
For Immediate Release

Request for Proposals Launched for Two New Provincial Integrated Youth Services Hubs

September 23, 2024 (St. John's, NL) – Choices for Youth (CFY), Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) Health Services, and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador are pleased to announce the launch of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for two new Integrated Youth Services hubs in rural and remote parts of the province. This initiative marks a significant milestone in the implementation of a provincial Integrated Youth Services (IYS) model, by scaling from one hub in St. John's to three connected IYS hubs across the province. IYS is an international best practice, with over 100 IYS sites operational across the country, and 50 additional sites in development.

After five years of extensive community engagement and developmental work, paired with building from the successful model within CFY's existing IYS Hub, CFY and NL Health Services are thrilled to advance with the establishment of a provincial model of mental health and wrap-around support services for youth and young families in Newfoundland and Labrador. This model has been shaped by the input of eight steering committees and over 65 community partners since 2019, with invaluable support from philanthropic contributors.

The investment will establish two new initial IYS hubs in rural and remote parts of the province. These hubs will provide a comprehensive range of services including mental health support, housing, food security, primary care, public health, and family and natural supports. This initiative aims to provide low-barrier mental health and social services and ensure that youth and young families receive the support they need closer to home.

CFY has operated an award-winning IYS hub since 2004, known as their Outreach and Youth Engagement Centre. In collaboration with partners such as NL Health Services, CFY manages an integrated hub that provides comprehensive mental health, primary care, housing, and other wrap-around social services support to youth in a single location. Serving approximately 1,300 young people each year, CFY is excited about scaling this successful model to additional regions across the province through partnerships with community agencies and NL Health Services.

The RFP process will enable eligible groups to apply for the opportunity to operate these new IYS sites, adhering to national best practices and standards.

For more details about the RFP process and application requirements, please visit www.nliys.ca or email info.iys@choicesforyouth.ca.

Quotes

“We are thrilled to be working together with partners to grow the international best practice of Integrated Youth Services across Newfoundland and Labrador. This is an evidence-based approach that will ensure that young people can meet their immediate needs and achieve their long terms goals. Through this model, staff will work together in an integrated way to address the social determinants of health for thousands of young people annually. Choices for Youth is

excited to act as the backbone agency that will work hand in hand with partners across the province to build a provincial network of Integrated Youth Services.” – *Jen Crowe, Executive Director, Choices for Youth*

"Today marks a pivotal step forward in the implementation of a provincial Integrated Youth Services model for Newfoundland and Labrador. Scaling this model to rural and remote areas of our province will not only ensure youth and young families can avail of critical services, such as mental health and housing supports, but also works towards a future where they can access these services closer to the places they call home. While the request for proposals is the initial step in establishing two new Integrated Youth Services hubs, this initiative reflects the tireless work and dedication of our community partners – we know these hubs will be essential in building a stronger, more inclusive support network for young people in Newfoundland and Labrador.” – *Matt Piercey, Director of NL Integrated Youth Services, Choices for Youth*

“Our government is committed to expanding options for people seeking help for mental health, addictions, and housing throughout the province. By working with our partners such as Choices for Youth and NL Health Services, we are happy to establish a new Youth Services Model that will help youth in these rural and remote regions of the province get the supports they need closer to home.” – *Honourable John G. Abbott, Minister of Housing, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions*

“Promoting health and well-being is a priority for Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) Health Services. We all benefit when the needs of young people throughout our province are met through culturally relevant and low-barrier access to health and social services. NL Health Services welcomes the opportunity to continue our collaboration with Choices for Youth. The expansion of the Integrated Youth Services model to rural and remote areas in the province is a step toward transforming health-care delivery in our province and helping youth achieve their best possible outcomes.” - *Karen Stone KC, CEO, NL Health Services*

Associated Links:

[\\$4.3 million investment announced in Budget 2024 for implementation of a provincial Integrated Youth Services model](#)

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