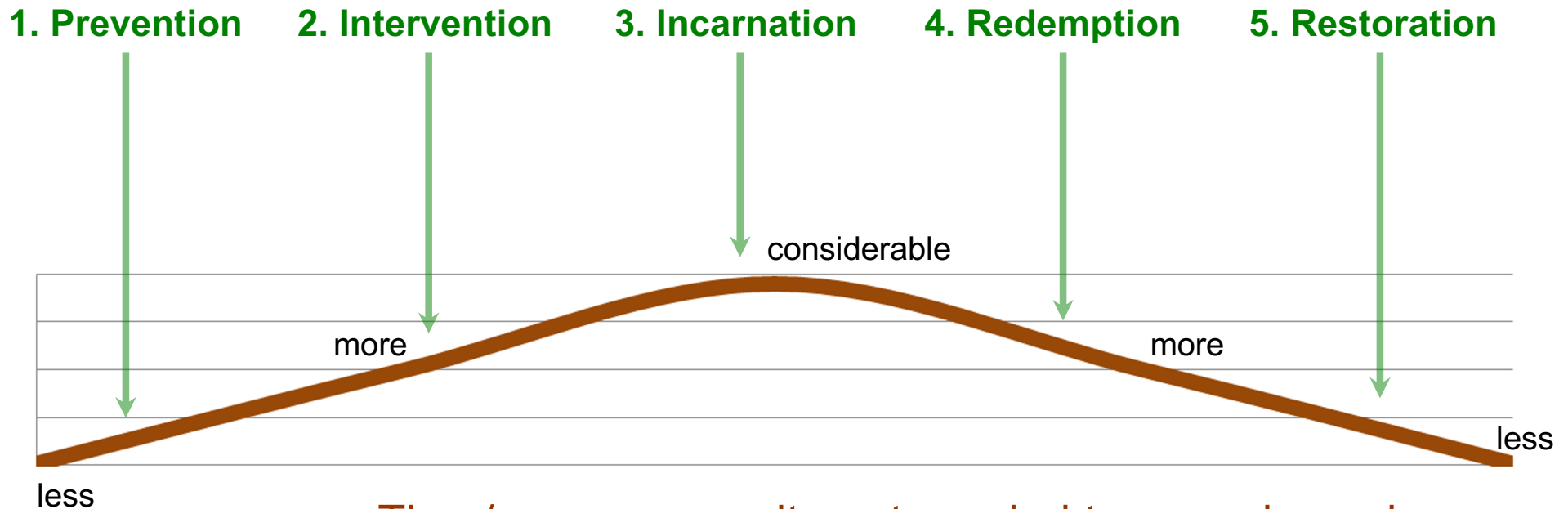
Numbers of workers needed across the system



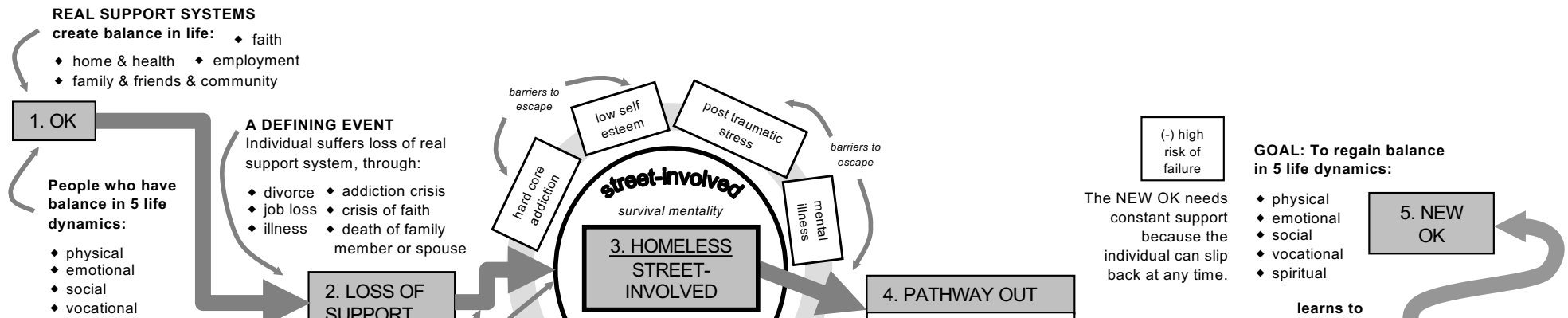
ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

Commitment required

"How much time will this require?"



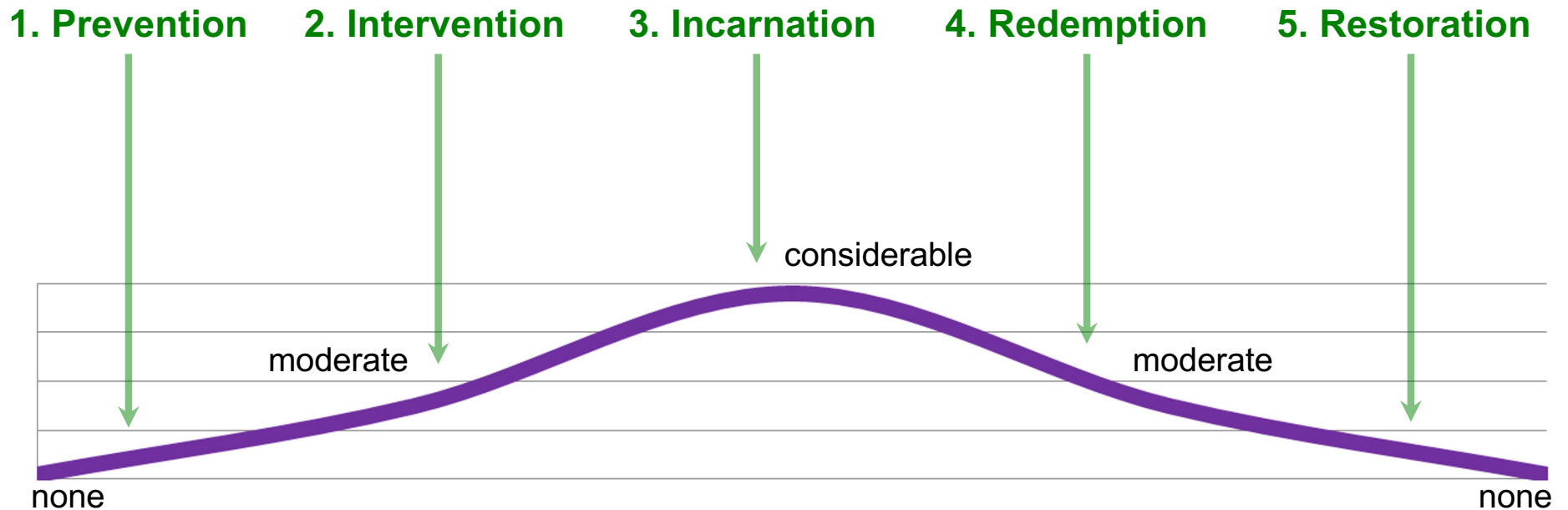
Time/energy commitment needed to serve in each area



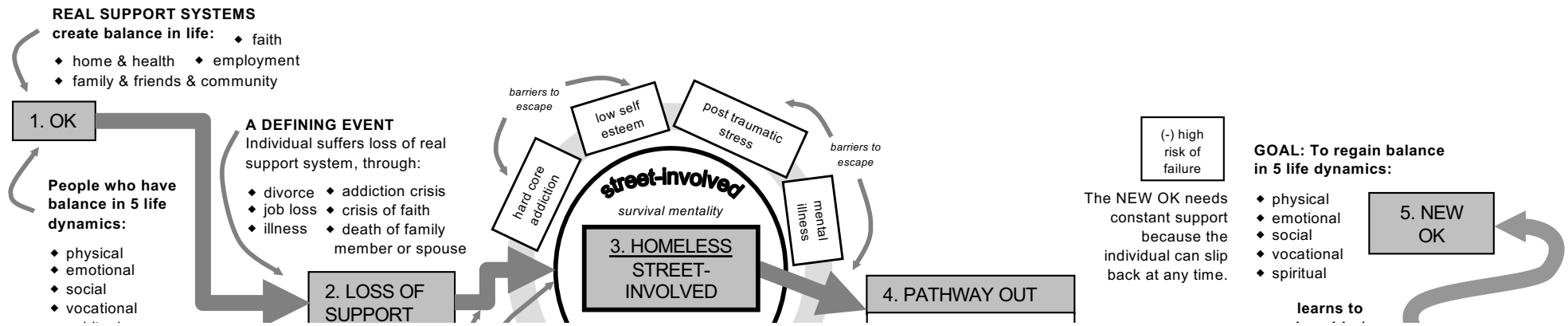
ENTRY POINTS FOR CHURCHES

Training / Experience

"Do I need training?"



Amount of training/experience required to serve effectively



WHERE DO WE START?

How can churches take the next steps toward effective ministry to those who may suffer loss, lose their balance, become homeless, or are working toward recovery?

- 1. Prayer** As leaders, as a congregation, start by asking God to help you discover his plan and purpose for you.
- 2. Assessment** Find out what tools, skills, and resources you already have.
- 3. Discernment** Ask God to give you a clear vision of how and where he wants your church to be involved.
- 4. Training** Seek both formal and informal learning opportunities to gain and enhance your skills. Collaborate and learn from others.
- 5. Engagement** Begin by taking small steps or experimenting with your outreach plans, and let the ministry grow at its own speed.
- 6. Evaluation** Make evaluation a part of the process. Debrief regularly. Pray continually. Ask hard questions of yourselves. See where your ministry is bearing fruit and do whatever you can to make it more fruitful. Keep love at the core.