A new workgroup focused on increasing access and knowledge working with LGBTQ+ individuals
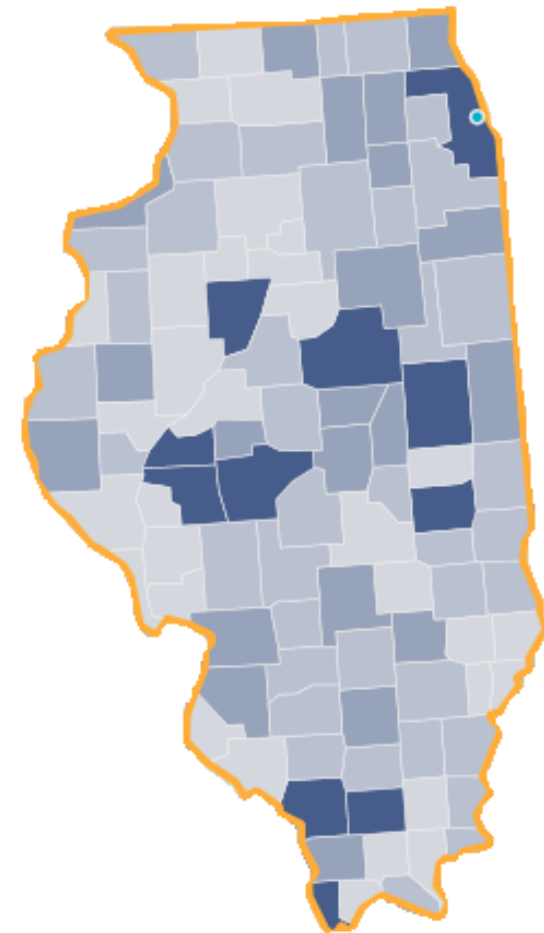
LGBTQ Homeless Workgroup
October 6, 2020

Who we are

- Agency, university, government, and community members focused on increasing LGBTQ+ individuals' access to care

- Dedication to provide resources and aid when able

LGBTQ demographics

- **1.7-10%** of every state's population are LGBTQ+ (Gates & Newport 2013)

- In Illinois:
  - LGBTQ adults make up **4.3%** of the population
    - **28%** of parents
      - likely to reside in rural/nonmetro areas
      - More female-couple households

Below 1.7 (per 1k households)
1.7 – 3
3 – 4.2
4.2 and above

Knowledge Gaps

- There is a deficit of knowledge on LGBTQ+ homelessness[1,2]
  - Data available is often out of date
- Counts can miss hidden populations[1]
- No major studies on how transgender adults become homeless[1]
- Different identities have different needs[2]
  - E.g., Ecker et al. (2020) found bisexual individuals did not perceive identity as a barrier, but were less open with identity

1) Ecker et al. 2019
2) Ecker et al. 2020

Known Statistics

- **19%** transgender adults have experienced homelessness[1,2]
- Transgender people of Color experience heightened rates of homelessness[3]
    - Transgender women of Color are the most discriminated against in the shelter system[4]
- **55%** of transgender adults that tried to access services were harassed by staff[1]
    - **22%** were assaulted by staff[1]
    - **29%** were refused shelter[1]
- Housing discrimination against transgender individuals occurs
    - **19%** of transgender adults were denied housing due to gender[2]
    - **11%** of transgender adults were evicted from housing due to gender[2]

1) National Coalition for the Homeless 2017 2) Grant et al. 2011
3) Kattari et al. 2016 4) Abramovich 2017

Equal Access Protections Still Needed for Gender Minorities Experiencing Homelessness

Unsheltered percentage by gender, 2019

Cisgender Adults

49% unsheltered

Transgender Adults

63% unsheltered

Gender Non-Conforming Adults

80% unsheltered

National Alliance to End Homelessness

Transgender Vulnerability by Shelter Status		
	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Trimorbid (co-occurring physical, mental and substance use disorders)	3%	60%
Chronic Health Issue	3%	38%
Mental Health Issue	16%	50%
Drug/Alcohol Issue	4%	69%
Physical Disability	4%	30%
Learning Disability	23%	39%
HIV Housing Interest	0%	21%
Avoids Medical Treatment	2%	42%
Harm Self/Others	11%	43%
Trauma/Abuse	38%	31%
Attacked while Homeless	42%	39%
Risky Behavior	18%	98%
Forced to Do Things They Do Not Want to Do	11%	40%
Legal Issues	8%	48%

Table 1 indicates that across a spectrum of health and behavioral health domains, unsheltered transgender people are considerably more ill than those in shelter. It also indicates that in terms of survival behaviors, risk and safety, unsheltered people are more challenged than sheltered people.

National Alliance to End Homelessness 2020

Points of entry to homelessness

- Lack of family support[1]

- Experiences during youth
  - Education (LGBTQ are less likely to finish high school)[2]
  - LGBTQ youth at risk for sexual victimization[3]

- Private Sector Housing Discrimination
  - 30% of SGM couples quoted hiked up rental prices[4]
  - Transgender individuals report higher rates of housing discrimination[5]

- Gay cisgender men and trans women identified sexuality and gender as being a barrier to housing [1]

- Structural economic access/security (e.g., marriage equality in 2015)[1]

1) Ecker et al. 2020 2) Bidell et al. 2014 3) Fredrick et al. 2011 4)Friedmanet al. 2013 5) Kattari et al. 2016

Barriers to access

- Identification
  - 33% transgender individuals unable to update all IDs[1]
  - 40% of those that presented IDs were harassed[1]
  - 15% of those that presented IDs were asked to leave[1]
  - 3% of those that presented IDs were physically assaulted[1]

- Binary shelter services force trans individuals out of services[2,3]
  - Queer couples experience higher rates of separation than heterosexual families (heteronormative definitions)

- Individuals discriminated against have more difficulty reporting[4]

- Syringe and sharp policies-Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT)

1) Grant et al. 2011 2) Spicer 2010
2) 3)DeCandia et al. 2014 4) Eker et al. 2020

Trainings and Curriculums

❑ **Goal is to provide resources and support to agency staffs and volunteers**

❑ **Open to adapting trainings dependent on agency need**

Professional Development:

- LGBTQ Ally Workshop
- LGBTQ Terminology
- LGBTQ Pronoun Workshop
- LGBTQ Affirming Faith-Based Practices
- How to Create LGBTQ Affirming Spaces

Educational Trainings:

- Introduction to LGBTQ+ Topics
- LGBTQ Youth
- LGBTQ Race & Ethnicity
- LGBTQ & Education
- LGBTQ & Religion
- LGBTQ & Poverty
- Survival Sex

All currently developed

Survival Sex, Sex Trafficking, & Sex Work

- The Illinois Human Trafficking Task Force Report of 2018 recommended survivor-centered & trauma-informed care

- Discussion on escalating housing crisis, rise in poverty, & increasing violence within our community

- Definitions of various types of sex work & trafficking

- trafficking laws as well as relevant state and federal policies in housing, criminal justice, etc.

- survivor & worker affirming language, recommendations & direction to additional survivor-led resources

LGBTQ+ Affirming Faith-Based Practices

- Emphasizes the preferential option for the poor, and the practice of radical hospitality, found throughout the Bible

- Expounds on affirming practices from a faith-based perspective

- Highlights LGBTQ+ Biblical passages

- Provides current terminology, best practices, and common identities within LGBTQ+

How to create LGBTQ+ Affirming Spaces

- Passive interactions to increase LGBTQ+ visibility and affirmation

- Individual agency workshop to develop affirming policies

- Trainings for staffs to intake LGBTQ+ individuals with affirming methods

General Policy Recommendations
Respect

1)It is not within shelter staff purviews to define another person's gender

2)Legal IDs should not be required to confirm a client's gender for the purposes of accessing services (as per the Illinois Human Rights Act 2013)

3)Clients should not have to dress any certain way to access services based on their gender identity

General Policy Recommendations
Cultural Competency

1) There will be regular LGBTQ+ competency training for volunteers/staff

2) Dedication to continuing education to better serve LGBTQ+ clients
   - Trainings on interacting with LGBTQ+ clients, specifically transgender clients
   - Knowledge where affirming healthcare is available for LGBTQ+ individuals (e.g., Planned Parenthood manages HRT)

General Policy Recommendations
Client Safety

1) Transgender and gender non-conforming clients are at high risk of harassment and assault. Extra security may be necessary.

2) Place posters on walls about shelter non-harassment policies.

3) Intake forms should ask for the client to specify gender identity and if there is a chosen name they use. This should be an optional record.

4) Gender identities will be handled as confidential information.

Champaign City Ordinance

- Human Relations Commission of the City of Champaign recommended language updates in the Human Rights Ordinance about gender identity, expression, and sexual orientation

- Prohibits discrimination based on gender identity

- Updated terminology and definitions

- If approved, this will align Champaign's Municipal Code with the Illinois Human Rights Act and Fair Housing Act

- Will be presented to Council Tuesday Oct 6.

Closing Remarks

- This is a local issue

- The workgroup is open for those interested

- Goal is to work with direct care providers

- Posters available (will send out to the CSPH)

- Champaign City Hall tonight at 7pm

Questions?

■Thank you,

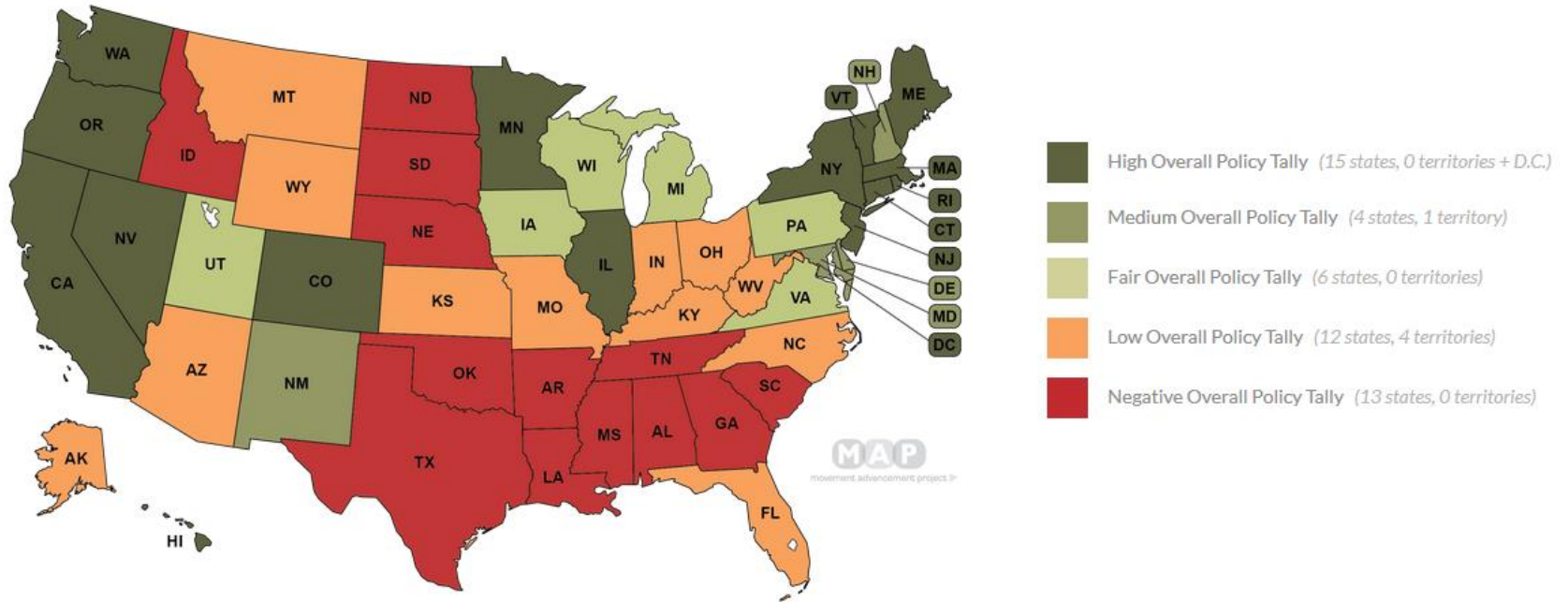■**LGBTQ Homeless Workgroup**

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For more information:
Movement Advancement Project

Sexual orientation and gender identity policies across the U.S.

https://www.lgbtmap.org/