Roots in Hamilton
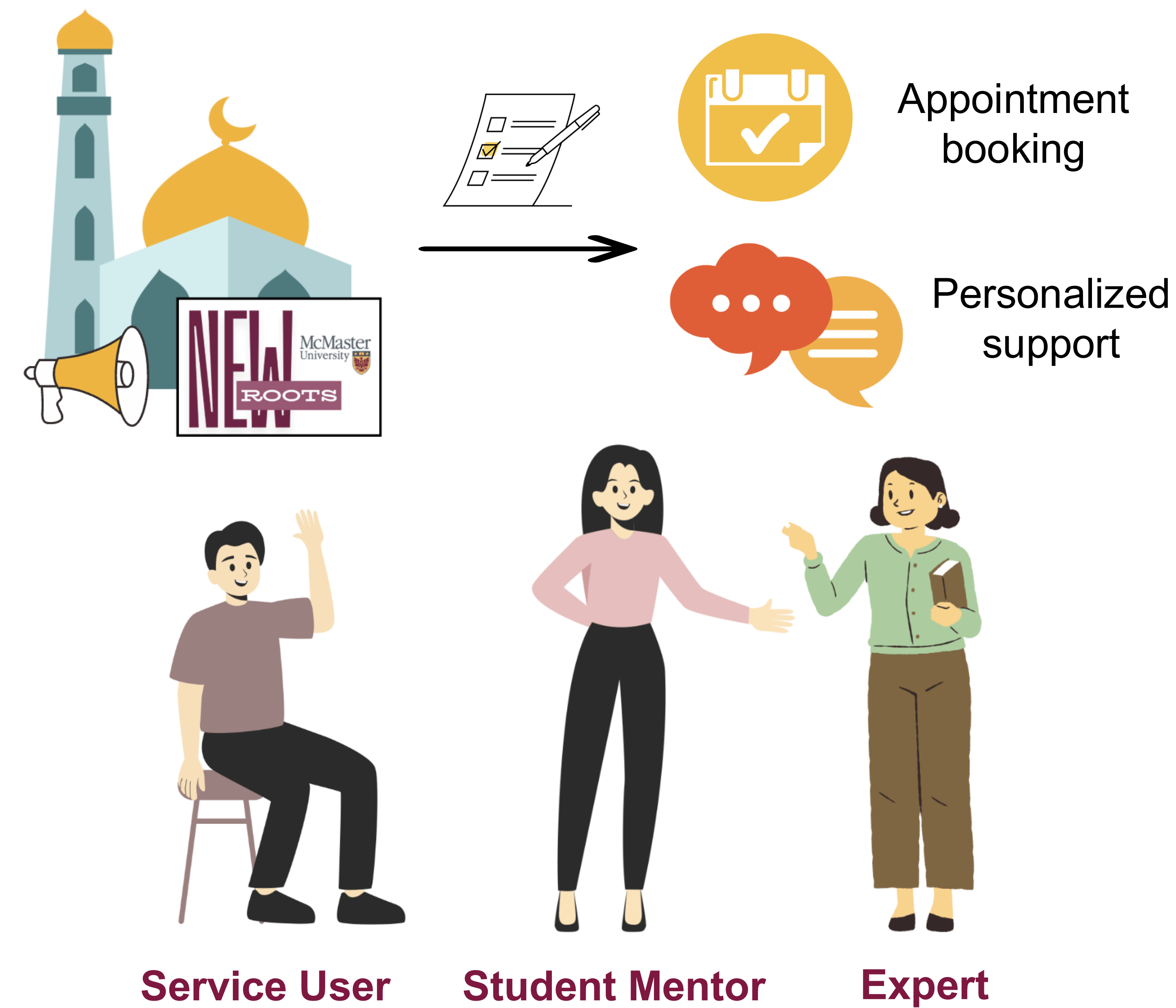## Proposing A Student-Led Initiative for Newcomers

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PROBLEM

How might we support adult refugees and claimants facing unsuitable housing and income inadequacy by connecting them to essential resources in Hamilton?

In Hamilton, **50%** of immigrants report struggling with finding affordable housing, **46%** with finding work, and **14%** don't know how and where to access information. While these issues affect many newcomers, refugees report higher rates of difficulty.[1]

Appointment booking

Personalized support

Service User   **Student Mentor**   **Expert**

SOLUTION

NewRoots is a student-led club that offers a centralized, accessible way to connect refugees to essential resources in Hamilton.

- **Pairing** student volunteers with users.
- **Trained support** with appointment booking services and one-on-one guidance.
- Matching mentors and service users **based on language**.
- Secure documentation with minimal data collection to maintain **confidentiality**.
- **Collaboration** with local Hamilton organizations to direct users to services.

Concept of McMaster Clubsfest booth to recruit student volunteers

NEXT STEPS

1. **Establish direct referral pathways** with Hamilton services for housing, employment, and language support.

2. **Secure funding** to cover operational costs, mentor recruitment, and training to ensure sustainability and program effectiveness.

3. **Monitor engagement** and impact through feedback surveys and mentor tracking.

YMCA Hamilton Burlington Brantford   REFUGE NEWCOMER HEALTH. Where humanity meets healthcare.   IWC IMMIGRANTS WORKING CENTRE   McMaster Students Union MSU

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