

Pieces to Pathways

CENTRAL HUB // GREATER TORONTO AREA

CUSTOMIZED EVALUATION
SUPPORTS (CES) PROFILES



ORGANIZATION NAME

Pieces to Pathways

PROGRAM NAME

Pieces to Pathways

STEPPING UP THEMES

- Health & Wellness
- Diversity, Social Inclusion & Safety

PROGRAM TARGET POPULATION

LGBTQQ2SIA / Racialized youth, ages 16 to 29 years old substance users

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Facilitate harm-reduction and abstinence focused substance use support services, which target the specific needs of queer and trans youth in Toronto
- Auditing and supporting capacity building for other organizations which serve substance users
- Bringing media attention to the current gap in services and advocating for services that culturally specific and developmentally appropriate to needs of queer and trans youth who use substances

“Queer & Trans youth who have tried to access services have reported a disconnect between feeling safe and comfortable disclosing their identities, or to disclose their substance use depending on the context. Pieces to Pathways aims to fill these gaps by providing peer-led and peer driven support services which affirm the lived experiences and unique social needs of this population.”

CONNECT WITH PIECES TO PATHWAYS!

www.piecestopathways.com // [@p2p_toronto](https://twitter.com/p2p_toronto)

PIECES TO PATHWAYS (P2P) is a peer-led initiative creating Canada’s first substance use support program for LGBTQQ2SIA youth ages 16 to 29 years old in Toronto.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Currently, P2P is focusing its work in two areas: first, providing abstinence and harm-reduction alcohol and drug use support services for LGBTQQ2SIA youth which includes coordinating 3 community drop-in spaces, providing case management services and facilitating groups. Second, P2P is working with addiction and substance use service providers to determine their LGBTQ accessibility by engaging in a LGBTQ assessments and capacity building process.

WHAT ARE YOUR EVALUATION HOPES AND DREAMS?

“What we mainly need the evaluation for is to evaluate the efficacy of our program. We conducted a needs-assessment before that looked at surveying service providers and focus groups. And what’s different now is focusing and having that evaluation to see how a program changes over a long-term basis. It would be super helpful to have that in place so that we know that what we’re doing is making things more accessible for our target population.”

WHAT ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION?

“The skills and speciality that we have is that we are a queer-based organization and we know what population needs are, we know how to engage with them, they feel comfortable around us, and with something like YouthREX, we know that their speciality is evaluation, they know how to do things, they can make the right recommendations, and together we can collaborate and figure out what our steps should be.”

HOW WILL YOUTH BE INVOLVED IN YOUR EVALUATION?

“We did have peer working groups, and know it’s very important for us. And I say peer-informed and peer-led, and sometimes people say it but don’t mean it. But we really mean it through all the processes. We’ll definitely be in for stuff like that for sure.”