

From: Hopwa <Hopwa@hud.gov>
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To: HOPWA-L@HUDLIST.HUD.GOV
Subject: Transgender Day of Visibility - March 31, 2023

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As President Biden said during his Transgender Day of Visibility proclamation in 2022, “On this Transgender Day of Visibility, we honor transgender people who are fighting for freedom, equality, dignity, and respect. ... Transgender people are some of the bravest Americans I know, and our Nation and the world are stronger, more vibrant, and more prosperous because of them.”

The Office of Special Needs recognizes the strength and resilience of transgender people on this day. The skills and expertise of transgender people make a positive impact across HUD, and specifically on the programs administered by the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) and the Office of HIV/AIDS Housing. Today we would like to highlight a few examples of this work.

- The Youth Action Board (YAB) in Charlotte County, Florida, is leading work in the Continuum of Care (CoC) to ensure that policies, procedures, and cultures in the CoC’s Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program projects protect and empower transgender youth. The goal of this work is to ensure that transgender youth are “not just getting housed, but doing so in a way where they can come as their full selves,” says Hal Trejo (YAB member and President of [All Rainbow and Allied Youth, Inc. \(ARAY\)](#)). “Trans joy is powerful,” continues Trejo, “and there is power in being transgender and leading work on ensuring that youth have affirming housing resources available to them.”
- The Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) program provides housing and supportive services to low-income people living with HIV, and the [most recent program data](#) shows that 2% of HOPWA-eligible individuals identified as transgender. One organization awarded a [HOPWA Housing as an Intervention to Fight AIDS \(HIFA\) grant, Chicago House and Social Service Agency](#), is focused on providing housing and services to transwomen of color by implementing a TransLife Care Program. Their TransLife Care Program offers comprehensive and affirming housing, legal, medical, sexual health, and employment support for individuals who identify as transgender, non-binary, or gender expansive. Chicago House recognizes transwomen of color as courageous, because for one to walk in their own truth takes courage.
- In June 2022, [Executive Order 14075; Advancing Equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Individuals](#) established a new Subcommittee on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Variations in Sex Characteristics (SOGI) data (87 FR 37819). Throughout the remainder of 2022, the Subcommittee developed a [Federal Evidence Agenda on LGBTQI+ Equity](#) which is “a roadmap for federal agencies as they worked to create their own data-driven and measurable SOGI Data Action Plans to help assess, improve, and monitor the health and well-being of LGBTQI+ people over time”. You can read the [FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Releases First-Ever Federal Evidence Agenda on LGBTQI+ Equity](#). This month, HUD has developed and will soon release its SOGI Data Action Plan, its approach to gathering the evidence needed to understand the housing barriers experienced by LGBTQI+ individuals and the policy changes HUD and the Federal Government can make to address these barriers.

- HUD Technical Assistance providers released the [Emerging Practices to Enhance Safety at Congregate Shelters](#). This safety guide demonstrates ways to create safer, more accessible, and inclusive congregate shelters, regardless of size or mission. Entering shelter can be difficult, for some, the trauma they have endured in shelter, or which they believe they will endure makes entering shelter an impossibility. The needs of vulnerable populations are at the center of the guide, including transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming individuals seeking shelter. The creation of this resource repeatedly highlighted how important mutual respect and community building were to lowering barriers, and creating environments that are welcoming and inclusive. Consistent with HUD's priorities around Race Equity and Equal Access and learning from our work during the peak of the COVID crisis, the team used equity as a lens through which to develop these recommendations.

In addition to celebrating the work above, the Office of Special Needs also acknowledges the discrimination and oppression faced by gender nonconforming, nonbinary, and transgender people, particularly their overrepresentation amongst folks experiencing homelessness. HUD will continue to work with local partners, people with lived experience, and other federal agencies to recognize the identities and address the needs of transgender people.



Housing is a structural intervention in ending the HIV epidemic in the United States. Each year, HOPWA ensures housing stability for more than 100,000 American households that are low-income and living with HIV.

Want to know more about HOPWA? Go to https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/hopwa

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