



GSA 2020 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING O N L I N E

Turning 75: Why Age Matters

November 4-7, 2020



Conceptualizing the Shelter and Housing Needs and Solutions of Older People Experiencing Homelessness

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#GSA2020

We acknowledge that the research for this presentation was conducted on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish people, including the territories of the x^wməθkwəy'əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl'ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) nations, on which we are privileged to live, work, and play.

Background

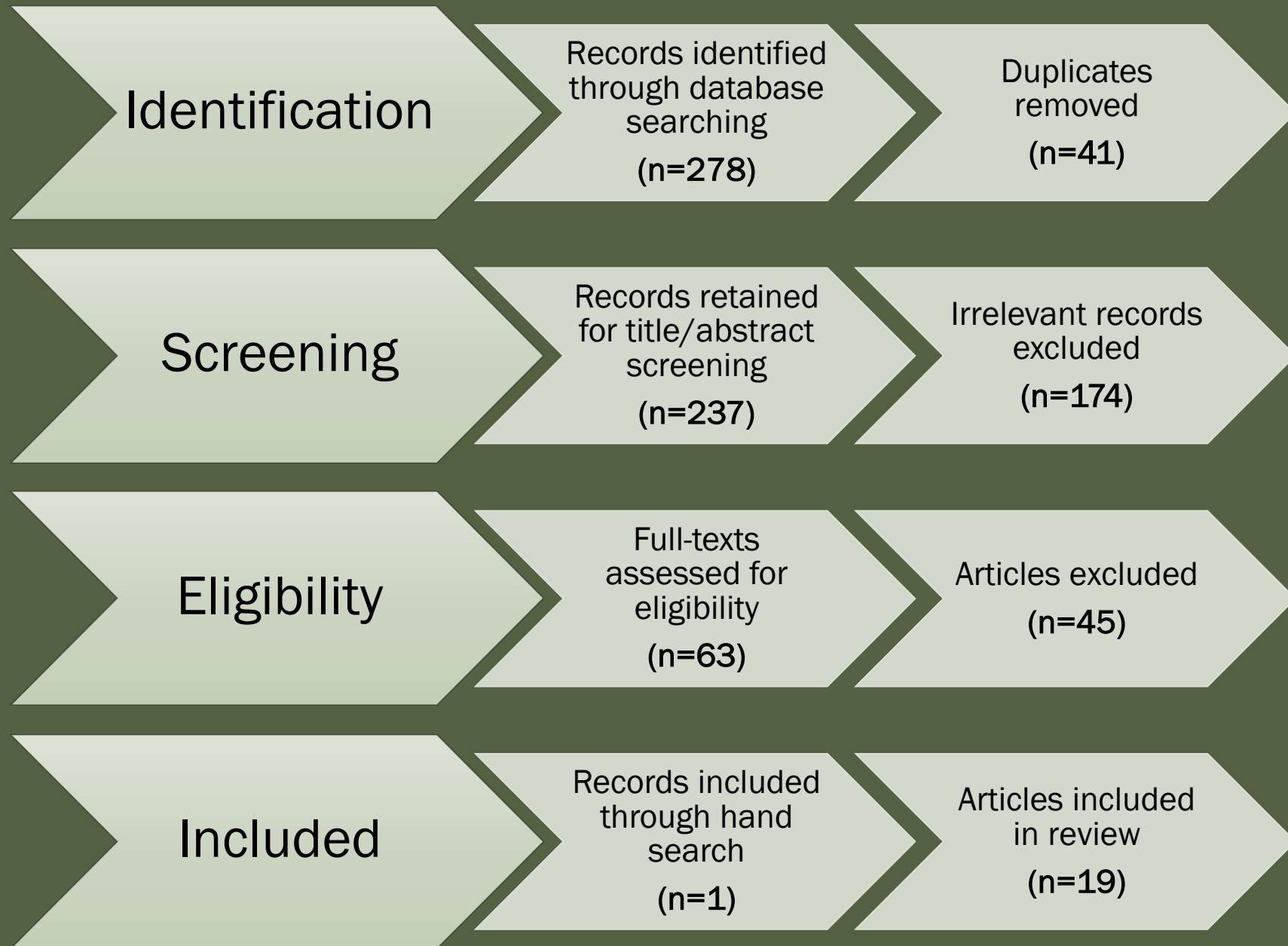
- **Cohen (1999):** Accumulation of disadvantage over the life course leads to homelessness in later life
- **Golant (2015):** Expanding on conceptualizations of aging-in-place, aging-in-the-*right*-place theorizes that the ‘right’ set of housing, health, and social supports can enable older adults to age in a positive way





Research Question

What are the needs for housing and sheltering homeless older adults and some potential solutions?



Three categories included:

1

Specific shelter/housing needs of homeless older adults

2

Existing solutions that address needs of homeless older adults

3

Outcomes of rehousing homeless older adults

Specific Shelter/Housing Needs of Homeless Older Adults



Shelter use among
homeless older adults
and related needs



Housing supports
needed for homeless
older adults to age-in-the-
right-place



Access to long-term care
for homeless older adults

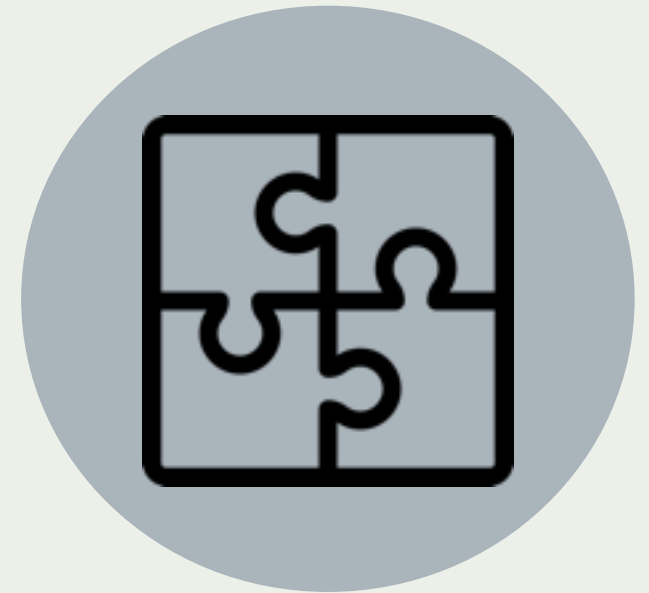
Existing Solutions that Address Needs of Homeless Older Adults



Housing First



Permanent
supportive housing



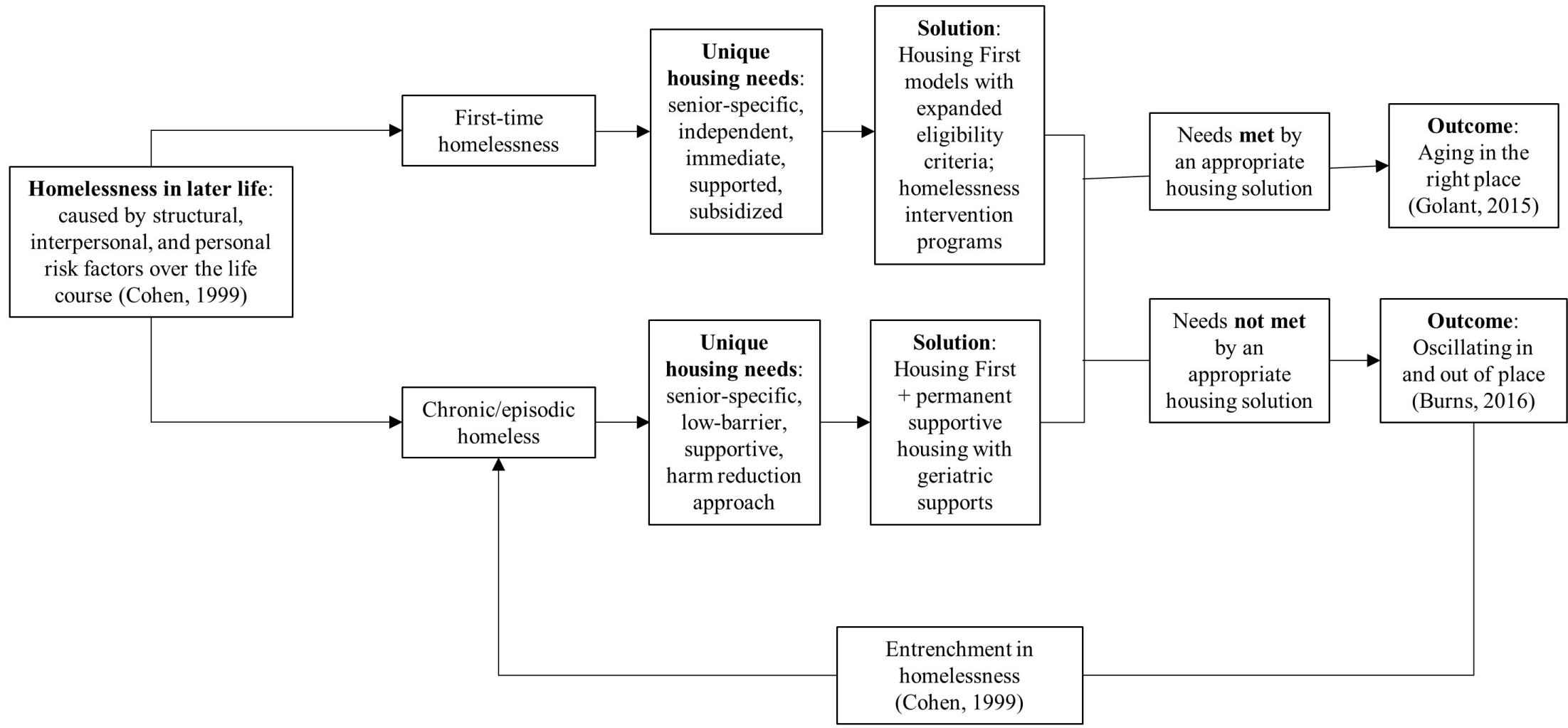
Multiservice intervention
programs for homeless
older adults

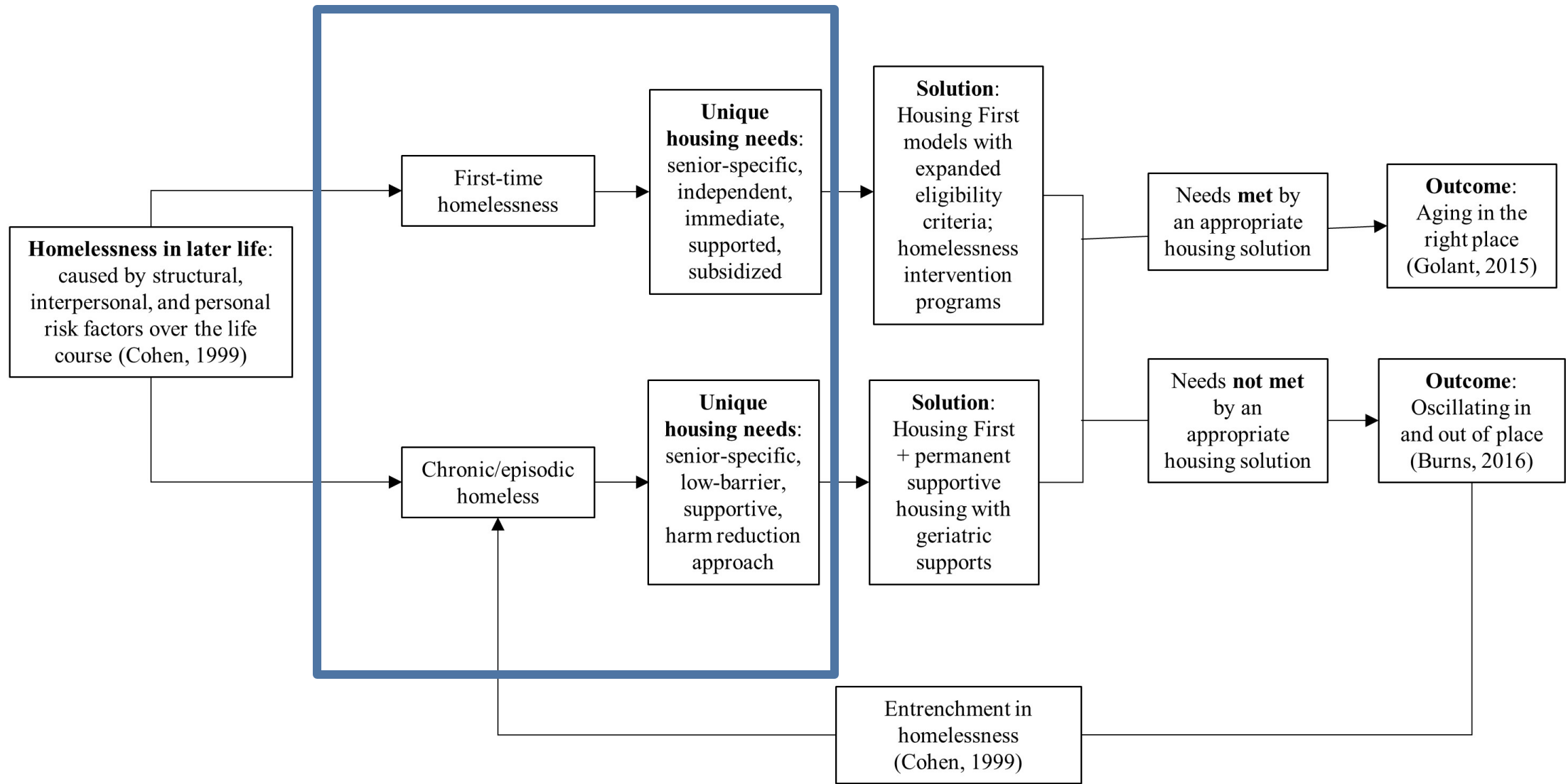
Outcomes of Rehousing Homeless Older Adults

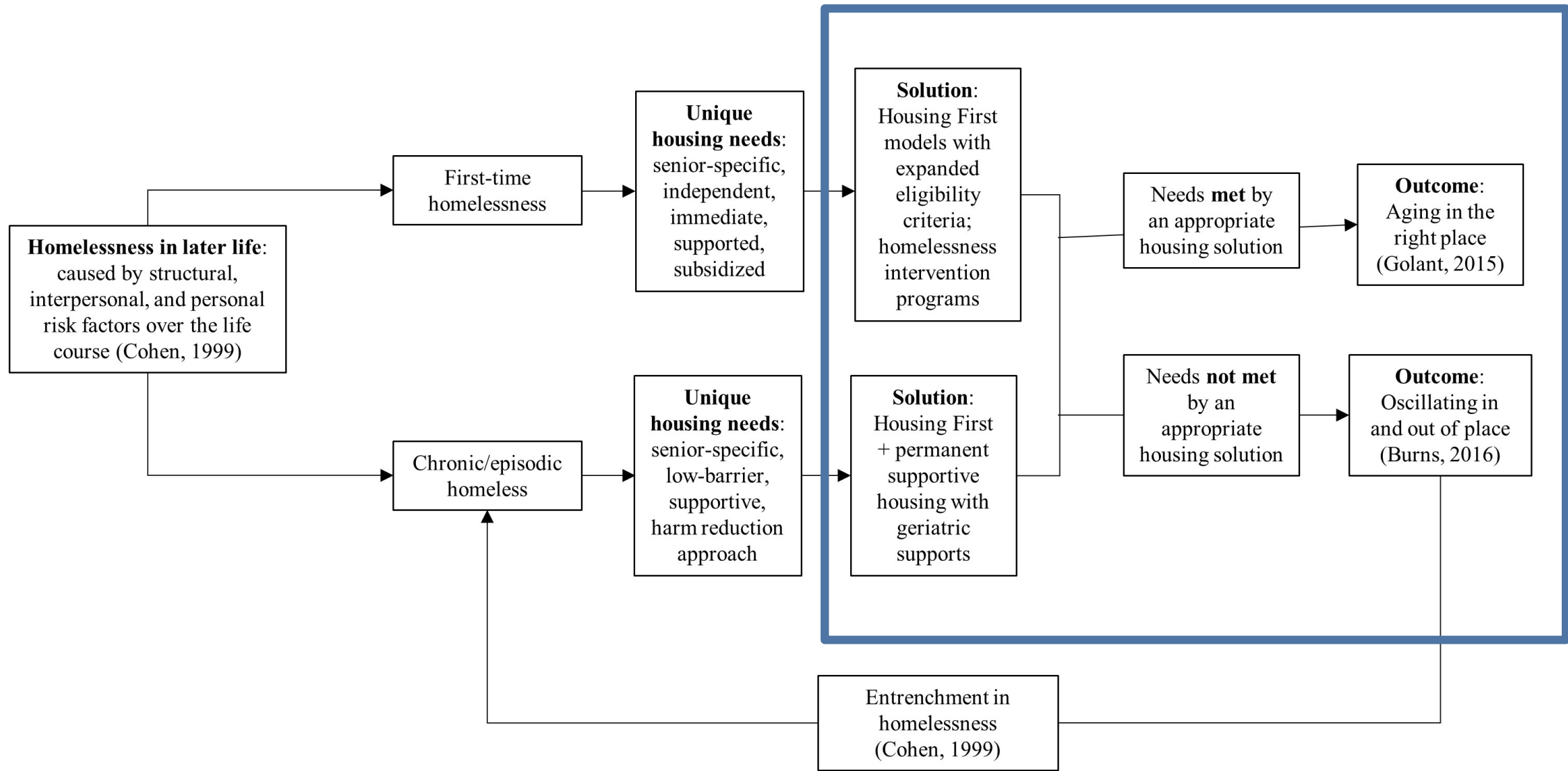


- Improvements in self-reported health, nutrition, access to care, and self-care
- Reduced stress and substance use
- Contact with family, friends, and support workers facilitates stable rehousing

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK







Implications for Policy and Practice

- Need for early intervention and rapid rehousing along a continuum of support and housing options
- Chronically and newly homeless older adults have different needs which require different housing solutions
- Appropriately designed housing solutions can facilitate aging-in-the-right-place for formerly homeless older adults





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THANK YOU

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