Best, Promising and Emerging Practices

Given the growing interest in developing solutions to homelessness, it is increasingly important to know what works, why it works and for whom it works. There is extensive research that examines causes and current conditions of homelessness but little —although growing—literature that can describe effective interventions in a practical way. The sharing of solutions is key to avoid “reinventing the wheel” in each community. While there are few “one-size-fits-all” solutions to homelessness, with the right tools and information communities could learn from each other and adapt initiatives to local contexts.

Yet, many communities and service providers in the non-profit sector lack effective tools, resources and capacity to engage in rigorous program evaluation or to disseminate knowledge learned in order to assist service providers and program planners elsewhere. Sharing best, promising or emerging practices is about communication and alerting those working in the field to a strategy that demonstrates positive results.

In “What Works and for Whom”, the Canadian Homelessness Research Network defines and explains the differences between best, promising and emerging practices as follows:

1. BEST PRACTICE
2. PROMISING PRACTICE
3. EMERGING PRACTICE