



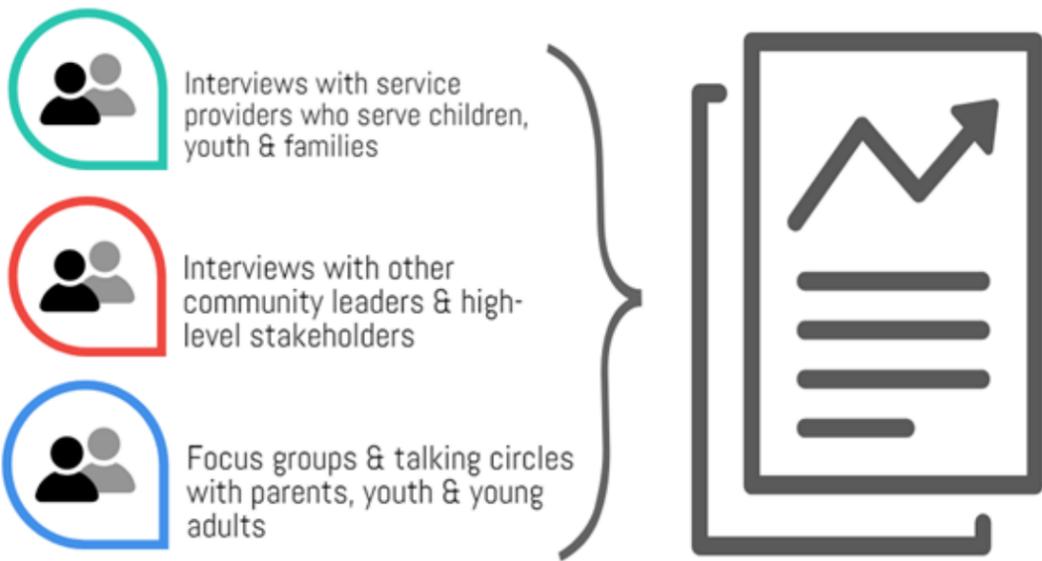
Supports for Success

A project of Wellesley Institute

PRIORITY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN BRANT

In order to improve our understanding of, and better serve different vulnerable populations, we need to understand how different community members experience our support systems. The priorities and needs identified by community members can help drive the guiding principles and priorities of future collective impact initiatives.

These issues and opportunities were informed by the following activities:



1) Location of and access to services

- Inadequate and infrequent public transportation
- Programs/services do not or not able to provide transportation for those in need
- Costs associated with transportation creates barriers for people with low income



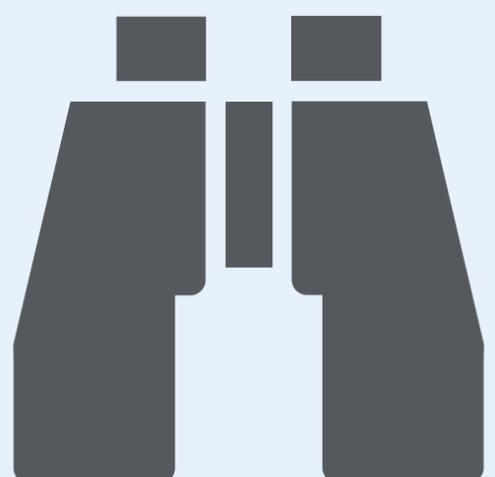
2) Trust between service providers and users



- Lack of trust between service providers/organizations and marginalized communities due to the lack of culturally appropriate services and/or historically poor interactions
- Services are not designed in ways that make youth comfortable in accessing care

3) Service navigation for middle years and transitional aged youth

- Need to improve transitions between services and life-stages, particularly for the middle years (6-12) and transitional aged youth (16-24)
- Long wait times for services in the middle years create uncertainties about access to care
- Lack of transitional planning and support for youth making the transition to adult programs/services





PRIORITY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS ALL SITES BRANT, THUNDER BAY, EAST SCARBOROUGH, KFL&A

1) Community hubs work well

- Improve youth's ability to get connected to the various supports and services they need
- Reduces the number of service visits required and improves user experience
- Facilitates alignment and coordination between services and reduces service duplication

2) Culturally appropriate supports

- Lack of culturally safe and appropriate programs and services for racialized and Indigenous youth
- Systemic and institutional racism creates feelings of mistrust and fear, making youth and their families reluctant to access available services

3) Support during life-course transitions

- Gaps in age eligibilities and lack of coordination between services across life-stages
- Need for new programming to support smooth life-course transitions

INDIGENOUS-SPECIFIC ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS ALL SITES

BRANT, THUNDER BAY, EAST SCARBOROUGH, KFL&A

1) Lack of physically, psychologically and culturally safe spaces

- Concerns about the physical safety of rural and urban communities
- Lack of comfort, trust and experiences of racism when accessing non-Indigenous programs and services
- Lack opportunities to connect with culture language and land

2) Education system lacks capacity to successfully serve the Indigenous population

- Lack of opportunities to learn Indigenous history, culture and language
- Concerns about the appropriateness of teaching techniques and standardized testing
- Fragmentation between federal, provincial and private school systems
- Need for more school, community and family support in education and transitions
- Lacks education on essential life skills such as financing, renting, professional development and healthy relationships