

## Foundry Expansion Announcement: Key Messages & Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: March 13, 2024

*Please note that this internal document is intended to provide key messaging, information and suggested answers to frequently asked questions you may receive about the [recent Foundry expansion announcement](#). Any content used from this document should be revised appropriately for the intended material, purpose, and target audience – **if unsure, please reach out to FCO.***

### Expansion - Key Messages

- We're thrilled to be part of the Province of B.C.'s recent announcement of 10 new Foundry centre locations! Young people and their families/caregivers in our community deserve to have equitable access to integrated health and social services, and we're excited to join the Foundry network in its mission to support BC young people and their caregivers in living a good life.
- [Lead Agency] is excited to bring a Foundry centre to [Community]. We are in the beginning stages of this exciting project and are currently working with Foundry central office to determine immediate next steps.
- We look forward to sharing more information about project timelines and next steps in the months ahead.
- If you have more questions about Foundry or the expansion process, you can reach out to Foundry central office at [expansion@foundrybc.ca](mailto:expansion@foundrybc.ca) or visit [foundrybc.ca/expansion](https://foundrybc.ca/expansion)

### General Foundry - Key Messages

- We know that 75% of youth develop mental health and substance use concerns by the age of 24.
- At Foundry, we want to reach young people early and address small problems before they become bigger ones.
- Foundry is removing barriers and increasing access to health and wellness resources for young people ages 12-24 and their families/caregivers across BC.
- Our integrated services make it possible for young people to access five core services in one convenient location: mental health care, substance use services, physical and sexual health care, youth and family peer supports, and social services.
- Young people can access our integrated services by walking into one of our 16 local Foundry centres, exploring our online tools and resources at [foundrybc.ca](https://foundrybc.ca), or connecting virtually through our new Foundry BC app.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How was your community selected?

- This phase of Foundry's expansion was built upon the substantial work from the previous selection processes. The Foundry expansion team undertook a multi-phase, confidential, application and review process with emphasis on organizational and community alignment with Foundry values and service model, as well as readiness, with respect to organizational and partnership capacity.
- The selection process included an initial review of each application, subject matter expert review, conversations with stakeholders, and a panel review involving Foundry staff, advisors, and partners.
- To learn more about Foundry's expansion process, connect with our Foundry Expansion Team by emailing [expansion@foundrybc.ca](mailto:expansion@foundrybc.ca)

### 2. How long will it take to open your centre?

- The time it takes for Foundry centres to open will vary by community as many need to identify sites, secure building permits, complete renovations/improvements as required, develop service partnerships, fundraise as needed and hire and train staff.
- We will begin by engaging with partners, stakeholders, and community residents as a first step. We look forward to providing updates as we reach key milestones in Foundry centre development.

### 3. Are there other supports available for those communities who do not have a Foundry centre?

- Yes, Foundry's provincial virtual service offers counselling, peer support, primary care and employment support for youth in BC aged 12-24 and their caregivers. For more information, visit [foundrybc.ca/virtual](http://foundrybc.ca/virtual).

### 4. What is Foundry?

- Foundry is removing barriers and increasing access to health and wellness resources for young people ages 12-24 and their families/caregivers across BC.
- Youth and their families/caregivers can access free, confidential, and safe health and wellness services by simply walking into their local Foundry centre or accessing provincial virtual services through the Foundry BC App.
- At Foundry, young people can get access to mental health and substance use supports, physical and sexual health care, youth and family peer support, as well as social services.

**5. What services will be provided by your Foundry centre?**

- Once open, Foundry [COMMUNITY] will provide:
  - Mental health and substance use supports,
  - Youth and family/caregiver drop-in counselling,
  - Youth and family/caregiver peer support,
  - Social service supports such as employment and education and wellness programs,
  - Physical & sexual health care.

**6. Why is a Foundry centre needed in your community?**

- Now, more than ever, we know that youth need support.
- In [COMMUNITY], [Lead agency add contextual information regarding community need, if needed].
- We know early intervention can stop small problems from becoming bigger down the road, and the earlier we provide support, the better the wellness outcomes for young people. Foundry provides safe, non-judgmental care, information and resources, and work to reach young people earlier – before health challenges become problematic.
- Foundry brings health and social services together in a single place to make it easier for young people to find the care, connection and support they need.

**7. What role will your local health authority have in delivering these services? (If lead agency is not a Health Authority)**

- BC's regional health authorities are key collaborators in the development and operations of every Foundry centre; working together with the lead agency and other local partners to co-locate and integrate services within the centre. In some communities (Richmond, North Shore, Vancouver and Chilliwack) the health authority is also the lead agency.

**8. How many young people do other Foundry centres currently serve? How many young people are served through virtual services?**

- In fiscal year 2022/2023, Foundry centres supported 14,420 young people across BC. On average, Foundry centres supported 3122 young people per month. Foundry Virtual BC supported 2,011 young people, on average supporting 322 young people per month.

**9. Where are the other Foundry centres located?**

- There are currently 16 Foundry centres open throughout the province in Vancouver-Granville, North Shore (North Vancouver), Campbell River, Ridge Meadows, Abbotsford, Kelowna, Prince George, Victoria, Penticton, Terrace,

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Comox Valley, Langley, Richmond, Cariboo-Chilcotin (Williams Lake), Sea to Sky (Squamish) and Port Hardy.

- Foundry centres are in development in the following communities: Burns Lake, East Kootenay, Fort St. John, Kamloops, Port Hardy, Powell River, Sunshine Coast, Surrey, Tri-Cities, and Vernon.
- With the recent announcement of 10 more centres to come, there will be a total of 35 Foundry centres province-wide once complete.

**\*Please redirect all questions received from media outlets to FCO about, but not limited to the following topics:**

- Gender affirming care (including but not limited to questions around puberty blockers, hormone therapy and surgical options for minors, general trans care for minors, post-treatment regret, safety and accountability procedures etc.)
- Substance use services (including but not limited to questions around OAT therapy, methadone, the youth toxic drug crisis, supervised inhalation & injection sites, Bill 34, hydromorphone addiction etc.)
- Housing services for unhoused youth.
- Details around funding allocations for new centres and services.
- Questions about other currently operational Foundry centres and their services.