

Impact Report– February 2013

What We Do:

Did you know that in British Columbia alone, diagnosed and undiagnosed mental illness is estimated to cost taxpayers \$6.6 billion per year¹? Or that substance misuse or addiction also costs roughly \$6 billion per year?

What if some of those costs could be reduced through community-based prevention and health promotion efforts, and programs closer to home helping people with diagnosed illnesses to quickly get back on their feet?



Appreciating the community sector's potential to play a role in these solutions, the Community Action Initiative (CAI) gives grants to bring together important resources. **Convening Grants** help community

partners connect with each other and develop action plans, encouraging both collaboration and participation by members of the target population. We also give **Service Innovation Grants** so the plans can be implemented, and separate **Training Innovation Grants** to boost the capacity of community members and service providers to better support individuals and families struggling with mental health and substance use. The CAI does this by drawing on an initial \$10 million endowment from the Province of British Columbia.

Quick Facts

(of grants to date)

Convening Grants (capacity-building):
\$960,619 given to **115** projects
 led by community-based organizations²

Service Innovation Grants
 (to deliver services in new ways):
\$4,440,265 given to **26** projects
 led by community-based organizations

Training Innovation Grants
 (to help service providers better
 serve clients):
\$1,290,515 given to **13** projects
 led by community-based organizations

Number of **direct participants helped**
 by all CAI-funded projects³:
10,820

Total value of **other contributions**⁴
 leveraged for CAI-funded projects:
\$3,936,606

Total value to projects **led by Aboriginal organizations**:
\$2,378,099 given to **53** community groups

Indigenous Cultural Competency Training⁵ to help community-based organizations better understand and address Aboriginal client needs: **147** organizations and **200** individuals benefiting

¹ Ministry of Health, 2010

² Non-profit agencies providing one or more community social services

³ Including participants to date and participants expected to be helped

⁴ Including all monetary, staff, equipment, space and other contributions provided by other funders and/or partner agencies

⁵ Funded by CAI and provided through the BC Provincial Health Services Authority

Other ways we make a difference:

1. We live and breathe partnerships.

First, our organization itself is a great example of working together, with representatives on our board from community-based mental health and addictions organizations; labour, business, Aboriginal organizations, and the provincial government. Second, all of our convening, training and service innovation grant funding goes to agencies working in partnership with at least two other agencies, because we know that by working together, the results will be greater than the sum of the parts.

Here is how our funding allocations have encouraged partnerships:



- **88** grants given out were for projects that involved a **health authority** as a partner (**58%** of total grant monies awarded, valued at **\$3,990,492**);
- **62** were projects led by non-Aboriginal agencies but which included an **Aboriginal agency** as a partner (**47%** of total grant monies awarded, valued at **\$3,141,971**).
- **62** had a **post-secondary institution** as a partner (**49%** of total grant monies awarded, valued at **\$3,303,662**);
- **61** had one or more **provincial government agencies** as a partner (**42%** of total grant monies awarded, valued at **\$2,810,430**);
- **55** had a **school or school district** as a partner (**37%** of total grant monies awarded, valued at **\$2,502,665**);
- **46** had a **local government** (municipality, parks and recreation agency, or neighbourhood house) as a partner (**28%** of total grant monies awarded, valued at **\$1,909,831**; and
- **43** had the **local police force** as a partner (**28%** of total grant monies awarded, valued at **\$1,883,844**);

2. We promote regular, high-quality evaluation.

The Community Action Initiative has set aside \$500,000, representing 5% of its total endowment, for multi-year evaluation of its own activities by a team of independent consultants.

Results so far:

- Communities are better able to address their own mental health and problematic substance use issues (71% of project leads in August 2012 report stated this with certainty or in part).
- The CAI has helped community groups and organizations across British Columbia that do not normally get involved in addressing mental health or help reduce the harms of problem substance use, “to now take part” (reported in March 2013 by 65% of all project collaborators).
- Funded projects are contributing to an improvement in the mental health and well-being of British Columbians (reported by 76% of project collaborators in March 2013).

Check out our separate *Evaluation* fact sheet for more detail.

“Our holistic [approach] made a significant difference in behaviours of participants with developmental challenges such as FASD, autism, and ADHD. This information was reported by caregivers, social workers and the youth themselves, as well as being reported as an observable change over the 8 months of the program by staff.”

-Project Lead of funded Service Innovation Grant project

3. We set our applicants and grant recipients up to succeed.

In addition to evaluation and Indigenous Cultural Competency Training, we have helped by:

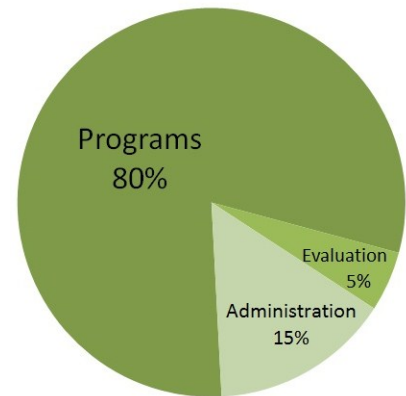


- Prompt and consistent feedback on grant-related inquiries by email and telephone;
- Hosting teleconferences and webinars to assist with grant applications;
- Including tip sheets to help service/training innovation grant applicants complete successful applications;
- Establishing a Community of Practice on Evaluation for service/training innovation grant recipients; and
- Helping service/training innovation grant recipients on an individual basis to address any significant challenges identified in their progress reports.

4. *We have a reasonable ratio of program to administration costs.*

We have set up our budget to follow a foundation model. For our total endowment of \$10 million to date, we have allocated the following breakdown of spending:

- **80% or \$8 million** in total program spending (including direct grants and training provided to client organizations);
 - **5% or \$500,000** to evaluation for overall effectiveness, which also includes some additional training for client agencies; and
 - **15% or \$1.5 million** in administration, including monies put aside for future fundraising purposes.
- Audited financial statements to confirm spending to date are available separately upon request.



“ *I think it is amazing the support you are giving us - I've never before experienced such support from a funder - I mean that sincerely.* ”

- Mary Jackson, Executive Director,
Northern HIV and Health Education Society





Community Action Initiative Member Organizations:

BC Alliance for Mental Health/Illness and Addiction Members

Addictions Specialists and
Allied Professionals of BC

BC Association of Clinical
Counsellors

BC Association of Social
Workers

BC Federation of Social
Services

BC Schizophrenia Society

Canadian Mental Health
Association– BC Division

Canadian Mental Health
Association– Kelowna
Branch

Families Organized for
Recognition and Care
Equality (F.O.R.C.E.) Society
for Kids' Mental Health

From Grief to Action



Other Members

BC Association of Aboriginal
Friendship Centres

BC Federation of Labour

BC Government Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

BC Government Ministry of
Health

BC School Counsellors
Association

First Nations Health
Authority

Herold Engineering Ltd.

Métis Nation British
Columbia



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