Our Place is committed to Place-Based strategies. This means:

* **Programs and Services are adapted to meet the unique circumstances and requirements of the neighbourhood or community which is being served.** For example, in the Downtown Eastside there is a disproportionate incidence of poverty, violence and and substance abuse. This has resulted in a disproportionate incidence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder among children. Programs for children and youth must recognize this and provide extra supports in order to achieve program participation and success equal to that in a neighbourhood without this challenge. Early assessments are critical for long term results.

* **Programs and Services build on the strength of existing organizations who are trusted in the community.** In the Downtown Eastside, many residents have experienced considerable dislocation and trauma. For these residents, it is a challenge to develop trusting relationships with members of any helping profession. Reaching this vulnerable population is more successful when done with the support of people who have already established trusting relationships. For example, when the Nurse Practitioners from BC Children's and Women's Hospital developed its social pediatrics program they wisely did not rent inner-city office space and put up a shingle. Rather, the Nurse Practitioners provided services out of existing trusted community facilities such as Ray-Cam and Strathcona community centres, local schools and daycares. They now provide primary health care to over 2,000 people who previously had no primary health care provider.

* **Place-based strategies are holistic and comprehensive.** Problems in the inner-city are complex, but for the most part, universal or targeted government programs are developed to address a single issue. Individual government departments develop programs to meet a specific mandate, e.g. housing, job training, primary education, literacy, addiction. The reality is that many people in the inner-city have multiple inter-twined problems which defy a simple solution or single strategy. The research refers to these as "wicked" problems. For example, a successful literacy program in the Inner-city will also be able to provide youth with runners so that they can participate in school sports, with a back pack and school supplies, a safe quiet place for homework, and with convenient access to non-judgmental Adolescent Health Services. This is a relationship-based circle of support, not a referral system.

* **Place-based strategies build on community capacity.**   Enhancing the community's capacity to solve its own problems is more likely to result in enduring change rather than simply promoting ongoing dependance on external supports. For example, the Powerful Parents group in an inner-city social housing complex provides peer support in parenting. Unlike government programs, Powerful Parents operates 24/7 enhancing the capacity of low income parents to manage significant stresses without the need for intervention by child welfare authorities.

Implications for funding and funders:

Core Principle 1: All partners collaborate in developing priorities
Funding priorities are determined on the basis of overall relative need. For example, increased funding to improve graduation rates may be allocated to: High-school based programs, or elementary school programs to enable kids to prepare for the transition to high school; or early learning supports to ensure most vulnerable kids can participate in early learning opportunities

Core Principle 2: All partners will identify funding opportunities and develop approaches for place-based strategies
Governments as well as some foundations, develop funding programs and community-based agencies apply for project funding within these overall programs. Our partners will identify opportunities and develop proposals that benefit overall strategies. While the funding may derive from a project-based approach, we are committed to developing longer term holistic strategies.

Core Principle 3: All partners will contribute to the costs of maintaining 'an administrative backbone' for place-based strategies
Project funding usually includes some percentage for administration and overhead. Partners will support the overall costs of maintaining the strategy in addition to necessary administrative costs that accrue to any one agency.

Core Principle 4: All partners will attempt to utilize existing sin the community rather than spending money on 'bricks and mortar'.
Place-based strategies serve the community in places where they naturally gather, where vulnerable members of the community feel accepted and comfortable. Partners will recognize this and will always seek to maximize use of existing space.