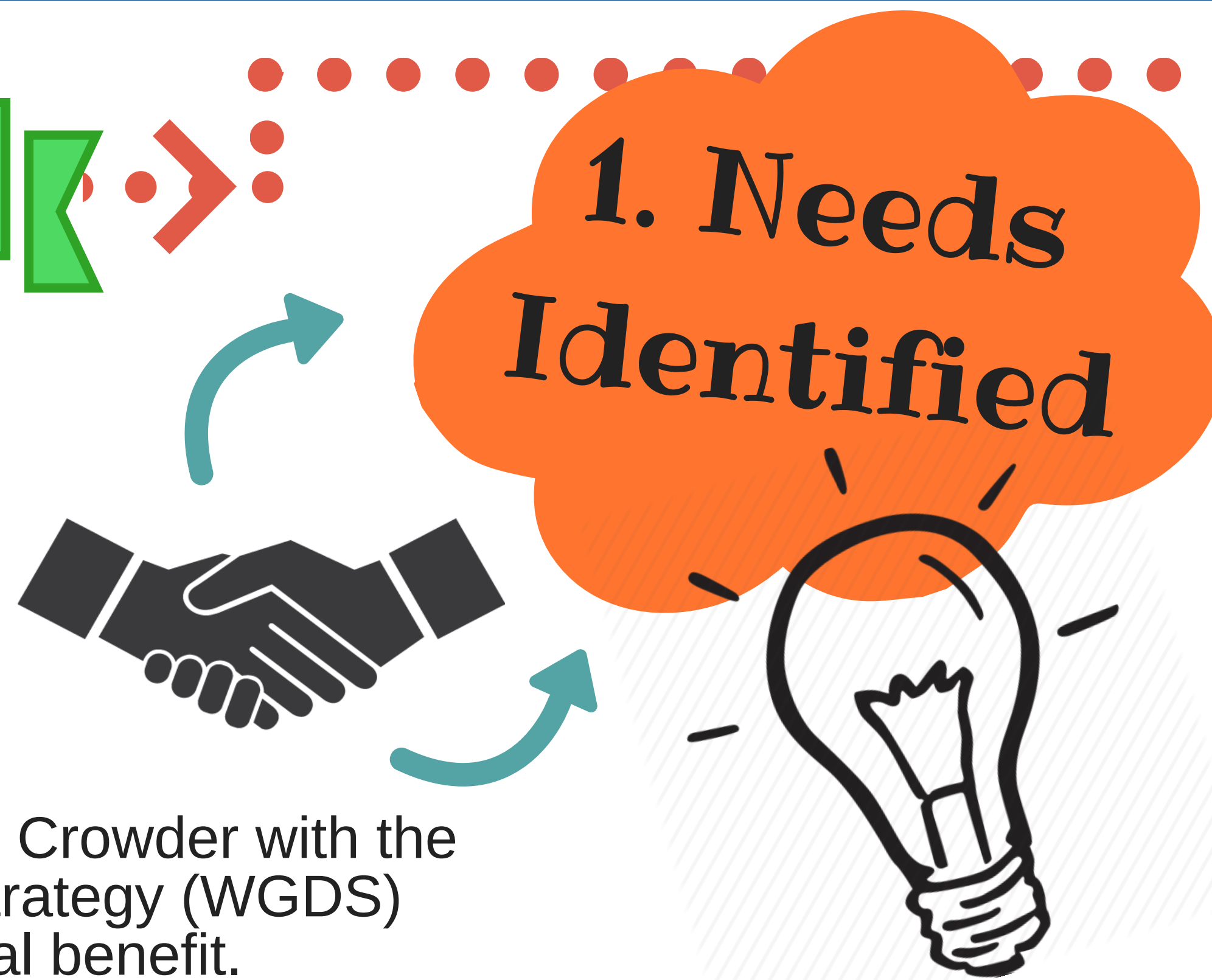


Researching Youth Substance Use and Harm Reduction Services: A Winning CES Partnership!

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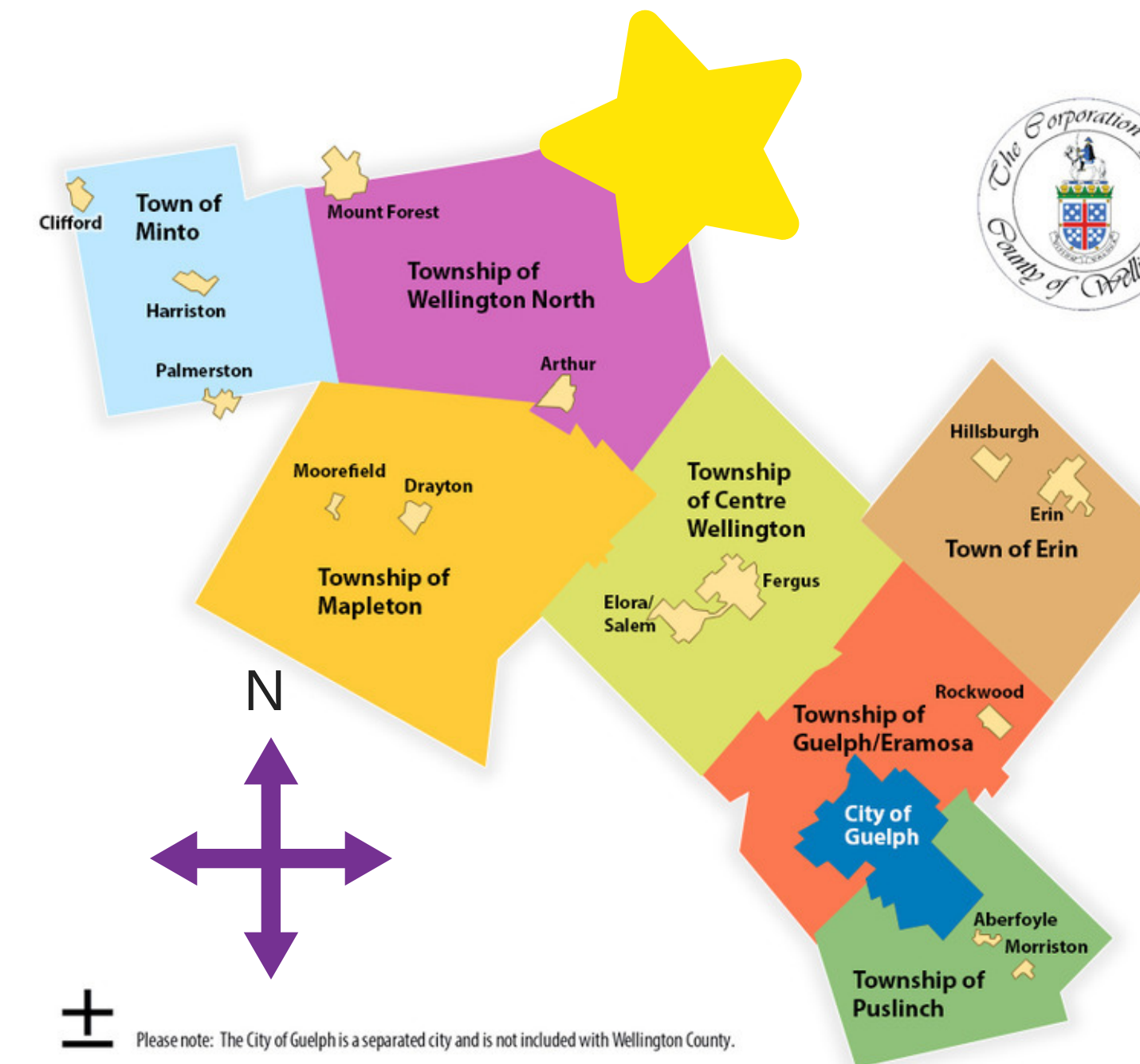
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Dr. Morton (UofG) and Ms. Crowder with the Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy (WGDS) agreed to partner for mutual benefit.

Community (WGDS)

- Youth harm reduction services in Guelph-Wellington County
- In 2015, WGDS gained local information about Guelph youth substance use, addiction and harm reduction service needs
- WGDS remained unaware of the needs of the rural North Wellington youth



Campus (UofG)

- A new sociology graduate course on the principles and practices of community-engaged scholarship (CES) needed a community partner to identify a real-world problem to work on together



3. Partnership Formed

Community Partner Expertise

- WGDS manager and intern introduced the youth reduction project and need to the class
- WGDS intern attended UofG class throughout the term to communicate with students regarding YHRWG ideas and questions
- WGDS intern recruited North Wellington service providers to participate in research as key informants

Graduate Students' Expertise

- Reviewed academic and grey literature about rural youth harm reduction approaches & services
- 13 key informant interviews conducted with North Wellington County service providers
- Research ethics, qualitative research, and knowledge transfer
- Research findings presented to WGDS

Community-campus partnership:

- WGDS staff + Youth Harm Reduction Working Group members (YHRWG) + Master of Social Work student
- 4 UofG sociology graduate students + sociology faculty (in new CES course)



- Partner with the UofG to work on a community-identified need
- Provide the sociology graduate students an opportunity to practice the principles of CES
- Provide WGDS with local research and evidence-based information to help them advocate for resources to positively impact rural youth substance use via a harm reduction approach

2. Objectives Developed

Community Engaged Scholarship Principles

1. Relationships
2. Clear Communication
3. Shared Input
4. Mutual Benefits
5. Meaningful Outcomes

4. Partnership Outcomes!

1. Youth harm reduction and rural youth services literature review
2. Primary local research via key informant identified needs and issues facing Wellington Country rural youth
3. Identification of evaluation tools to be used as outcome measures for new services
4. Identification of current Canadian youth harm reduction programs

- 5 themes identified connecting primary research to literature:
- 1) need for more local & accessible services
 - 2) sustainable relationships
 - 3) youth engagement
 - 4) risk and resiliency
 - 5) harm reduction

Outcome Products:

- 2 presentations of findings
- A formal report
- CU2Expo conference abstract acceptance
- CESI poster conference
- Grad students mentored in principles/practice of CES

STEPS OF THE PROCESS:

- 1) Entering partnerships - partners and problems are identified
- 2) Conducting partnerships - a plan is developed & roles are decided
- 3) Outcomes of partnerships - products are made & disseminated

