ACCESS Open Minds is the first network to have been launched under Canada’s Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) through a funding partnership between CIHR and the Graham Boeckh Foundation. Distinct in that it draws on the combined expertise of young people, family/carers, researchers, community organizations, service providers, as well as decision-makers, the research project also stands out as the only pan-Canadian initiative aimed at making mental health services work for youth aged 11 to 25. Started in 2014, it is funded for five years.

**Project Overview**

ACCESS Open Minds aims to improve the outcomes of Canadians aged 11 to 25 experiencing mental health problems. Its mandate is to provide faster, more engaging access to appropriate services to a greater number of young people with a mental illness. To that end, the network is developing, implementing, and evaluating innovative measures which are transforming the ways youth access care and services are delivered to them. The innovative, evidence-based model being put to the test across the country is designed to be sustainable and scalable. **ACCESS Open Minds:**

- **Integrates cutting-edge research and evaluation** into care to generate new evidence about what works in diverse Canadian contexts
- **Focuses & builds on local strengths to optimize** existing local services while increasing capacity through training, technology, and network expertise
- **Engages and empowers** youth and their families/carers in the design and delivery of care and research
Acknowledging the many factors that affect a young person’s well-being, **ACCESS OM** seeks to achieve five key objectives at each site.

**A Unique Model**

**ACCESS Open Minds** seeks to transform services for youth who are experiencing any type of mental health problem—from mild to severe.

It has a comprehensive service/program evaluation plan built into its design and as such, represents a large-scale pilot test of youth mental health system redesign.

**Our Sites—Strength in Diversity & Pan-Canadian Perspectives**

- Currently, 12 **ACCESS Open Minds** sites in six provinces and one territory, represent variations in Canada’s geography, culture and levels of service availability

- Sites include francophone and anglophone major urban centres, a small semi-rural site, and a number of Indigenous communities

**Ulukhaktok**, Inuvialuit Settlement Region (NT)
**Edmonton** (AB)
**University of Alberta**, Edmonton (AB)
**Sturgeon Lake First Nation** (SK)
**Chatham-Kent** (ON)
**Puvirnituq**, Nunavik (QC)
**Mistissini** (QC)
**Dorval-Lachine-LaSalle**, Montréal (QC)
**RIPAJ-Montréal/Homeless Youth Network** (QC)
**Parc-Extension**, Montréal (QC)
**Province of New Brunswick**
**Eskasoni First Nation** (NS)