



Contact

For more information on how you can support this program contact:
Black Mental Health Canada

Phone: 1-888-220-2510

Email: info@blackmentalhealth.ca

Website: www.blackmentalhealth.ca

YES TO ASSESS

What is Yes to Assess

“Yes, to Assess” is a proactive initiative designed to address a critical need within the black community. This program aims to identify children who may require psychoeducational assessment, thereby enabling the early detection of potential learning or neurodevelopmental disorders. By focusing on early intervention, “Yes to Assess” strives to bridge the gaps in mental health support and educational resources within the black community.

What are the Deliverables?

The program operates by conducting comprehensive assessments, leveraging the expertise of skilled professionals in the field of psychology and education. Through careful evaluation, it identifies subtle signs and symptoms that might indicate underlying learning challenges or neurodevelopmental disorders. By honing in on these early indicators, the program empowers families, educators, and healthcare professionals to provide tailored support and resources to the children in question.

Challenges with Assessments within the Black Community

- **Limited Access to Culturally Competent Services:** Many black families face barriers in accessing culturally competent mental health services.
- **Cultural Competencies of Testers:** The lack of cultural competencies among testers is a significant concern. Assessors who are not familiar with the cultural backgrounds, traditions, and communication styles of the black community may misinterpret behaviors or responses during assessments.
- **Over diagnosing and Underdiagnosing:** Cultural biases can also result in overdiagnosis or underdiagnosis of learning and neurodevelopmental disorders within the black community.

How Funding Can support

- Funding to compensate Psychometrists.
- Accessible Clinics
- Training on Cultural Competencies
- Parent Education

Small sample of reasons why learning and neurodevelopmental issues go undiagnosed.

Behavior Misinterpretation

Behavioral symptoms of neurodevelopmental disorders can be misunderstood or misinterpreted as mere disobedience or bad behavior, leading to a lack of appropriate intervention...

Lack of Awareness

Limited awareness about neurodevelopmental disorders and their symptoms can lead parents and caregivers to dismiss early signs as temporary behavioral issues or fail to recognize them altogether.

Cultural Stigma

Stigma surrounding mental health issues is prevalent in many communities, including the black community. This stigma can prevent families from seeking help, fearing judgment or social isolation.

Parental Neglect And Busyness

Socioeconomic challenges and systemic barriers may force parents to prioritize immediate needs over seeking medical or psychological help for their children. Inadequate access to healthcare resources can lead to neglect of early signs. Demanding work schedules, multiple jobs, or single-parent households can limit the time parents have to observe and address potential developmental issues.

Financial Barriers

Limited financial resources can prevent families from seeking professional assessments and therapy. The cost of healthcare services, including diagnosis and treatment, can be prohibitive for many families.

Cultural Competencies

Mental health services that are not culturally sensitive might not resonate with black families. A lack of understanding about cultural nuances can hinder effective communication and trust between families and healthcare providers.

Healthcare Disparities

Disparities in access to healthcare facilities and qualified professionals can result in delayed or missed diagnoses. Families in underserved communities might have limited access to specialized healthcare services.