

Backgrounder

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Manitoba launched its co-ordinated fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) strategy in April 2007. The strategy was developed in consultation with experts and community stakeholders.

Spectrum Connections FASD Services

The province is providing \$550,000 annually to FASD Life's Journey Inc. to offer the Spectrum Connections FASD Services program. It will provide treatment and support to help those with FASD live independently.

Spectrum Connections FASD Services is a mobile support team that helps people living with FASD navigate issues around housing, finances, work, health care, mental health and addictions.

The target group served by Spectrum Connections includes both youth (ages 15 to 18) and adults affected by FASD.

For further information about Spectrum Connections, contact FASD Life's Journey by phone at 204-772-1591.

FASD Specialist Positions

Funding has been provided to create FASD specialists positions at each of the four CFS authorities. The specialists will research, analyze, develop, implement and evaluate the services associated with the FASD programs and services delivered by the agencies.

More information about Changes for Children and FASD is available at:
www.changesforchildren.mb.ca.

Stop FASD Preventive Initiative

Stop FASD is a voluntary, three-year preventive initiative where mentors provide intensive support to pregnant and post-natal women who are struggling with drug and alcohol use. Currently, the program is offered at four sites in Manitoba including two in Winnipeg, one in The Pas and one in Thompson.

The province will expand the Stop FASD preventive initiative to three new communities in Manitoba. Portage la Prairie, Flin Flon and Dauphin will be invited to consider hosting sites which will serve their own populations as well as the surrounding areas including First Nations communities. Consultations and discussions will begin with community partners this month.

Diagnostic Services

The province has provided \$187,200 in funding to enhance FASD diagnostic services at the Clinic for Alcohol and Drug Exposed Children (CADEC), which is a part of the Child Development Clinic at the Children's Hospital Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg. The funding will develop FASD diagnostic services for youth. Additionally, the province is working with CADEC and the regional health authorities to further develop services to families seeking FASD diagnosis in rural and northern regions.

FASD Youth Justice Program

The province has expanded the successful FASD Youth Justice Program to The Pas. The program supports youth suspected of having FASD to help them through the diagnostic, sentencing and post-sentencing processes.

Research Scientist Award

Providing \$162,000 over three years (\$50,000 from the province and \$112,000 from the University of Manitoba), the FASD Research Scientist Award is intended to build links between researchers in other jurisdictions to secure more funding for FASD research in Manitoba and promote research that will inform future policy development.

Canada Northwest FASD (CNFASDP) Partnership

Manitoba is a founding partner of the CNFASDP, an alliance of seven jurisdictions including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and Yukon.

The partnership hosts international conferences, as well as educational symposiums for individual jurisdictions. In addition, the partnership funds the Canada Northwest FASD Research Network, the only FASD research network working in the northern and western regions of Canada.

For more information on the research network, visit www.canfasd.ca.