



Call for Expressions of Interest to be a Site for ACCESS open minds / Esprits ouverts NB

Partnering Organization Selection Process

Introduction

ACCESS OM/EO NB is looking for expressions of interest to provide a location for youth-centred programming that is safe and offers youth the opportunity to “make healthy life choices that promote their overall well-being.” The location must be safe from physical, sexual, and emotional threats and must prove to be a supportive environment that enables positive relationships. All applicants can expect to participate in an assessment of the organization’s location, internal attitudes and practices, and overall suitability within the ACCESS OM/EO NB project.

Preliminary Items:

The successful applicant must:

- Identify the community (catchment area of services) and provide a general overview of available services
- Identify and describe the target population (youth to whom the ACCESS OM/EO services would be offered)
- Provide a sustainability plan (business plan beyond 2021)
- Describe the existing capacity of the partnering organization (staff, operational budget, etc.)

Values

The successful applicant must demonstrate a commitment to, and agree to abide by, the core values of ACCESS:

- Rights-based approach recognizing that access to health services is a fundamental human right
- Full participation from youth and families who will shape and actively engage in the transformed system of care
- Recognition that a young person in distress is a “WHOLE PERSON, NOT THEIR BEHAVIOURS, CIRCUMSTANCES, OR DISORDERS”
- Services are based on a philosophy of hope, resilience, empowerment, and respect
- Flexibility, portability, and adaptability of care/services provided, and appreciation of local, personal, and sociocultural circumstances, values, beliefs, and strengths
- Easy, early access to a continuum of assessment and subsequent evidence-informed interventions when and where needed
- A sustained commitment to the integration of services and genuine engagement of stakeholder groups
- Acknowledge that the youth community can be part of the proposed course of intervention

Principles

These overarching Principles will guide the selection process and must be demonstrated in the application:

- Cultural competency that is inclusive of all youth in the community
- Cultural safety for all youth in the community
- Youth-led approach and proven authentic youth engagement practices
- Serving all youth in the community, including the most vulnerable and/or at-risk

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- Demonstrated safe organizational policies and practices (privacy, physical safety, personal safety, necessary certifications) including a robust child protection policy/culture
 - Existing network of community partners and stakeholders
 - Valuing youth – every young person is of great value, irrespective of race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, health, socioeconomic background, or any other identifier
 - Focus on harm reduction
 - Prevention by early intervention

Accessibility:

The successful applicant must demonstrate that the location:

- Is conveniently located
- Is safe from physical, sexual, spiritual, and emotional harassment, abuse, and violence
- Is acceptable to parents and care givers
- Is a location where diverse populations of youth feel safe
- Is in a surrounding area that is safe and secure for youth
- Provides privacy and security where youth can share openly and confidentially
- Is accessible to people with disabilities

Youth Engagement and Rapid Access:

The successful applicant must demonstrate they can engage youth in a timely fashion by having:

- Flexible hours (evenings and weekends)
- Walk-in appointments available
- Inviting, non-clinical interior
- Open spaces so youth can see throughout the space, with exits easily accessible
- A developed network of community service providers so seamless referrals and transfers with minimal wait times can occur
- Documented capacity to reach the target population
- An authentic youth engagement strategy in place to enable youth to communicate their own desires for the space

Appropriate Care:

The successful applicant must demonstrate that they provide youth-centred, evidence-informed care by:

- Meeting child protection standards
- Meeting health information privacy and right-to-information practice standards
- Providing activity-based care
- Engaging families and carers if it is safe to do so and agreed to by the youth
- Demonstrating an existing research and evaluation component with a capacity to collect data
- Clear guidelines about youth and staff interactions that is demonstrated in policy
- Providing youth with creative outlets (e.g., art, music, games) to help them manage painful emotions

Seamless Transitions:

The successful applicant must demonstrate a seamless process for youth moving from low threshold to higher threshold or between services by having:

- The capacity for youth to only have to tell their story one time
- A working partnership with Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) child and youth teams and the local addiction/mental health service
- An established process to integrate with the publicly funded addiction/mental health service
- An established process to transition seamlessly between youth and adult services

Stakeholder Engagement:

The successful applicant must demonstrate how they will embed:

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- Meaningful youth stakeholder engagement in the governance, management, and day-to-day operations
 - Cultural competence and safety
 - Diversity management
 - Participation of community members/neighbors

Other Considerations:

The successful applicant will also be selected based upon the following:

- Demonstrated needs in your community and your ability to meet them
- Demonstrated capacity to manage service implementation of this type in a networked fashion, engaging all relevant stakeholders
- Demonstrated readiness to implement change within the anticipated project timelines
- Accessible to fee-for-service physicians, psychiatrists, and other physical or mental health care providers
- Mobile safe space
- E-mental health capacity in addition to physical space
- Showers
- Laundry
- Kitchen/snacks
- Clothing bank
- Commitment to follow ACCESS OM/EO reporting standards, budgets, and deadlines
- Ability to provide sizeable matching funds

Value Propositions:

ACCESS Open Minds / Esprits ouverts -NB will offer the successful applicants:

- Research and Evaluation capacity
- Community of practice/ national network
- Knowledge transfer and training (including: stakeholder engagement, mental health best practice, cultural competency, etc.)
- Financial support to build capacity
- Financial support for hire of an ACCESS clinician (see ACCESS clinician description) and peer mentors

Application Process

Applications must be in the format of an Expression of interest of no more than 5000 words, describing the preliminary items outlined above and demonstrating how the proposed plan will best meet the program criteria set out above within the applicant's health zone. All application that are received by the deadline will be clustered and evaluated by our team of key informant stakeholders. Applicants not selected on their first application may resubmit in subsequent rounds of site selection.

All submissions must be received by **the 31th of August 2018** at the following person:

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