



Inner Change  
FOUNDATION

Partnership Opportunity for better  
Youth Mental Health and Substance  
Use Services in BC

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# BC Integrated Youth Service Initiative:

## Innovation for Improved Youth Health

### Project Overview

Building on the success of St. Paul's Hospital's Inner City Youth Program (ICYP) and Granville Youth Health Centre (GYHC), the British Columbia Integrated Youth Services Initiative (BC-IYSI) has launched a 30-month prototype project to strengthen the network of child and youth care throughout the province. Youth-friendly integrated health and social service "hubs", like the GYHC, will be established in each regional health authority (see graphic). These hubs will fill gaps in our existing system where children and youth aged 12 to 24 – particularly those most at-risk of mental illness and substance misuse – currently fall through the cracks. The five selected hub communities will be announced in spring 2016 and each is expected to have a projected 6000 visits per year.

### Fundamental Services

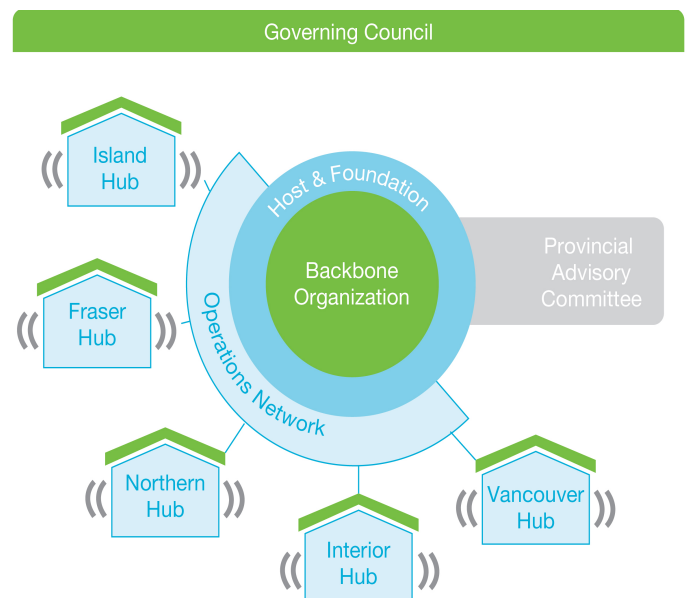
The hubs will work with each individual community and government partners to provide five fundamental services including:

- Primary Care
- Mental Health Services
- Substance Use Services
- Social Services- e.g. vocational, educational, financial, housing/shelter support
- Youth and Family Peer Support and Navigation

### Innovation: E-Health

E-health is the application of information and communication technologies in the healthcare context. Youth have a high comfort level with utilizing technology for entertainment, learning and building social connections. The BC-IYSI is going to leverage this cost-effective platform to help deliver healthcare services. With a well-planned e-health component, each hub will expand care provider capacity, which, in turn, increases access for young clients living both inside and outside hub communities.

Learn More: [www.BCIYSI.com](http://www.BCIYSI.com)



## Core Principles

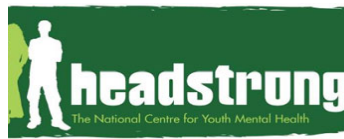
**Client-centered:** Driven by regular input from youth with lived experience; services are youth-friendly, welcoming, culturally sensitive, and free.

**Integrated and comprehensive:** Clients will experience seamless and responsive care with shared information. Services focus on community engagement and social inclusion, are collaborative, and also recognize the importance of prevention and early intervention.

**High-quality:** Services have low barrier access, are innovative, creative, effective and evidence-informed while also being sustainable; safe and individualized, and supported by developmental evaluation.

**Responsible operations:** Management and leadership are accessible, accountable and transparent.

## Tested and Proven: The Model Works Around the World!



The BC-IYSI was inspired by work happening in other countries such as Israel and Denmark who have been successful in changing their care models to better serve youth—especially in the area of mental health. Australia has had the greatest success. There is a 80% satisfaction rate with youth you were able to access services in this new model and get the help they needed.

## Opportunity and Investment

There is now a great opportunity for visionary stakeholders to partner, support and collaborate on this innovative initiative. Any contribution will make an impact now, at the exciting developmental stages, but also much later as this concept grows into a robust system offered in more communities around the province and, perhaps, Canada. ***If funds are contributed, one hundred percent will go directly to the project.***

## Research, Evaluation and Quality Improvement

During the prototype phase, BC-IYSI will work with the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research to evaluate each centre's activities and provide real-time continuous performance feedback for practice development and quality improvement.

## Future Plans

The prototype phase is intended to provide a “proof of concept;” showing that when youth and their families begin accessing services designed to match the intensity of interventions with their needs, it steers them away from crisis-driven help-seeking. It is anticipated that several further phases of this project will establish more hubs in order to meet the needs of the entire youth population in BC—an estimated 25 hubs will be needed in total.

## About InnerChange Foundation

*We provide leadership, funding and advocacy to drive innovation and change with the goal to improve the health outcomes for British Columbians suffering from mental health and substance use challenges. We are an organization of private sector leaders working with colleagues in the public sector to find lasting solutions for these complex issues. Guiding our work are the values of **partnership, accountability, innovation** and maintaining the **dignity** of those we seek to help.*

***INVEST IN OUR YOUTH! PLEASE CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE!***