



Low-Barrier ID Clinic
Explorations of success

How it started

- After COVID-19 lockdowns lifted, access to most services was still very difficult to access.
- Photo identification was a top need identified by unhoused community members and agencies who support them
- Access NS was a 20 minute drive away, and \$17.20 cost to the program
- Is it a good use of your time to drive 5 clients a week to Access NS?



Creating low-barrier access

- Major barriers: fixed address, ability to receive mail
- Difficulty (perceived or real) of providing appropriate documentation for ID standards
- Cost (\$17.20)
- 1-2 hour bus ride to Access NS



Why the library as a project partner

- Default space for unhoused community.
- Has space, tech and capacity
- Can act as hub for Clinic operations
- Space anticipates the needs of unhoused persons



How it runs

ID Clinic:

Register at the check-in desk (community agency staff help out with this)

Register with AccessNS

Get photo taken on-site

10-14 days later, IDs arrive at library for pick-up.

Pick-Up:

Person-in-Charge verifies photo ID matches person

Person signs for ID.



Key to getting it started

Willing Partner in Access NS

Their mandate included expanding services to low income/homeless folks. We can provide folks who fit that mandate, they provide the mobile camera system and the staff capacity.

Having committed employees in key provincial positions who are willing to solve problems and not just say no.

Funding and support was piecemeal from community partners, but we cobble together enough support to keep it going.

Limitations and considerations

It's only accessible to people who are close to or can get to the clinic locations.

We are trying to move it around to different branches in the library system, but it is limited. We know there is need all over the province.

Some areas have higher participation than others. Downtown locations most popular, we are trying to find under-served areas within the community.

Struggled to find funding to make it more sustainable long term



Identified needs for getting ID (or, what they do after)

- BANKING
- Connecting to Income Assistance
- Getting transportation back to family
- Sign a lease
- Take part in more community activities and travel for adults who live in care
- Apply for jobs
- Visit family who is incarcerated
- Get updated ID after a name change
- Re-establish life in community



Goals or next steps

How to get federal services on the same page?

Help getting Health Cards or Birth certificates

