

Calgary Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health

What is the Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health?

AHS, in partnership with the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation is building a stand-alone centre for child and adolescent mental health in Calgary.

Once built, the new facility will provide community-based mental health services to help ensure mentally healthy futures for children and adolescents in our community.

Why do we need a centre for child and adolescent mental health?

Once built, this facility will deliver mental health services in a community setting, helping to keep children and youth mentally healthy, and prevent hospital admissions. This community care delivery approach helps to free up much needed hospital space, and will offer more readily available mental health services in the community, closer to patients and families.

The new centre will provide a comprehensive continuum of coordinated, integrated, and seamless intervention services for youth suffering from acute mental health disorders, and their families.

Will this centre reduce wait times for mental health services for children and youth?

It is our goal that all of our clients have access to the services they need in a timely manner. By offering these services in the community rather than a hospital setting, patients and their families will have better access to mental health services to help meet their needs.

What programs will be offered there?

The new facility will be home to a mental health walk-in service that will provide urgent addiction and mental health services for youth and their families, seven days a week, 12 hours a day. An intensive community treatment service will provide more intensive and ongoing mental health services with multiple individual, group and family appointments per week, reducing the need for acute hospitalization, and a day hospital program will provide support and therapy for youth who require intensive treatment after being discharged from hospital.

Will there be overnight stays?

No. Inpatient mental health beds for children and youth will remain at Alberta Children's Hospital, Foothills Medical Centre and South Health Campus.

Who will use this facility?

The Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health will support young people and their families with new and enhanced services, including specialized triage and the opportunity for immediate referrals to programs at the site.

How many people will it help?

An estimated 5,000 young people and their families will benefit from the new services annually.

Where will it be located?

The new Centre is being built next door to the Youth Substance Use and Mental Health Services Centre at 1005 17 Street N.W in the community of Hounsfield Heights.

When will it open?

Construction on the centre is expected to wrap up by the end of the year with doors opening in early 2023.

How big will the facility be?

The Centre is anticipated to be a three story structure, approximately 3,200 square meters in size that will feature a program area on each floor including walk-in services on floor one, intensive community/outpatient treatment on floor two, and the day hospital on the third floor.

Were trees or other foliage removed from the property to prepare for construction?

AHS removed 101 of a total of 177 trees from the property which includes only those essential to allow construction of the new building and site development to progress. Our goal was to protect as many trees on the property as possible. As part of the landscaping work for the new centre for child and adolescent mental health, the City of Calgary and AHS will plant over 58 new trees, 333 shrubs and 466 perennials on the property.

How much will this facility cost?

The Alberta Children's Hospital is covering the \$30 million cost of the capital build, as well as \$20 million for programming, research, and prevention and promotion. AHS is funding the parkade and the operational costs for staff and the Centre.

Where can I direct any questions, comments or concerns I have?

Please email CCAMH.Calgary@ahs.ca with any questions, comments or concerns.