

Background

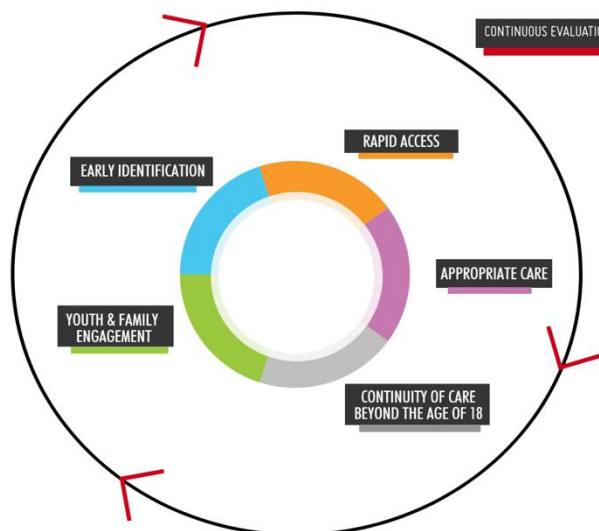
ACCESS Open Minds is a national research and evaluation network that marks a major Canadian innovation in youth mental health service design, delivery, evaluation, and research.

ACCESS Open Minds (ACCESS OM) is made possible thanks to a grant awarded by Transformational Research in Adolescent Mental Health (TRAM). ACCESS OM was initiated in 2014 and is the first network supported by the Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR), funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Graham Boeckh Foundation.



Mission

ACCESS OM’s mission is to generate new Canadian evidence about the impact of transformed services in diverse contexts (urban, rural and Indigenous). Through transforming youth mental health services, and the implementation of a common research and evaluation program, ACCESS OM will ensure that Canadian youth aged 11-25 and their families receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place.



Standard framework, local implementation

Local services are optimized to meet the six ACCESS OM core service transformation objectives.

Services delivered




Services will vary by community based on need and local resources. Services may include:

- Comprehensive intake assessments
- Integration of culturally relevant interventions (e.g. On the Land programming and other traditional approaches)
- Single-session (solution-focused) therapy
- Access to specialist services (if required)
- Ongoing support to youth accessing additional services outside of the community
- Physical spaces designed by local youth and families/carers that offer a multitude of activities



Outcomes/Impacts

ACCESS OM is an ongoing study with data collection scheduled to end in September 2020 (preliminary results in winter/spring 2020). To date, ACCESS OM service delivery framework has demonstrated:

Scalability		ACCESS OM is increasing access to services for youth and their families and improving access to services for those most in need (serving from mild to severe mental health problems).
Affordability		Not only is ACCESS OM assessing the economic impact of transformed services from a public payer perspective, but it is also conducting economic evaluations from a societal perspective. <i>Economic evaluation results to be published in 2021.</i>
Acceptability		Given the immense diversity of the ACCESS OM sites who have successfully implemented the framework, ACCESS OM is highly accepted by clients and communities across Canada – both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.