



The Impact of COVID-19 on the LGBTQ+ Community

National Coalition for LGBT Health
March 26, 2020



Introductions

- **Michael Shankle** - Director of Advocacy and Education
- **Elaina Perry** - Project Associate
- **Neal Mody-Bailey** - LGBT Health Associate



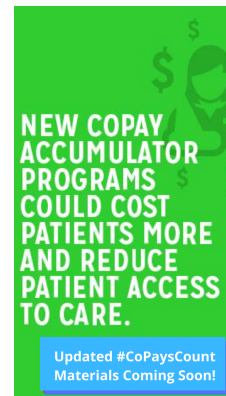
National Coalition for LGBT Health

Committed to improving the health and well-being of
lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer
plus individuals through
advocacy, education, and research.



Current Coalition Activities

- LGBTQ+ Health Advocacy eBriefs
- Action Alerts
- Copays Count Campaign
- State of LGBT Health National Survey
- LGBT Health Training & Certificate Program, *Coming Soon*
- Webinars and Trainings
- National Virtual Conference, SYNC2020



If you have any questions about these activities or would like to receive LGBTQ+ Health Advocacy eBriefs, contact Elaina Perry at Elaina@HealthLGBT.org.



18th Annual Awareness Week

- Created by the National Coalition for LGBT Health
- Encourages the LGBTQ+ community to **“Turn OUT”** for health through voter engagement and advocacy
- Raises awareness and educates of health disparities affecting the LGBTQ+ community
- Increases education for healthcare professionals in cultural competency

**TURN
OUT
FOR LGBT
HEALTH**

National
Coalition
LGBT
Health

**NATIONAL
LGBT HEALTH
AWARENESS WEEK**

**MARCH
23-27
2020**

www.healthlgbt.org



Learning Objectives

- Highlight the COVID-19 response of LGBTQ+ community groups and health centers as they support LGBTQ+ communities through this crisis
- Explore unique issues affecting LGBTQ+ communities related to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Discuss how traditional programming and services have been modified to meet community needs
- Discuss innovative practices being implemented by LGBTQ+ community groups and health centers in response to the emerging needs of LGBTQ+ communities
- Identify legislative and regulatory processes that may impact access to services or programs for LGBTQ+ individuals

COVID-19

- COVID-19 is a respiratory virus mainly spread from person to person via close proximity (less than 6 ft) through respiratory droplets produced from infected person's coughs and/or sneezes.
- The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 Pandemic, March 11th
- Older adults and people of any age with underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk of developing a severe illness from COVID-19
- As of March 25th, the CDC reports a total of 54,454 cases and 737 deaths in the United States.

Topics and Speakers

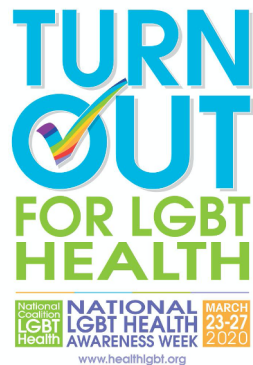
- **Anthony Fortenberry - Chief Nursing Officer; Kimberleigh Smith - Senior Director of Community Health and Family Planning at Callen-Lorde Community Health Clinic - New York, New York**
 - *Clinical Perspective on COVID-19 and the LGBTQ+ Community*
- **Debbie Ojeda-Leitner Ph.D. - Policy Advocate at the National Center for Transgender Equality - Washington D.C.**
 - *The Coronavirus (COVID-19): What Trans People Need to Know*
- **Quentin Bell - Executive Director at The Knights & Orchids Society - Selma, Alabama**
 - *Community Spotlight - A TNGC Client Centered Approach*

Topics and Speakers

- **Tyler TerMeer Ph.D. - Chief Executive Officer at Cascade AIDS Project - Portland, Oregon**
 - *Community Spotlight - Returning to the Roots of our Movement*
- **Aaron Tax - Director of Advocacy at Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders - New York, New York**
 - *Community Spotlight - Older People*
- **Elizabeth Weglein - Chief Executive Officer at Elizabeth Cooney Care Network - Townson, Maryland**
 - *Community Spotlight - Elderly Care and Social Isolation*

Topics and Speakers

- **Dylan Waguespack - Public Policy and External Affairs Director at True Colors Fund - New York, New York**
 - *COVID-19 and LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness*
- **Julie Kruse - Director of Federal Policy at Family Equality**
 - *COVID-19 & LGBTQ+ Families*



COVID-19 Community Health Center Response: Considerations for LGBTQ+ Patients

Anthony Fortenberry - Chief Nursing Officer

Kimberleigh Smith - Senior Director for Community Health Planning and Policy

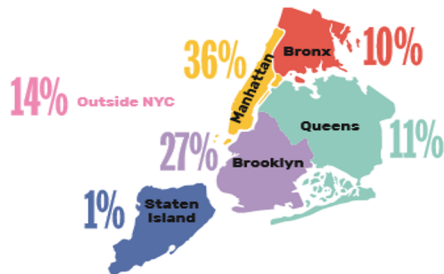
Callen-Lorde Community Health Clinic - New York, New York



Callen-Lorde Overview

History & Demographics

BY AREA



BY RACE & ETHNICITY

White (Non-Latinx)
 Hispanio/Latinx
 Black/African-American
 Unreported
 Asian/Pacific Islander
 More than one race
 American Indian/Native Alaskan



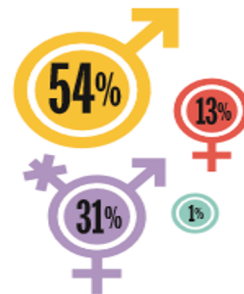
BY AGE

25-39
 40-49
 50-64
 Under 25
 65 and over
 Under 18



BY GENDER

Men
 Transgender/Non-Binary
 Women
 Gender Unreported



New Clinical Model

- Telephonic & Telehealth Services
 - Medical/Behavioral Health/Psychiatry/Triage
- On-site Pharmacy Access
 - Med Support
- Occupational Health
- On-site RN & Medical Provider
 - Non-Respiratory Symptoms/Hormone Injections

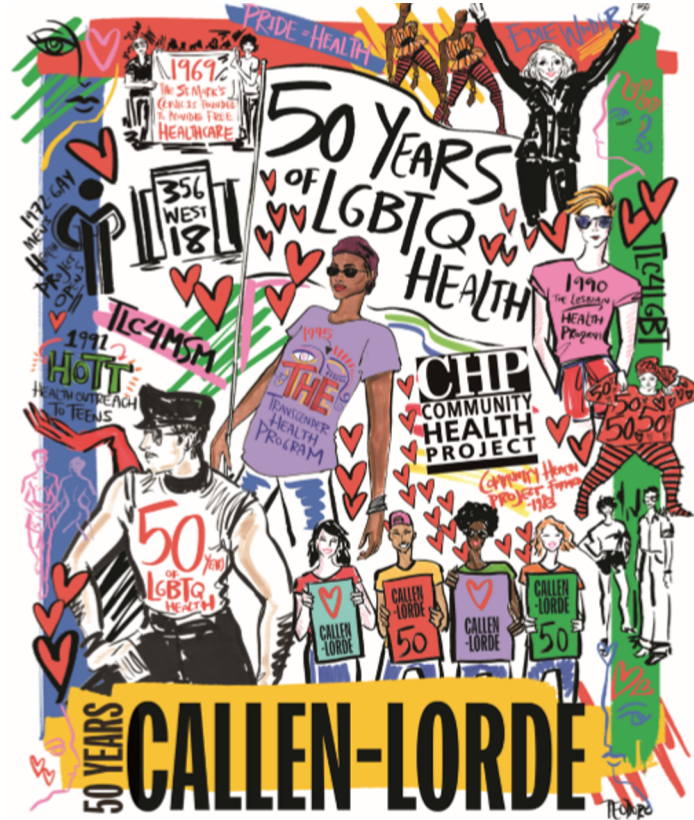
Policy Considerations

- Lobbying for billing and reimbursement guidance
- Implications of our State Budget and Medicaid Redesign
- Fighting for Federal Funding
- Activism and Advocacy



Next Steps

- Supply Chain
- Staffing Concerns
- Hospital Prioritization
- Continued Advocacy

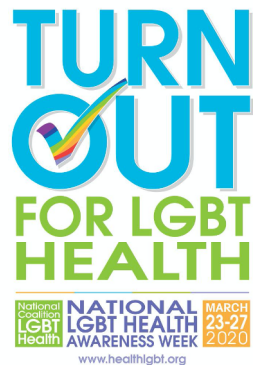


Thank You

Anthony Fortenberry, RN, Chief Nursing Officer
afortenberry@callen-lorde.org

Kimberleigh Smith, MPA, Senior Director for Community Health Planning and Policy
ksmith@callen-lorde.org





The Coronavirus (COVID-19): What Trans People Need to Know

Debbie Ojeda-Leitner, PhD - Policy Advocate

National Center for Transgender Equality/NCTE Action Fund - Washington DC



Agenda

- About NCTE
- The Unique Challenges for the Trans Community
- Best Practices
- Policy Updates





transequality.org

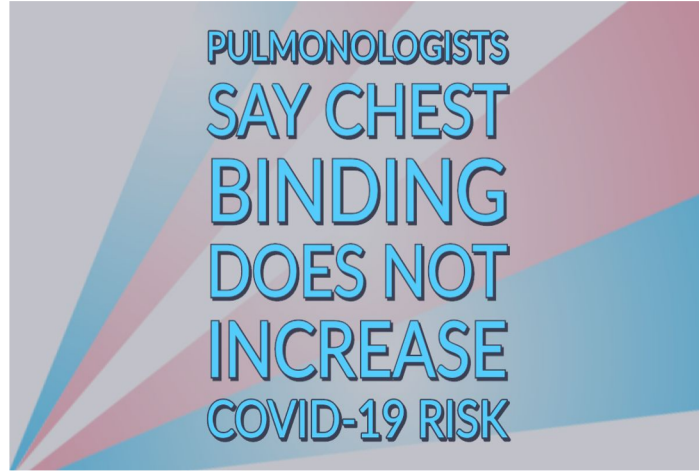
The Unique Challenges for the Trans Community

LGBTQ+
PERSONS
ARE MORE
VULNERABLE
TO COVID-19.
WHY?

We have increased

1. Tobacco use
2. HIV and cancer rates
3. Barriers to health care

Best Practices



Policy Updates

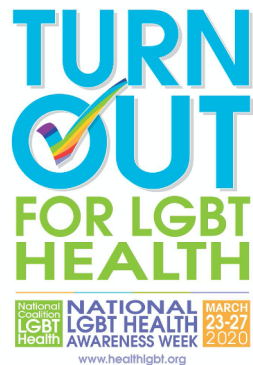
- Families First
Coronavirus Response
Act
 - Health Care
 - Housing
 - Criminal Justice
 - Immigration Justice
 - Discrimination



Resources

- For more information: <https://transequality.org/covid19>
- E-mail: dojedaleitner@transequality.org





Responding to COVID-19: A TGNC Client Centered Approach

Quentin Bell - Executive Director
The Knights and Orchids Society - Selma, Alabama



About TKO

- The Knights & Orchids Society (TKO)
- Our Mission
- Only queer- and trans-led ASO in Alabama.
- Advocacy
- Job skills/opportunities
- Resources/collaborative programs



[2019 Annual Report](#)

COVID-19 Impact on TGNC Southernns

- Job Loss/Stress
- Housing/Relocation
- Isolation due to risk
- No Connectivity (internet)
- Lack of family support
- Food Insecurity
- Access to Healthcare
 - Hormone Therapy
 - Labs, prescriptions, etc.



TKO Responds to COVID-19

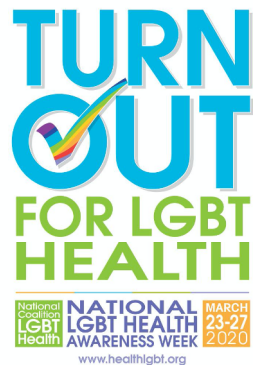
- Community First Responders (Temporary Staff)
- Providing Financial Assistance and RJ Support
- Access to Healthcare + Wellness Network
 - Hormone Therapy + Mental Health + RXs
 - Sexual/Reproductive Health
 - Training and Deploying Community First Responders
- Food Bank/Mobile Kitchen
 - Weekly Mobile Food Pantry
 - 20 Rural Dallas and 43 Rural Wilcox
 - Over 1,500 lbs. of food.



Challenges Amid COVID-19

- This COVID-19 disaster only adds more stress to the lives of TGNC people in Alabama and other states with Anti-trans legislation.
- We have transitioned from one state of crisis to the next, moving from TGNC communities fighting for equal rights and protections in the legislature, to TGNC folks fighting for the safety, health, and wellness of our sisters and brothers who are often overlooked and forgotten.
- TKO currently operates a reproductive justice free store that stocks items for clients and our stock is nearly depleted and we are struggling to keep up with the demand for necessities (toilet paper, soap, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene products) during this crisis.
- With so many mandatory shutdowns occurring our TGNC people may not have funds to maintain essential hormone therapy.





Returning to the Roots of Our Movement

Tyler TerMeer, PhD - Chief Executive Officer
Cascade AIDS Project - Portland, Oregon



Reflections on 35 Years of Service



We support and empower all people living with or affected by HIV, reduce stigma, and provide compassionate healthcare to the LGBTQ+ community & beyond!



Compassionate Healthcare

Virtual Appointments

- Primary Care
- Gender Care
- Nurse Consultation
- Resource / Referral
- Mental Health

In-Person Appointments

- Open by Appointment 2 -
½ days per week for:
 - Lab Services
 - Gender Care
 - Newly Diagnosed HIV
 - Sexual Health
Screening &
Treatment





HIV Social Services

Virtual Service Delivery

- Housing and Medical Case Management and Navigation
- Emergency Rent Assistance
- Transitional or Medical Motel Vouchers
- Urgent Intakes for time sensitive ERA needs, medical motel vouchers or housing needs
- Shelter Referrals
- Housing Readiness
- Peer Support
- Culturally Specific HIV Service Navigation

In-Person Services

- On The Ground Efforts:
 - Delivery of:
 - Food boxes
 - Medications
 - Air mattresses / mattresses
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Access to:
 - Bus Passes
 - Pre-Loaded Mobile Phones
 - Urgent Intake
 - Socially Distanced Virtual Appointment Stations





Continuity of Operations

- Finance
 - Maintaining skeleton crew on a rotating basis with at least one person onsite on any given day
 - A/P and A/R Rent Roll
 - Payroll
 - All Responsibilities of the CFO (Board Reports and Agency Financials, Budgeting, Forecasting, etc...)
 - Mail Sorting
- Operations / IT
 - Maintaining skeleton crew on a rotating basis with at least one person onsite on any given day
 - Enhanced Firewall to expand VPN Access (\$7,000)
 - Expansion of Zoom Slack / Skype for Business (\$1,500)
 - Purchase of integrated Telehealth module (\$2,000)





Continuity of Operations

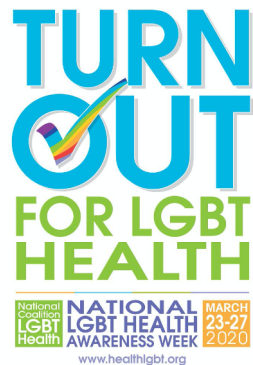
- Human Resources
 - **Updated Employee Leave**
 - **Ongoing Union Dialogue**
 - **Hiring** - Any hiring that is currently in process will remain in motion. However, any new hiring not currently posted or in process must be approved by the CEO before any action is taken.
 - **Modified Onboarding / Training of New Hires**
- **Work-Related Travel** – All work-related out of state travel and/or conferences currently scheduled for the months of April and May 2020 must be canceled or rescheduled.
- **Personal International Travel** –
 - Mandatory 2 week quarantine for those who return from international travel



Engaging our Community

- Communications
 - Regular updates and info RE: CAP's response to COVID-19
 - CAP's CEO appointed as LGBTQ+ Liaison in COVID-19 response
- CAP Community Action Fund
 - 7 Ways you can help CAP from the safety of your couch!
 - Volunteer – Mask Making
- Virtual Fundraising
 - Happy Hour
- Institutional Giving
 - Flexibility of Funders
 - Foundation Support
- Individual and Major Giving
- Shifting Event Landscape
- Social Distance vs. Social Connection





Community Spotlight - Older People

Aaron Tax - Director of Advocacy
SAGE - New York, New York

Challenges for LGBT Older People

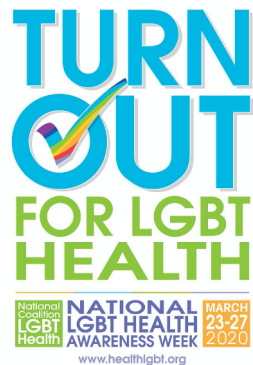
- Challenges LGBT older people and older people with HIV already face:
 - Social isolation
 - Higher rates of poverty
 - Reluctance, fear, stigma in seeking care, services, and supports



COVID-19 and Older People

- COVID-19 exacerbates the situation





COVID-19 Isolation: Risk and Coping Strategies

Elizabeth Weglein - Chief Executive Officer
Elizabeth Cooney Care Network - Townson, Maryland

COVID-19 Isolation & Risks

- Social Distancing & Self-Isolation
- Shuttering at Home
 - Unpredictable
 - Uncontrollable
 - Unknown Next steps
 - Uncertainty
- Fear, Anxiety, Depression & Stress
- COVID-19 is EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

LGBT Isolation Risks

Members of the LGBT community over the age of 50 are more likely to be single and live alone (Fredriksen-Goldsen et al., 2011). In addition, a variety of reasons suggest that these individuals may be at higher risk of experiencing negative consequences of isolation:

- LGBT older adults are twice as likely to live alone as heterosexual older adults and more than four times as likely to have no children
- For LGBT elders, social isolation compounds the physical and mental health concerns that many elders experience as they age.
- Living in isolation, and fearful of the discrimination they could encounter in mainstream aging settings, many marginalized elders are also at a higher risk for elder abuse, neglect, and various forms of exploitation.
- For LGBT elders of color, this social isolation might be intensified

COVID-19 Coping Strategies

- **Personal Strategies for Resiliency**
- **Keep your routines** ~ exercise, eat, sleep, talk to friends & family
- **Engage via Virtual Connectivity:**
 - FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, Virtual book clubs, Watch movies simultaneously then discuss, Music, Virtual dinners, Bake & be creative together
- **Speak up and reach out!** Have personal trust in your relationships. Listen to their stories & fears and talk about COVID-19. Helps to reduce the virus stigma.

This is a universal experience.

More Coping Strategies

- **THINK POSITIVELY- This will end.**
 - Build short term goals
 - Don't make **BIG** decisions or purchases
 - Limit news outlets on the COVID-19
 - Play Brain Games
 - Proactively reach out to your community at large
 - Gratitude notes- 3 per day
 - Mindful Meditation use apps
 - CALM, INSIGHT TIMER, HEAD SPACE
- Simple deep breathing 4 seconds in & 4 seconds out
- Be Kind, Be Kind, Be Kind – Mr. Roger's

COVID-19 Elizabeth Cooney Care Network

- History ~ 63 year old home care provider caring for our most vulnerable and fragile in our community. The only HIV care provider in our state during the 70's & 80's.
- COVID-19 is a global virus affecting all of our lives. Our home care provides a secure delivery of simple to complex care services to one in the comfort of their own home. We help keep our community stable and well.
- Caregivers and persons over 60 years of age are at the greatest risk for COVID-19. **Isolation** even though is very stressful is the smartest means to protect yourself and others.

• **WASH YOUR HANDS with SOAP and WATERS 2 Seconds!**



Caregiving Innovation

Growing shortage of caregivers & supplies before the COVID-19:

- Expect at least one in four caregivers will have the COVID-19
- Training friends, family and neighbors as emergency backups
- Working with payors to cover labor
- Lots of education on the virus and symptoms
- Constant health screenings every day of caregivers, clients and other contacts
- Distribution of PPE, soap, gloves, gowns, hand sanitizers – when available-emergency & innovative sourcing
- Securing prescriptions, foods, medical supplies, paper goods
- Stay home and 14 day self-isolation, if any sign of sickness
- Telehealth calls
- Leveraging key contacts

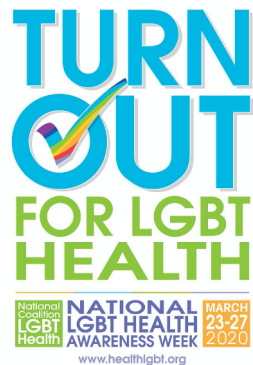
Contact:

Elizabeth Weglein, CEO
Elizabeth Cooney Care Network

ew@elizabethcooney.com

Cell: 410.608.7966

Main: 410.323.1700 ~ 24/7 Live



COVID-19 and LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness

Dylan Waguespack - Public Policy and External Affairs Director
True Colors United - New York, New York



What We're Seeing

- Youth homelessness service providers right now are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic — often w/o necessary means to keep youth and themselves safe.
- Many have reported not having protective equipment for frontline staff, or even cleaning and sanitation supplies.

What We're Seeing

- There is a potential increase of young people accessing services; Likely causes:
 - Unsheltered young people are trying to get indoors for safety
 - Shuttering of college campuses
- Providers are fighting to find spaces for people to practice isolation and quarantine, but don't have the sufficient capacity.

LGBTQ+ Specific Challenges

HHS is no longer enforcing non-discrimination protections in Runaway and Homeless Youth programs.

However, it is still illegal to discriminate against LGBTQ+ youth.

Coordination is Critical

1. Congressional action providing necessary resources for providers to ensure appropriate and individualized housing solutions for all youth.
2. Coordination b/w youth-serving orgs and LGBTQ+ specific orgs to ensure youth are hearing from trusted voices to access services and that they'll have an advocate when they do.

What We're Doing

Advocating for inclusion of emergency funding for people experiencing homelessness and those at imminent risk with specific portion reserved for youth.



What We're Doing

Advocating for youth-specific interventions including:

- moratorium on aging out of foster care
- emergency rental assistance for low-income youth and young adults
- flexible behavioral health services in shelters and remotely + MORE

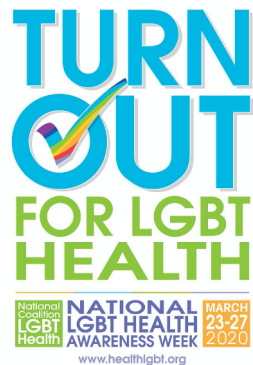


What We're Doing

Connecting with youth and providers to determine immediate needs and long-term needs and uplifting.

Throwing our weight as national experts to provide back-up to youth advocacy and provider advocacy on local and state level as needed.





COVID-19 & LGBTQ+ Families

Julie Kruse - Director of Federal Policy
Family Equality

Who We Are

- **Family Equality** represents, serves & advocates for
- LGBTQ+ parents and our families
- LGBTQ+ people seeking to form families
- LGBTQ+ young people with lived experience in foster care



Stopping Service Discrimination

- **Family Equality's** advocacy team acts to counter license to discriminate policies permitting service denials to LGBTQ+ people and our children.
- We are suing HHS to stop their Notice of Nonenforcement allowing discrimination against
 - LGBTQ+ seniors receiving services, and others
 - LGBTQ+ families and children in foster care and adoption

Stopping Service Discrimination

- **Litigation** plaintiffs include Family Equality, True Colors United and SAGE
- Suit filed by Lambda Legal and Democracy Forward
- We must ensure LGBTQ+ families and children receive urgently needed human services during COVID-29 pandemic, including many family preservation & child care services, and services to foster youth with no bio or adoptive families to go “home” to

Affirming Services to LGBTQ+ Parents with Children at Home

LGBTQ+ families express:

- Feeling isolated and overwhelmed
- Needing community support and connection to other families
- So we're providing that on our NEIGHBORHOOD hub

Affirming Services to LGBTQ+ Parents with Children at Home

Click to view virtual events for:

- [THE WHOLE FAMILY](#)
- [PARENTS](#)
- [YOUNGER KIDS](#)
- [TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS](#)
- [PROSPECTIVE PARENTS](#)



[**www.familyequality.org
/neighborhood**](http://www.familyequality.org/neighborhood)



Affirming Services to LGBTQ+ Parents with Children at Home



COVID-19 Advocacy Action Center

For **LGBTQ+ Families** & Foster Youth & Alumni

- Paid sick and family leave for all workers and families, including LGBTQ+ families
- Unemployment insurance, work sharing, Medicaid, and nutrition support expansion
- LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities, immigrants, students, and older people are included in all services, cash payments, and tax credits
- And more

COVID-19 Advocacy Action Center


For **LGBTQ+** Families & **Foster Youth & Alumni**


- More foster families, less congregate care for LGBTQ+ foster youth
- Housing for youth who have aged out without families
- Cash payments, nutrition, and other payments delivered to young people who are not tax filers, without fixed addresses, etc.
- Funding Boost for Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
- Support for older adults providing kinship care
- Etc.


COVID-19 Advocacy Action Center


<https://action.familyequality.org/COVID-19>


← Thread

**Family Equality** @family_equality · 22h
Paid sick and family leave must be provided to ALL workers and families, including #LGBTQ+ families 3/

**Family Equality** @family_equality · 22h
Free testing and treatment for #COVID—19 must be provided to all 4/

**Family Equality** @family_equality · 22h
Health care, home care, and child care workers must receive the supports and protective equipment they need 5/

**Family Equality** @family_equality · 22h
Unemployment insurance, work sharing, Medicaid, and nutrition must be greatly expanded 6/

**Family Equality** @family_equality · 22h
We must ensure no vulnerable populations are left out, and that #LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities, immigrants, students, or older people are included in all services, cash payments, or tax credits 7/

Questions?

For more information:

- Website: HealthLGBT.org
- Social media: @HealthLGBT
- Contact:
 - Michael - Michael@HealthLGBT.org
 - Elaina - [Elaina@ HealthLGBT.org](mailto:Elaina@HealthLGBT.org)
 - Neal - [Neal@ HealthLGBT.org](mailto:Neal@HealthLGBT.org)