

Thank you for your interest in Foundry. We look forward to the possibility of working together with you to ensure young people and their families/caregivers thrive across BC. This document is intended to provide background information about Foundry and our current process for expansion.

## First of all, what is Foundry?

Foundry offers health and wellness services, supports and resources for young people ages 12-24 and their families/caregivers through centres in communities across BC, and online through [foundrybc.ca](http://foundrybc.ca). Foundry's approach is different because all services are under one roof, so it makes it easy to know where to go for support. The services are made to fit the individual needs of young people and their families/caregivers, putting their health and wellness at the heart of our work. Local Foundry centres practice and promote new ways of working with young people and family members/caregivers that make it easier to access the right care at the right time.

**“If I had known of a place like Foundry, I may have gotten the support I needed earlier on.”**  
- Young person from Abbotsford

## Foundry is expanding!

Over the past four years, we have seen Foundry grow from Foundry Vancouver-Granville, which served as the inspiration for Foundry centres, to a [network of eight operational Foundry centres](#) with three more in development. We are heartened by the enthusiasm from communities across the province and the interest in collaborating, knowledge sharing, and growing integrated youth services.

As part of the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions' [“A Pathway to Hope,”](#) Foundry is looking to partner with communities across BC to open and **operate a minimum of six new Foundry centres**. On October 21, Foundry issued a call for expressions of interest (EOI) from communities across BC. Non-profit organizations and health and social system agencies serving youth, (including First Nations, Métis, and Urban Indigenous organizations) were eligible to submit an EOI. In total, Foundry received 40 EOI submissions from communities across the province – a moving demonstration of not only the need, but also the resiliency and strengths that exist in British Columbia. Two independent panels consisting of young people, family members/caregivers and subject matter experts reviewed those submissions to determine a [shortlist of 19 communities](#) moving forward to a next phase of evaluation called ‘Convening’.

The Convening phase is between January-March 2020, asks partners, youth and families/caregivers to come together within their communities to generate their detailed Foundry plans. By March 2020, a minimum of six communities will be identified to open and operate new Foundry centres.

**Foundry's vision is to eventually build a network of 50 or more centres across the province. As such, we are committed to staying in touch with all communities who expressed interest in Foundry.**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FOUNDRY'S EXPANSION

- Visit [foundrybc.ca/expansion2020](http://foundrybc.ca/expansion2020)
- [Sign up for our newsletter](#)
- Follow us on our social channels

## The Foundry Experience

Since April 2018, our eight Foundry centres have served well over 10,000 young people across BC. Most youth are referred to Foundry centres by their friends (23%) or family members (18%), followed by school counsellors and teachers (15%).

When asked, “If this Foundry centre wasn’t here, where would you go for help?”, 30% replied “nowhere”, and 23% replied “family members/ friends”, illustrating that Foundry centres are filling gaps in local services. Encouragingly, 94% of young people responding to our Youth Satisfaction Survey reported that they agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with their Foundry experience, and 94% agreed or strongly agreed that they would refer a family member or friend to Foundry.

Each Foundry centre includes common services, all under one roof. These services not only work together but are also offered on a walk-in basis.

- Mental health services (e.g. psychiatry, counselling)
- Substance use services (e.g. harm reduction, detox, counselling)
- Primary care (e.g. family doctors, sexual health)
- Social services (e.g. employment, educational, housing, income assistance)
- Youth and family peer support services (e.g. youth helping youth, family members helping family members)

## Meaningful Youth and Family Engagement

Foundry is created with and for young people and their families/caregivers. In order to ensure we meet the needs of youth, we go to the experts – youth and families/caregivers themselves. Through meaningful engagement, youth and family members/caregivers are viewed as partners, which improves services in every way. Meaningful engagement has been the foundation to creating Foundry, from the look and feel of the centres, to the design of services and to the development of foundrybc.ca.

Foundry expects that all of our centres will engage youth and families/caregivers in authentic and meaningful ways. Here are some things for you to consider whether you are facilitating the engagement or if you are being engaged with.

- What is the time commitment being asked? How will youth and families/caregivers be compensated?
- What does the feedback process look like? How will feedback received be recorded and reflected?
- What does each member in the room hope to contribute?
- Who will be in the room? What will be done to ensure everyone feels safe and respected?
- How is ally ship and support built into the process?

## Foundry and Your Community

The entire expansion process encourages communities and organizations to come together and involve their partners, community members, young people and their family members/caregivers through the process. Your voice is valuable to this expansion process. Thank you!

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