

A Celebration of Firsts: 35 years of innovation

Pre-1989

Interpretation services are offered pre-incorporation

The foundation of the organization is built, with interpretation services and other early programs.

1989

Access Alliance-Multicultural Community Health Centre opens

1990

Community-based research activities begin

An in-house research department is established to address a lack of evidence about needs and issues affecting newcomer communities.

1991-1993

New service model developed

Women's health concerns are addressed, mental health screening starts, and 32 languages are served.

1994-1995

New services added

Our services expand to include non-insured services and social work.

1999

College office opens

Access Alliance settles into its new home.

2001

OHIP for All Babies Coalition Formed

We join with others in advocating to end the practice of billing non-status parents for their newborns' healthcare.

2002

Peer Outreach program begins

With a focus on supporting women and children in underserved, hard-to-reach communities.

2003

The Access Model is developed

The model's goal is to improve access in under-served areas.

2004

Expressive Arts Programming begins

Art is used to address trauma.

2006

Among Friends programming begins

Toronto's first settlement program for 2SLGBTQ+ newcomers.

2007

Our name changes to Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

The updated name better reflects our history, community, programs and services.

Significant funding in place for our Settlement services

Core funding is received from the Government of Canada's federal immigration department, establishing a long-term, productive partnership with this funder, now known as the IRCC.

2010

AccessPoint on Danforth (APOD) & AccessPoint on Jane (APOJ) open

These two hubs, in the east (APOD) and the west (APOJ), expand health care, settlement services, and youth and family programs to priority neighborhoods with high newcomer populations.

2011

Rooftop Garden opens

The garden and its programs link health, food growing, and ecological education.

2012

The Non-Insured Walk-in Clinic (NIWIC) opens

The NIWIC opens in response to growing primary care needs

Access Alliance Language Services (AALS) are accredited

AALS are nationally & internationally accredited.

Access Alliance Language Remote Interpretation Ontario (RIO) network launches

RIO collaborates with other agencies to provide affordable, on-demand phone and video interpreting.

2014

Solo Practitioners in Need (SPiN) is developed

SPiN bridges solo doctors with local community health centres to better support complex patients.

2015

The Nahom Berhane Scholarship for Leadership & Inclusion (NBS) is launched

The NBS is created in partnership with the Berhane family, to honour Nahom's legacy as an impactful community leader.

2016

First Hotel Clinic is established

In its first days, the clinic delivers healthcare services to Syrian refugees, in partnership with COSTI.

Health With Dignity is launched

Supporting our clients to better navigate the health system.

2017

The Immigrant Researchers Support Network (IRSN) & Immigrant Insight Scholar (IIS) initiative are created

Offering opportunities for un/underemployed internationally educated researchers & analysts to receive peer support and strengthen their skills, gain local experience.

2018

Scarborough Cycles expands

Our Cycle Hub expands to satellite locations.

Indigenous languages added to RIO

Indigenous languages are added to RIO interpreter services.

2019

Hijabs and Helmets (H&H) is launched

Canada's first cycling initiative designed specifically for hijabi women and girls.

2022

Status For All & Undocumented.Stories advocacy

With partners across the country, we called for status for all undocumented people in Canada. This led to the collection of stories by undocumented residents for our Undocumented.Stories campaign.

2024

35th anniversary celebrations begin

We launch our 35th anniversary events and initiatives, highlighting our innovative firsts over the years. We continue our work improving health outcomes for newcomers, and look forward to exploring new pathways, together.