



Advocacy & Services
for LGBT Elders

We refuse to be invisible

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Strategies and Resources for Creating LGBT Welcoming Senior Centers

Today there is greater recognition, understanding, and support for LGBT people; however, LGBT older adults often feel isolated and alone. The LGBT older adult population is growing, and LGBT elders live in communities large and small across the country. Senior Centers play a vital role by providing older adults with services and connecting them with resources that support vibrant aging. Through specific outreach and creating LGBT welcoming Senior Centers, staff can reach an aging population that is often overlooked and underserved. The following are strategies and resources Senior Centers can use to improve outreach and inclusive programming for LGBT older adults.

1. Review organizational policies.

For example, add sexual orientation and gender identity to your nondiscrimination statement. To learn more about policy and program updates, see the guide: [Inclusive Services for LGBT Older Adults: A Practical Guide to Creating Welcoming Agencies](#)

2. Review and update intake forms.

Including questions that provide people with the opportunity to share important information related to their sexual orientation and gender identity is a way to demonstrate that you recognize your constituents may be LGBT, and is a sign of respect and inclusiveness. For assistance with creating LGBT inclusive intake forms, see the guide: [Inclusive Questions for Older Adults: A Practical Guide to Collecting Data on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#)

3. Provide cultural competency training to staff.

LGBT cultural competency training can equip your staff to identify and address the needs of LGBT older adults, and make sure your team is seen as a trusted resource to the LGBT community. SAGECare provides training and credentialing opportunities to improve the cultural competence of your organization. To explore the SAGECare training options visit www.sageusa.care

4. Partner with local LGBT organizations.

Reach out to LGBT organizations in your community and offer to partner with them on programs and outreach events such as local PRIDE celebrations. There are [SAGE Affiliates](#) and [LGBT Community Centers](#) across the country who may be perfect partners for building collaborative relationships. The guide [Strengthen Your State and Local Aging Plan: A Practical Guide for Expanding the Inclusion of LGBT Older Adults](#) provides additional tips and resources for bringing local partners into your strategic planning.

5. Provide programs that promote LGBT inclusion, awareness, and acceptance.

LGBT older adults seek community events in spaces where they feel welcomed. A simple yet impactful way to begin inclusive and educational programming is through offering a movie night featuring an LGBT themed film. For more information on LGBT programming see the guide [LGBT Programming for Older Adults: A Practical Step-by-Step Guide](#)

SAGE’s National Resource Center on LGBT Aging is available for technical assistance and consultation with Senior Centers seeking to expand outreach and services to LGBT older adults. For additional information contact us at info@lgbtagingcenter.org

Additional Resources and Information

SAGE
www.sageusa.org

SAGECare
www.sageusa.care

SAGE Elder Hotline
1-888-234-SAGE or sage@GLBThotline.org

SAGE Affiliates
www.sageusa.org/advocacy/sagenet.cfm

CenterLink – LGBT Community Centers
www.lgbtcenter.org

National Resource Center on LGBT Aging
www.lgbtagingcenter.org