

Housing and Older LGBTQIA+ Adults



NATIONAL LGBTQIA+ HEALTH
EDUCATION CENTER

A PROGRAM OF THE FENWAY INSTITUTE



NATIONAL CENTER
FOR EQUITABLE CARE FOR ELDERS

NATIONAL
HEALTH CARE
for the
HOMELESS
COUNCIL

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Department of Education and Training - The Fenway Institute
March 23, 2021

About the National Center for Equitable Care for Elders (NCECE)

NCECE is a training and technical assistance Center that provides innovative and culturally competent models of care, inter-professional training and educational resources to health care professionals providing care to older adults.

Our Mission is to build strong, innovative and competent health care models by partnering with CHCs, PCAs and FQHCs to provide quality and inclusive care for older adults.

Stay Connected with NCECE:

Website: ece.hsdm.harvard.edu

Email: ece@hsdm.harvard.edu



Maximizing Public Resources

CSH collaborates with communities to introduce housing solutions that promote integration among public service systems, leading to strengthened partnerships and maximized resources.



About the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC)

NHCHC is the premier national organization grounded in human rights and social justice. NHCHC's mission is to build an equitable, high-quality health care system through training, research, and advocacy in the movement to end homelessness.

NHCHC provides personalized training and technical assistance to address the nexus of homelessness and health care.

Key Topic Areas:



Patient Engagement



Medical Respite Care



Trauma Informed Care/Organizations



Health Equity



Substance Use Disorders/Harm Reduction



COVID-19 Pandemic

www.nhchc.org

LGBTQIA+ Education and Training

The National LGBTQIA+ Health Education Center offers educational programs, resources, and consultation to health care organizations with the goal of providing affirmative, high quality, cost-effective health care for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and all sexual and gender minority (LGBTQIA+) people.

- Training and Technical Assistance
- Grand Rounds
- Online Learning
 - Webinars, Learning Modules
 - CE, and HEI Credit
- ECHO Programs
- Resources and Publications

www.lgbtqiahealtheducation.org



Technical Questions?

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- You can contact the webinar host using the chat function in Zoom. Click the “Chat” icon, and type your question.
- Alternatively, e-mail us at education@fenwayhealth.org for less urgent questions.

Sound Issues?

- Ensure your computer speakers are not muted.
- If you cannot hear through your computer speakers: Navigate to the bottom toolbar on your screen, go to the far left, and click the arrow next to the phone icon.
- Choose “I will call in.”
- Dial the phone number and access code.

When the webinar concludes:

- Close the browser, and an evaluation will automatically open for you to complete.
- We very much appreciate receiving feedback from all participants.
- Completing the evaluation is required to obtain a CME certificates.

CME/CEU Information

This activity has been reviewed and is acceptable for up to 1.0 Prescribed credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians. Participants should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in this activity.

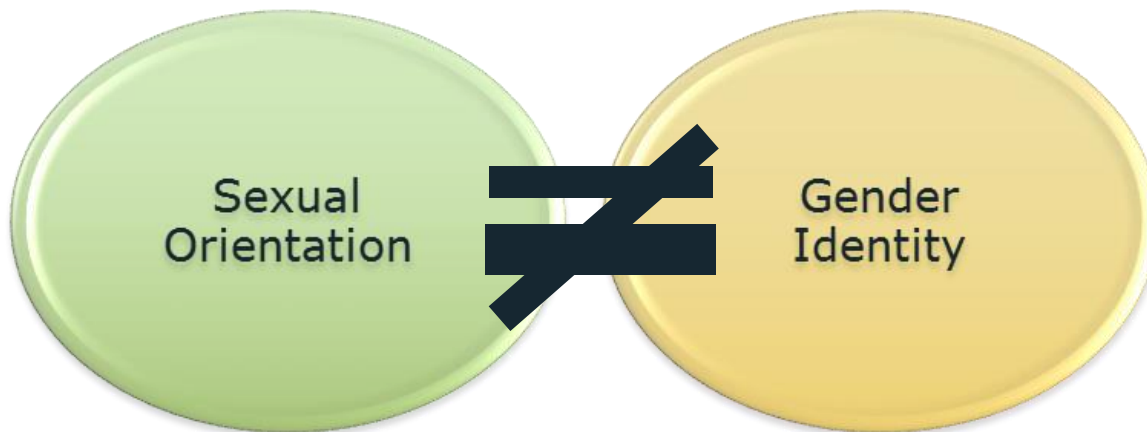
Physicians	AAFP Prescribed credit is accepted by the American Medical Association as equivalent to AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. When applying for the AMA PRA, Prescribed credit earned must be reported as Prescribed, not as Category 1.
Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Nurses, Medical Assistants	<p>AAFP Prescribed credit is accepted by the following organizations. Please contact them directly about how participants should report the credit they earned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)•National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)•American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)•American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)•American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANPCP)•American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA)
Other Health Professionals	Confirm equivalency of credits with relevant licensing body.

Terminology review

Queer
Gender Identity
Pronouns
Lesbian
Trans Man
Non Binary
Gender Expression
Sexual Orientation
Genderqueer
Cisgender
Bisexual
Trans Woman
Transgender
Asexual
Ally
Binary
Gay

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Are Not the Same

- All people have a sexual orientation and gender identity
 - How people identify can change
 - Terminology varies
- Gender Identity ≠ Sexual Orientation



Gender Identity & Gender Expression

Gender identity

- Self awareness of being a man, woman, both, neither, or beyond a binary.

Gender expression

- How we express gender to those around us: clothing, names, pronouns, etc.

Gender Identity Terminology

- Cisgender
 - A person whose gender identity or gender expression aligns with society's expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth.
- Transgender
 - A person whose gender identity or gender expression does not align with society's expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth.
- Binary
 - Transgender woman, trans woman
 - Transgender man, trans man
- Non-binary
 - Genderqueer person, gender fluid person
- Trans feminine, Trans masculine (inclusive of binary and non-binary identities)

The 'Q,' 'A,' and the '+'

L & G

- **Lesbian and Gay**: Predominantly attracted to the same gender as their own

B

- **Bisexual**: Attracted to people of all different genders

Q

- **Queer and/or Questioning**: Exploring/understanding yourself as unique, beyond heterosexuality or cisgender.

The 'Q,' 'A,' and the '+'

I

- **Intersex**: An umbrella term for differences in sex traits or reproductive anatomy.

A

- **Asexual (not Ally)**: person who experiences little or no sexual attraction to others. (*Related: Aromantic*)

+

- There are more identities beyond LGBTQIA who are also important members of this community

Learning Objectives

- Name some of the underlying risk factors in health outcomes for LGBTQIA+ older adults
- Describe housing disparities that impact health outcomes for LGBTQIA+ older adults
- Identify new recommendations regarding housing that would improve health outcomes for LGBTQIA+ older adults

Traditional Supports for Mainstream Older Adults



Spouse
Partner



Children
& Grand



Family
Of Origin



Faith
Community



Local
Community



Social
Network



Health/Social
Services

Traditional Supports for LGBTQIA+ Older Adults



Spouse
Partner



Children
& Grand



Family
Of Origin



Faith
Community



Local
Community



Social
Network



Health/Social
Services

Institutional Supports



Public
Safety



Health
Care



Military
Service

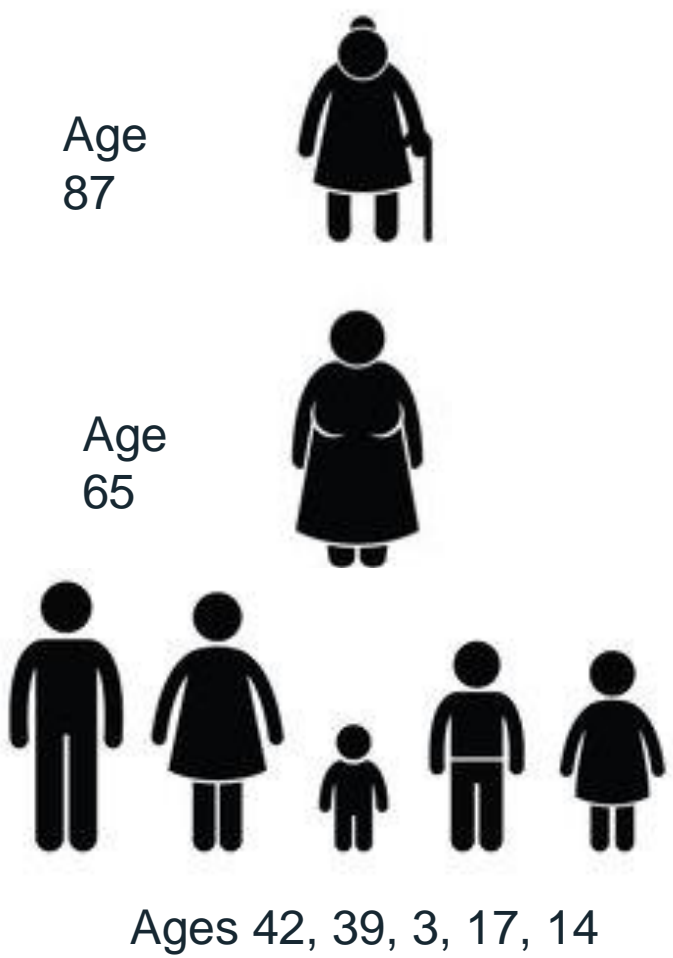


Faith
Community

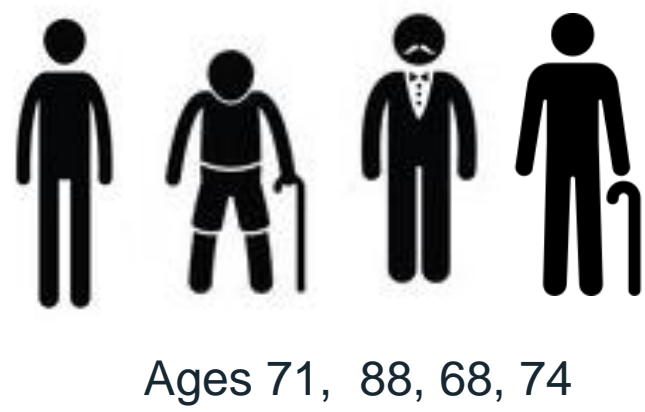


Housing

Vertical Caregiving



Horizontal Caregiving



Discrimination from Peers

- Americans over 55 have the most negative views of LGBT people
 - *T. Fetner, American Sociological Association 2016*



Case Study: Marsha Wetzel



- Lesbian woman, age 69, from Illinois
- Lost partner of 30+ years
- Multiple health issues, meager savings
- Estranged from son
- Evicted from home by deceased partner's family
- Relocated to Senior Living Community

Case Study: Marsha Wetzel



- <https://www.linktv.org/shows/prism/clip/hostile-homes-and-lgbt-seniors-marshas-story>

New Legal Precedent



In a groundbreaking decision, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a landlord may be held liable under the Fair Housing Act for failing to protect a tenant from known, discriminatory harassment at the hands of other tenants.

This legal victory demonstrates to LGBTQIA+ older people across the country that they have a right to live in housing free from discrimination and that landlords who know about harassment and fail to act can be held accountable under the Fair Housing Act.

Note: Currently no federal protections in housing for LGBTQIA+. Housing protections differ state-to-state.

Need for LGBT Friendly Senior Housing: Challenges & Disparities



- 76% do not have adequate family or social supports
- 73% do not have access to LGBT friendly services
- 34% are worried about discrimination in housing
- 54% of trans older adults fear of hiding their identity to access public housing
- **Despite all the challenges & disparities, most LGBT people would feel optimistic if they lived in an LGBT friendly community**

Need for LGBT Friendly Senior Housing: Challenges & Disparities



- By 2024 nearly 25% of the population will be 65 and older.
- LGBT Seniors: Go back in the closet or accept inferior care and discrimination.
- “Those straight people who were harassing us back then & beating us up are now the same age as us and we live together in Long Term Care facilities.
- “When I was 16 I was ostracized and ate all of my meals alone in the cafeteria. What if that happens to me at 79 in a senior residence?”

What is LGBTQIA+ Friendly Housing?

- A building that is designated as LGBTQIA+ Friendly means that its very foundation is built on the commitment to creating a truly welcoming and inclusive environment where not only LGBTQIA+ older adults but people from all walks of life can live in a safe, welcoming supportive environment free from harassment and discrimination.
- An LGBTQIA+ Friendly designation complies with all the state and federal Fair Housing regulations.

LGBT-Welcoming Older Adult Affordable Housing in Operation and Planning



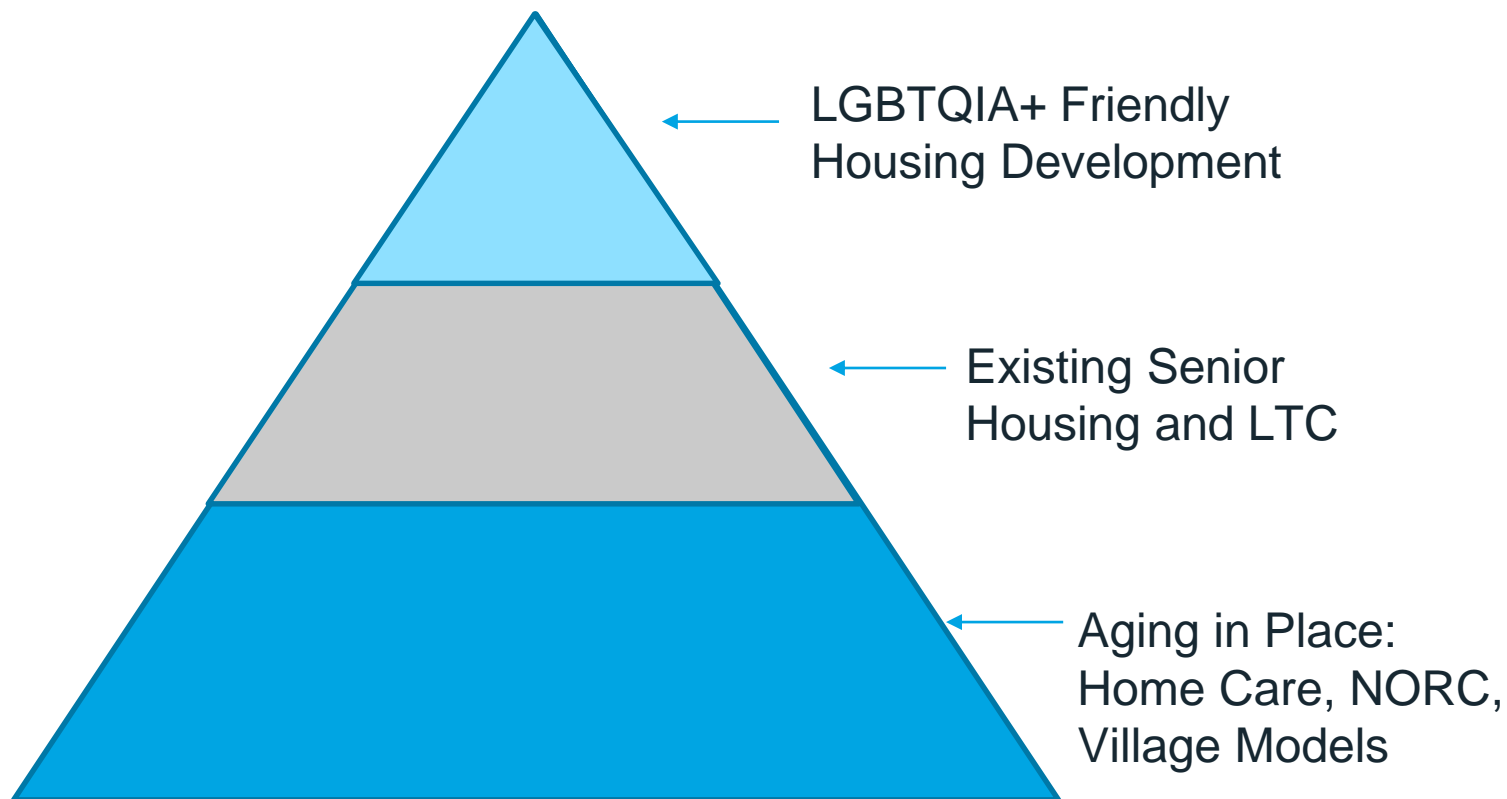
Data from National LGBT Elder Housing Initiative 9/2020

★ = Early Stages of Development

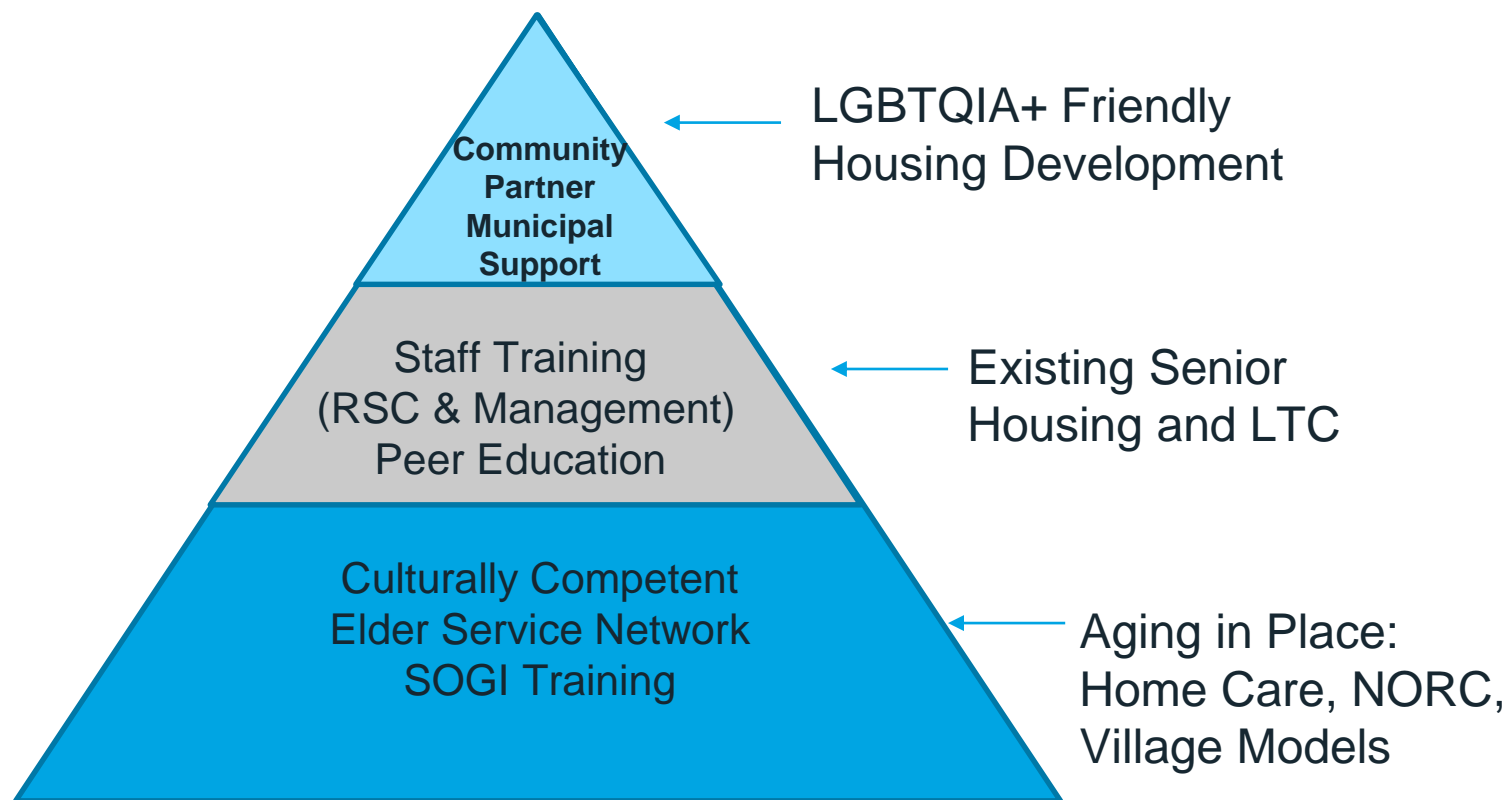


Data from National LGBT Elder Housing Initiative 9/2020

Importance of a Multi-Layered Approach to Housing

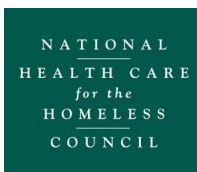


Necessary Infrastructures for Multi-Layered Approach



The Arc of LGBT Aging in Massachusetts: 2001- 2010

- 2001: LGBT Aging Summit / Founding of LGBT Aging Project
- 2004: Marriage equality for same-sex couples in Massachusetts
- 2004: First LGBTQIA+-friendly congregate meal program
- 2004: Open Door: LGBTQIA+ cultural competency for aging services
- 2006: Mass. Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) funds cultural competency trainings
- 2008: MassHealth Equality Law parity for spousal protection
- 2010: National Partnerships: LGBT Aging Resource Center/
Caring and Aging with Pride
- 2010: Gen Silent LGBTQIA+ Documentary premieres



The Arc of LGBT Aging in Massachusetts: 2011- 2020

2011: LGBT Elders in an Ever Changing World

annual conference launched at Salem State University

2012: First State Unit on Aging to designate LGBT elders a population of “greatest social need” under OAA

2014: First statewide LGBTQIA+ Aging Commission formed/convened

2015: LGBT Aging Commission report released

2013: Flashback Sunday/LGBTQIA+ elders of color launched

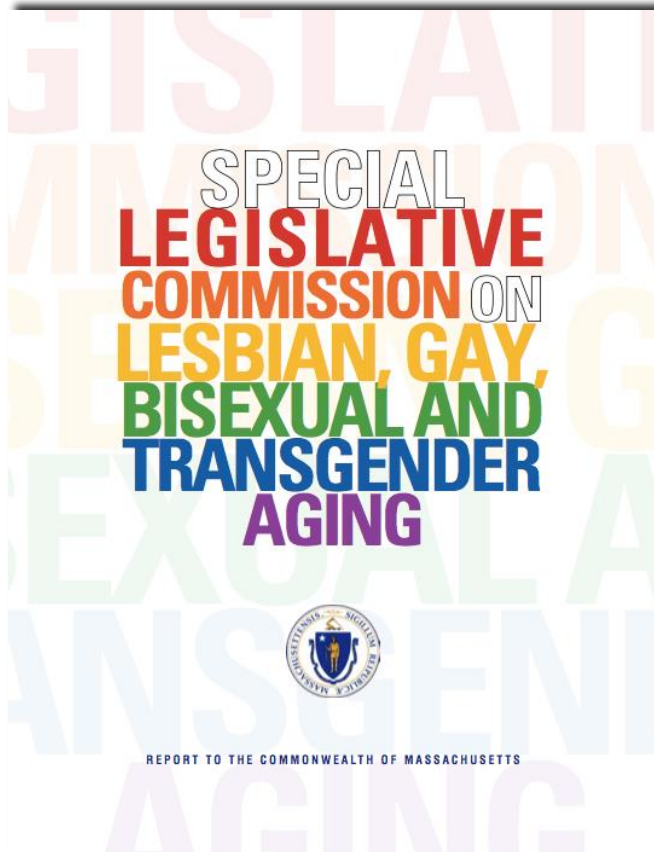
2016: EOEA adds Sexual Orientation / Gender Identity questions to assessment form

2018: Legislation: LGBTQIA+ training for elder service providers in MA

2019: Release of LGBTQIA+ learning module in MA

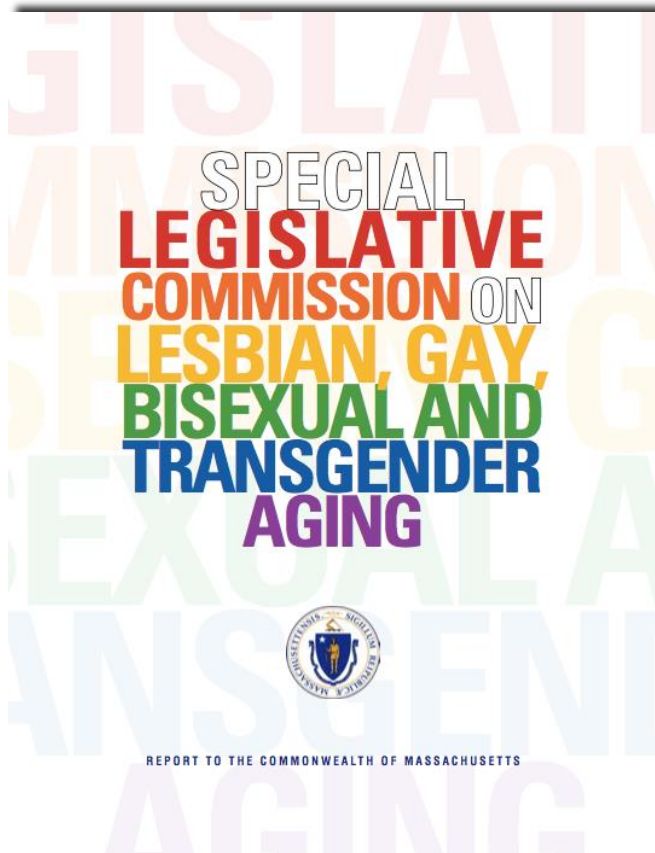


Recommendations from 2015 Massachusetts Commission Report on LGBT Aging: Housing



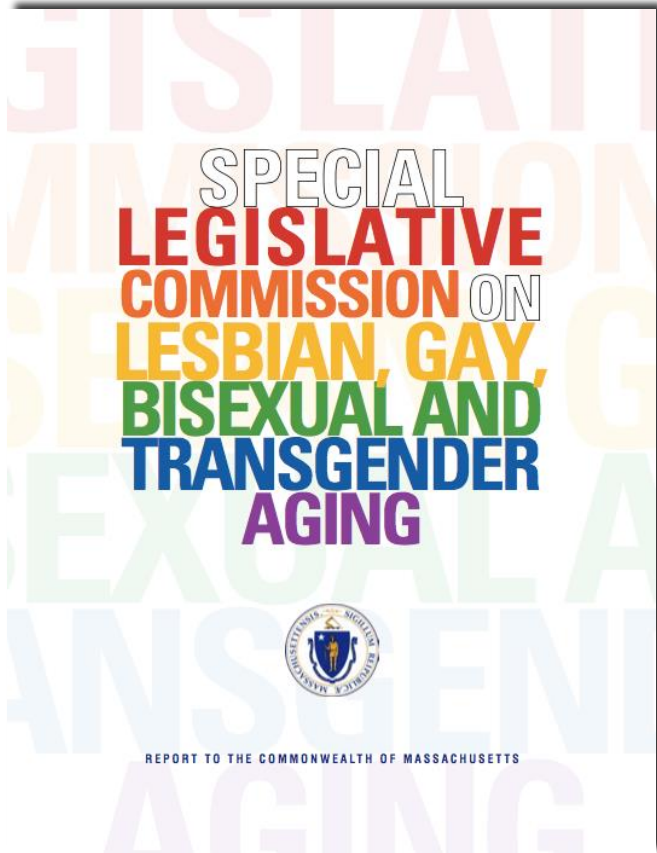
- Make at least one LGBT friendly housing initiative a priority in Massachusetts' urban development plan.
- Boston and other Massachusetts cities are lagging behind Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco, which have all developed vibrant housing initiatives that are friendly and inclusive of LGBT older adults. **These projects have become symbols of those cities' commitment to diversity and inclusion for all people and all generations. Unfortunately, Massachusetts has nothing like this. The Commission would like to strongly recommend that such a project be made a priority in the next five years.**

Recommendations from 2015 Massachusetts Commission Report on LGBT Aging: Housing cont.



- Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of housing needs for LGBT older adults.
- Develop LGBT Group / Rest Homes
- Ad Hoc Committee to develop LGBT-inclusive NORC
- Design/implement curriculum module for housing management and separate module for residents
- Identify LGBT elders as part of 'Underserved Populations' in Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) for low-income housing tax credits.

Recommendations from 2015 Massachusetts Commission Report on LGBT Aging: Housing cont.



- 7. Develop a ratings system that will evaluate the level of inclusiveness in senior housing (MA Equality Inclusion Index)
- 8. Develop LGBT Liaison in Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCEC).
- 9. Create in EOEA an Ombudsperson for LGBT Aging Issues.
- 10. Develop LGBT Inclusive Homeless Shelter
- 11. Promote innovative housing models to meet needs of LGBT elders.
- 12. Prevent bullying and harassment of LGBT elders in senior housing.

LGBTQIA+ Senior Housing Preliminary Work:



- City Council Hearing
- State-Wide Listening Sessions
- State-Wide Focus Groups (Housing)
- White House Summit on LGBT Elder Housing
- Community Meetings: Hyde Park
- Community Outreach: LGBT
- Site Visit to John C Anderson (PA)
- Meetings with DHCD, DND, BPDA, City Council Policy Briefing, Boston Fair Housing, Mayor, Elderly Commission





DIMELLA
SHAFFER

Recommendations for Health Centers

- Visibly highlight center's commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Staff and volunteers trained in LGBTQIA+ cultural competency
- SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) data collection
- Seek LGBTQIA+ representation on Community Advisory/Patient Boards
- Build coalitions with local LGBTQIA+ and aging resources
 - LGBTQIA+ community groups (esp. older adults) & leaders
 - State unit on aging
 - Local AAA (Area Agency on Aging)
 - Local COA (Council on Aging) / Senior Center
- Host/Sponsor Community Conversation on LGBTQIA+ Aging
- Participate in local Pride events



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PROJECT

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