

Disability Inclusion, Intersectionality, and Knowledge Translation

KTDRR's 2024 Virtual KT Conference
October 15, 16, and 18

Center on
**KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION FOR
DISABILITY & REHABILITATION RESEARCH**

Complicating 'Choice' in the Early Child Development & Intervention Sector in British Columbia, Canada

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This Presentation

An outline of larger research study undertaken in British Columbia, Canada

Structural analysis of choices and non-choices

Implications for children's disability systems

A Participatory Action Study

Community Voices on Tapping into Tech

**Fostering equity for children with diverse abilities
and/or medical complexity in rural and northern BC**



Logo by Sam Bond, Youth Community Researcher, Tapping into Tech

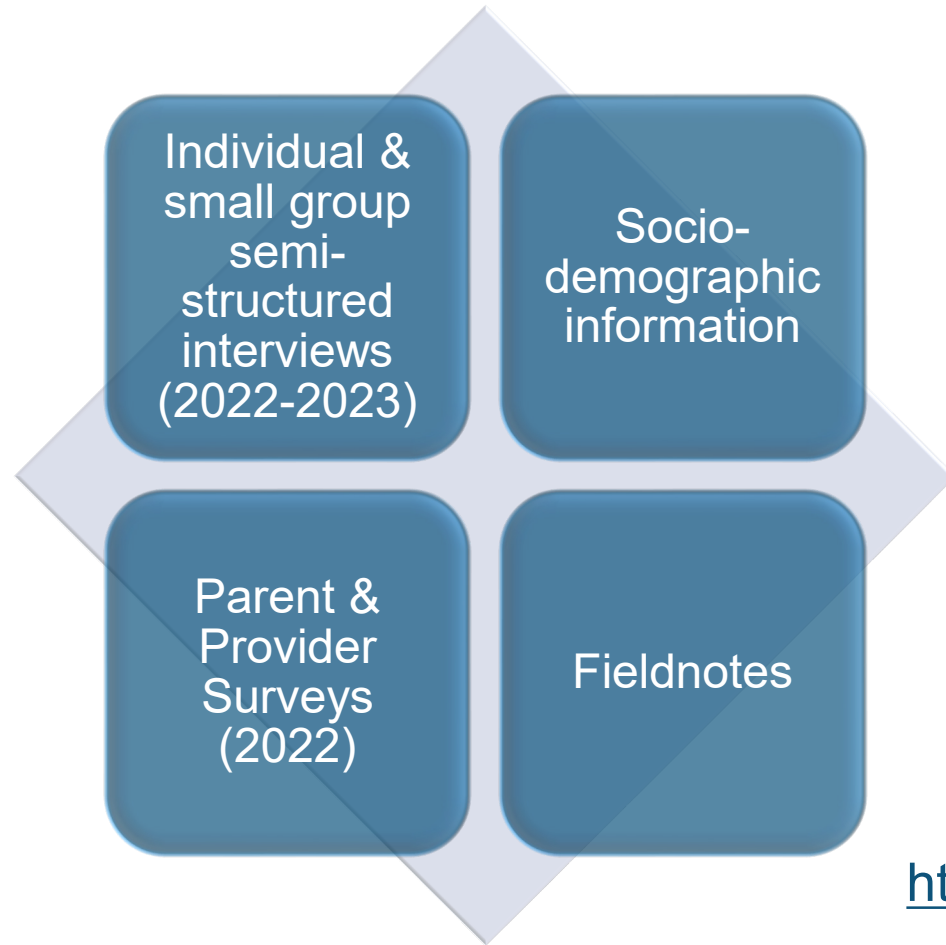
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Gratitude & Acknowledgements



- Participatory action research (2021-2024)
- Funded by - grant from the Vancouver Foundation
- Co-led by - Dr Alison Gerlach, University of Victoria & Mr Jason Gordon, BC Association for Child Development & Intervention
- Guided by - community council that included:
 - Parent, youth and ECD community researchers
 - Non-profit organizations supporting families and children with disabilities in BC
 - Indigenous child development programs
 - Metis Nation of BC
 - Dr Kim Bulkeley, University of Sydney

PAR Data Collection Methods

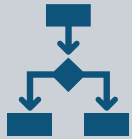


- Study engaged with diverse group of parents and ECDI service providers from predominately northern and rural regions of BC:

Surveys	Parents n= 87	Providers n=109
Interviews/FGs	Parents n=23	Providers n=38

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Early and Recurring Finding



Choices



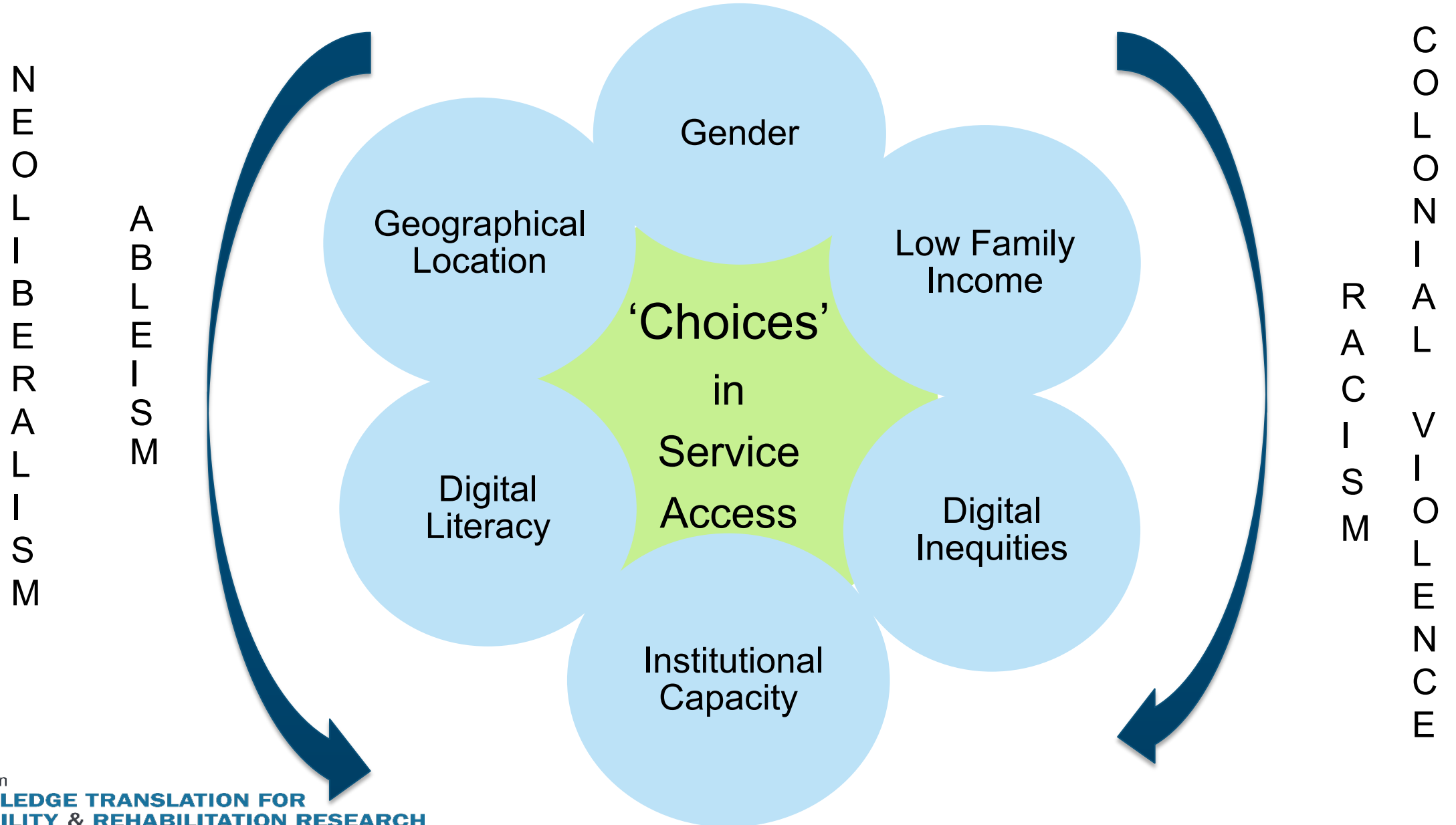
Non-choices

Structural Analysis informed by....

Postcolonialism

Intersectionality

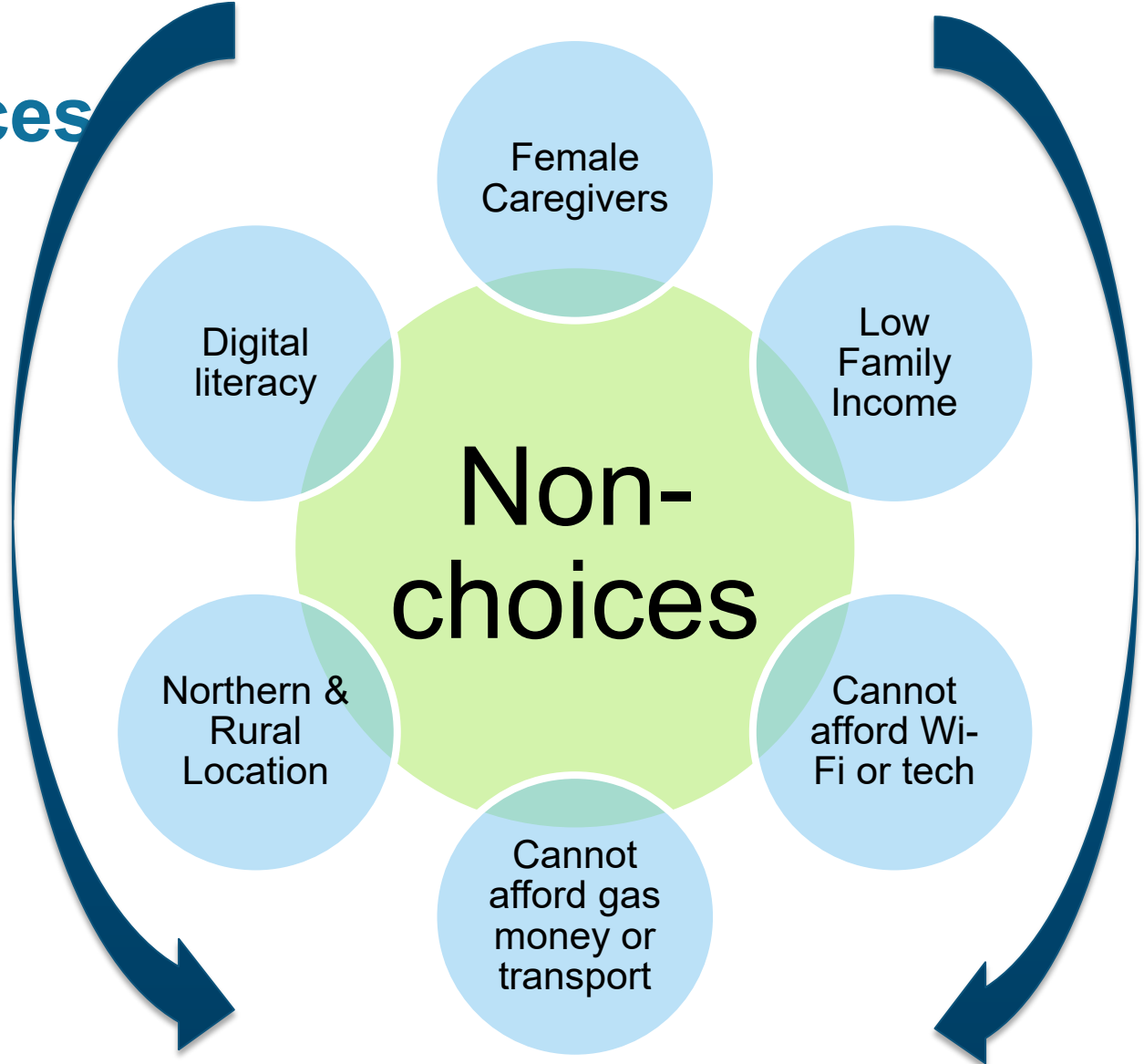
HOW 'CHOICES' ARE STRUCTURED



Unpacking Parental Non-Choices

ECDI Provider: "Geographically, like we have a big, huge area to cover... [The roads get] really icy and slippery really quickly... It's treacherous, very high risk for families to travel from in or out of town. Plus, for us to travel in or out of town as well for them".

ECDI Provider: "Well October to April you need winter tires and if a family doesn't have winter tires they probably shouldn't be driving and that's just kind of when the snow and the ice come and that's kind of like it would be a daily choice to make, I guess, based on if it's like really snowy or if there's visibility issues".

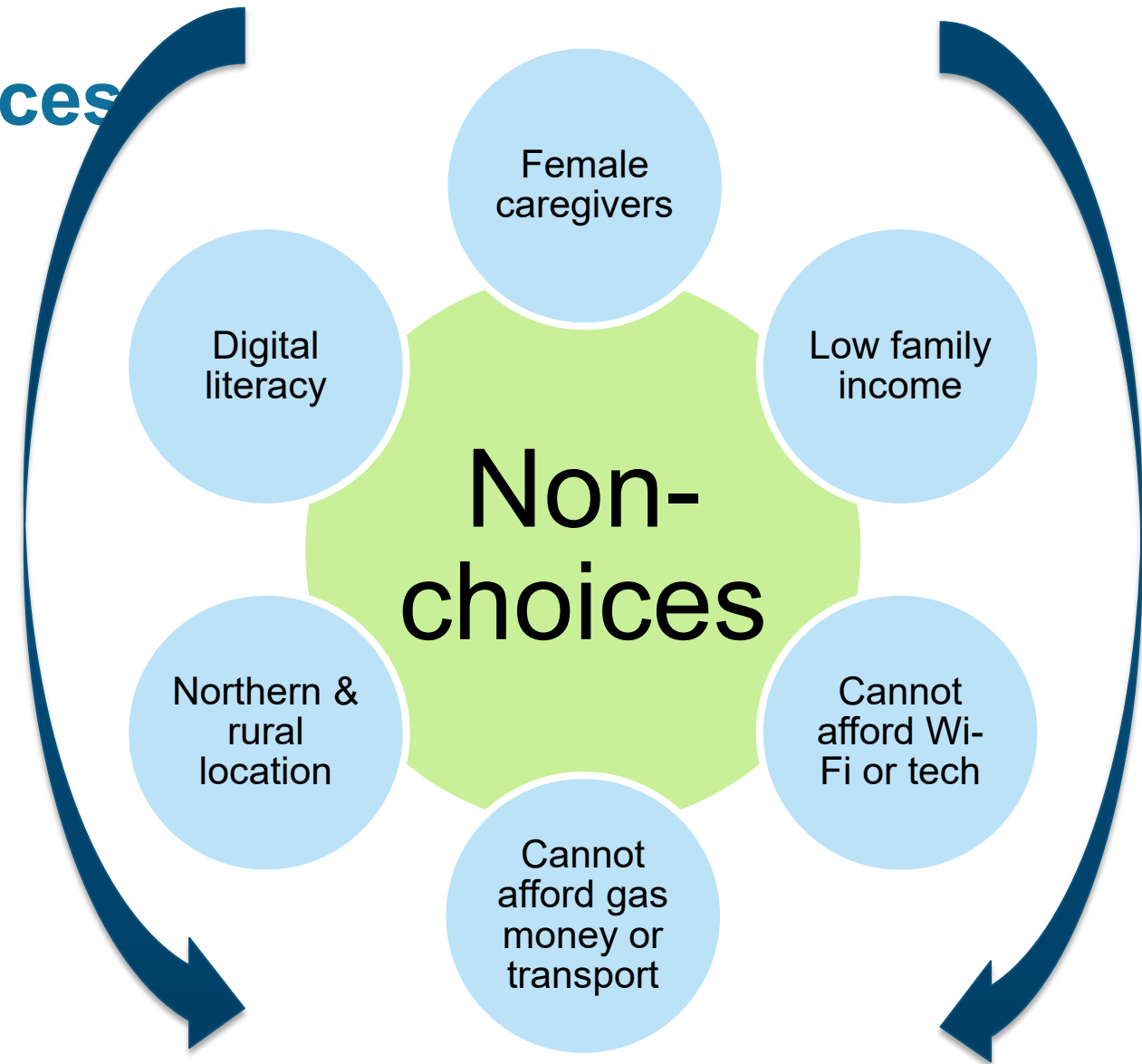


Unpacking Parental Non-Choices

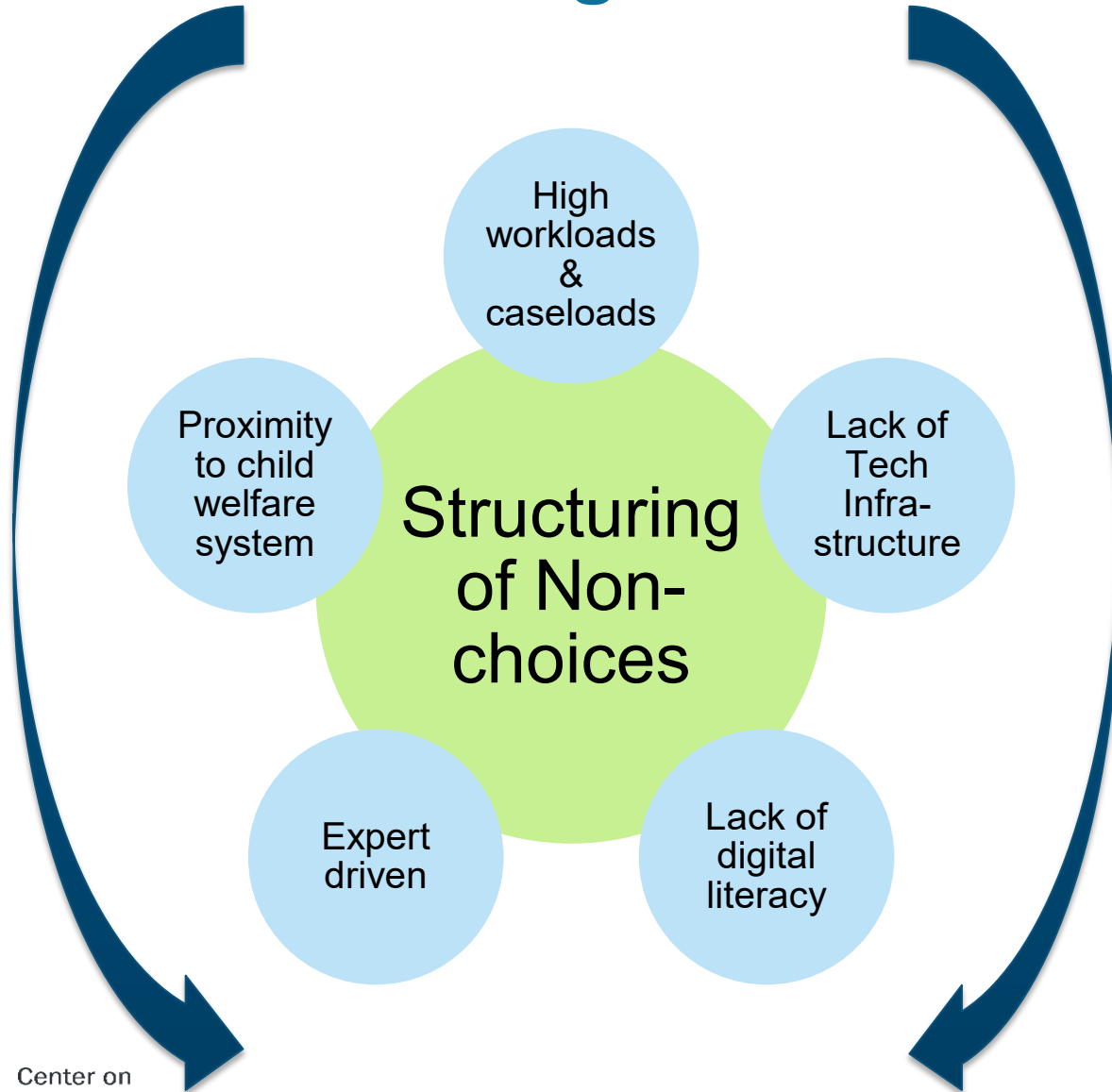
First Nations auntie: *“Especially Indigenous folks... my family is under the poverty line. They can’t afford big cameras; they can’t afford data”.*

ECDI Provider: *“I find the families that really have difficulty to access us in person, you know they can’t afford the gas or other ways. I also have difficulty seeing them via Zoom because they don’t have access to the technology.”*

First Nations mother: *“Making it so that the parents are the ones that have to come up and organize all this stuff can be very overwhelming. You know, there are parents who have neurodevelopmental issues themselves or have learning delays or have language barriers or have literacy barriers. So, you know, relying on families to be the only ones to try to set some of these things up”.*

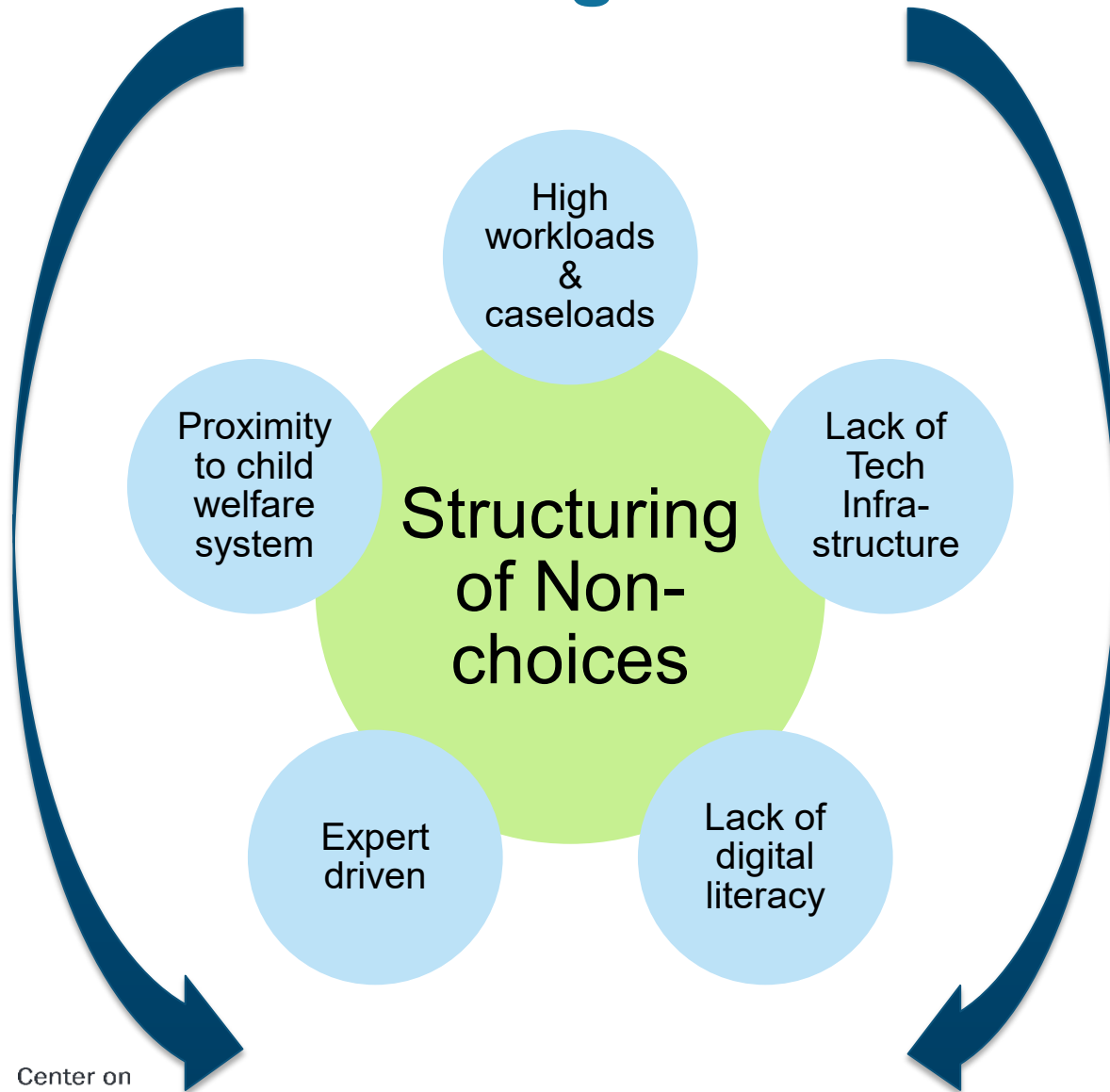


The Structuring of 'Choices' in the ECDI System



- ECD: *“I also think that a lot of us would be a lot more inclined to do virtual programming or groups or whatever it is if we had the equipment”.*
- ECD: *“Zoom has opened up so many possibilities” but it requires ‘tech literacy’ and having the technology available”.*
- ECD: *“I think there’s just also the added piece of staff learning technology - you may save some travel time but now you have kind of one more thing like, schedule a Zoom visit and like just one more piece in the brain to schedule like check by phone, check my email, do this, do that like so I think it goes both ways”.*

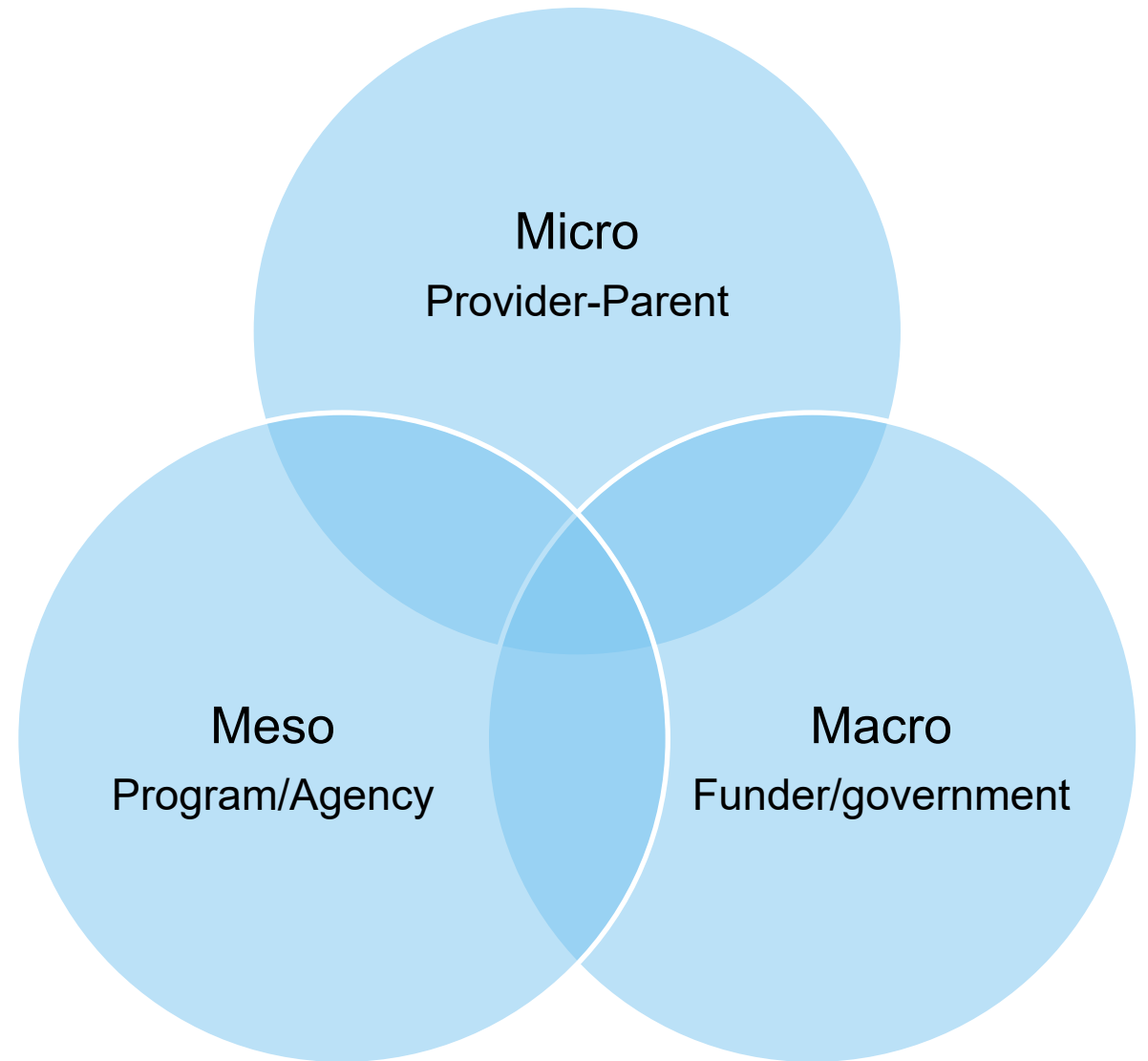
The Structuring of 'Choices' in the ECDI System



- ECD: *"I think one of the pieces that's really important if you're doing intervention virtually is that parent coaching piece"*.
- Indigenous mother: *"There's not a lot of families that I know that are Indigenous that are okay with people coming into their homes... we've been conditioned to know that the ministry equals child apprehension, not children with special needs"*.

So what!?

How can a nuanced, structural analysis of 'choice' help to inform systems level changes to increase the participation of structurally marginalized families who can find child disability services hard to reach?



MANY THANKS FOR LISTENING 😊

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Q&A

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