

Additional Resources

For LGBTQ Youth

Foster Care & Independent Living

[District of Columbia Bill of Rights for Children and Youth in Foster Care](#)

- ◆ The Bill of Rights is available in [additional languages](#), along with [administrative guidelines](#) on how it is to be used.

[It's Your Life—Opening Doors: Improving the Legal System's Approach to LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care](#)

- ◆ This guide provides LGBTQ youth tools and support to navigate the child welfare system, explains their basic rights, explains what they can expect from child welfare professionals, helps them determine if child welfare professionals are meeting their needs and expectations, and details who to turn to if they feel their rights are being violated.

[On Our Own: A Survival Guide for Independent LGBTQ Youth](#)

- ◆ This guide is designed to help youth who are LGBTQ and aren't able to rely on their parents or guardians for financial support.

Coming Out

[I Think I Might Be Transgender, Now What Do I Do?](#)

- ◆ Published by Advocates for Youth, this brochure was created by and for transgender youth. It addresses issues including coming out, what it's like to be young and transgender, if being transgender is normal, and what it means to transition.
- ◆ Advocates for Youth has published similar brochures for [lesbian](#), [gay](#), and [bisexual](#) youth.

[Be Yourself: Questions and Answers for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning Youth](#)

- ◆ This publication aims to help LGBTQ youth understand themselves and the LGBTQ community by answering basic questions and recommending supportive resources.

[Human Rights Campaign's Coming Out Center](#)

- ◆ This website contains stories and links to resources on coming out, as well as a brief history of National Coming Out Day.

Organizations and Other Resources

Name	Location or Area of Operation	Type(s)	Description
Bisexual Resource Center	Online	Advocacy, Support Resource	The BRC is committed to providing support to the bisexual community and raising public awareness about bisexuality and bisexual people.

Campus Pride	Online	Education	The primary objective of Campus Pride is to develop necessary resources, programs and services to support LGBTQ and ally students on college campuses across the United States.
GenOUT Chorus	DC	Activity, Support Resource	The GenOUT Chorus is the Washington, DC area's first-ever vocal ensemble for LGBTQ youth and their allies. It operates under the two-fold mission: (1) to give young LGBTQA people a voice, and (2) to connect that voice to community. The ensemble is open to all singers between the ages of 13 and 18.
It Gets Better Project	National, Online	Support Resource	The It Gets Better Project inspires people across the globe to share their stories and remind the next generation of LGBTQ+ youth that hope is out there, and it will get better.
LGBT National Help Center	National, Online	Support Resource	The LGBT National Help Center provides vital peer-support, community connections and resource information to people with questions regarding sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Their LGBT National Youth Talkline provides telephone, online private one-to-one chat and email peer-support, as well as factual information and local resources for cities and towns across the United States.
SMYAL	DC, MD, VA	Activity, Support Resource	SMYAL (Supporting and Mentoring Youth Advocates and Leaders) supports and empowers LGBTQ youth in the D.C. area. Through youth leadership, SMYAL creates opportunities for LGBTQ youth to build self-confidence, develop critical life skills, and engage their peers and community through service and advocacy.
Trans Lifeline	National, Online	Support Resource	Trans Lifeline is a non-profit dedicated to the well-being of transgender people. They run a hotline staffed by transgender people for transgender people.
The Trevor Project	National, Online	Support Resource	The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ young people ages 13-24.
Youth Pride Alliance	DC	Activity, Advocacy	Youth Pride Alliance is an organization for LGBTQ and ally youth empowerment to encourage positive self-development and expression, as well as leadership, while bridging diverse communities and individuals to address issues of visibility, equality, and social justice.

Additional Resources

National & Local Organizations

Almost all subsections in this practice kit contain a list of organizations or programs related to the chapter topic. Please note that the lists below do not include those organizations.

National Organizations

Name	Location or Area of Operation	Type(s)	Description
Advocates for Youth	National, Online	Advocacy, Policy	Advocates for Youth champions efforts that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Advocates believes it can best serve the field by boldly advocating for a more positive and realistic approach to adolescent sexual health. Advocates focuses its work on young people ages 14-25 in the U.S. and around the globe.
Casey Family Programs	Online	General Resource	Casey Life Skills is a free practice tool and framework for working with youth in foster care. It assesses independent living skills and provides results instantly. The Assessment includes an optional supplement developed specifically for LGBTQ youth.
Center Link	International, Online	Advocacy	Center Link is a member-based coalition to support the development of strong, sustainable LGBT community centers.
Family Acceptance Project	National, Online	Advocacy, Policy	The Family Acceptance Project is a research, intervention, education and policy initiative that works to prevent health and mental health risks for LGBT children and youth, including suicide, homelessness and HIV – in the context of their families, cultures and faith communities.
GLAAD	National, Online	Advocacy, Media	GLAAD is the world’s largest LGBTQ Media Advocacy Organization and works through entertainment, news, and digital media to share stories from the LGBTQ community that accelerate acceptance.
Heartstrong	Online	Education, Support Group	HeartStrong is a nonprofit social justice organization founded to support LGBTQ students attending religious schools.

Human Rights Campaign	National, Online	Advocacy, Policy	HRC is the largest LGBTQ civil rights organization and works to guarantee LGBTQ people are treated equally and embraced as full members of society at home, work, and in every community.
Immigration Equality	National	Legal, Policy	Immigration Equality advocates for and represents LGBTQ and HIV-positive immigrants seeking safety, fair treatment, and freedom.
Lambda Legal	National, Online	Advocacy, Policy, Legal	Lambda Legal is the oldest and largest national legal organization whose mission is to achieve full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and everyone living with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.
National Black Justice Coalition	National, Online	Advocacy, Policy	The National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC) is a civil rights organization dedicated to the empowerment of Black LGBTQ and same gender loving (SGL) people, including people living with HIV/AIDS. NBJC's mission is to end racism, homophobia, and LGBTQ/SGL bias and stigma.
National Center for Lesbian Rights	National, Online	Advocacy, Policy, Legal	NCLR is a national legal organization committed to advancing the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families through litigation, legislation, policy, and public education.
National Center for Transgender Equality	National, Online	Advocacy, Policy	The National Center for Transgender Equality is the nation's leading social justice advocacy organization winning life-saving change for transgender people.
National LGBTQ Task Force	National, Online	Advocacy, Policy	The National LGBTQ Task Force is a grassroots organization seeking to advance full freedom, justice and equality for LGBTQ people.
PFLAG	National, Online	Advocacy, Support Resource	PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization. By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ.
Safe Schools Coalition	WA, Online	Advocacy, Education	Safe Schools Coalition is a public-private partnership, in support of LGBTQ youth, working to help schools become safe places where every child can learn, regardless of gender, gender identity or sexual orientation.

Transgender Law Center	National, Online	Advocacy, Policy, Legal	Transgender Law Center changes law, policy, and attitudes so that all people can live safely, authentically, and free from discrimination regardless of their gender identity or expression.
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Local Organizations

Name	Location or Area of Operation	Type(s)	Description
The DC Center for the LGBT Community	DC	Advocacy, Health, Support Resource	The DC LGBT Center educates, empowers, celebrates, and connects the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. It focuses on health and wellness, arts & culture, social & peer support, and advocacy and community building.
Center for Black Equity	DC	Advocacy, Policy	CBE is committed to supporting leaders, institutions and programs for health, economic and social equity for LGBT people of African descent. Their mission is to promote a multinational LGBT network dedicated to improving health and wellness opportunities, economic empowerment, and equal rights while promoting individual and collective work, responsibility, and self-determination.
MPD LGBT Liaison Unit	DC	Criminal Justice	The LGBT Liaison Unit is a team of dedicated officers that focuses on the public safety needs of the LGBT communities. Their primary focus is to gain the trust of the community and seek out information that leads to the closure of hate crime and violent crime within the LGBT community.
PFLAG Metro DC	DC, MD, VA	Support Resource	Metro DC PFLAG promotes the equality and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons, their families and friends through support to cope with an adverse society, education to enlighten an ill-informed public, and advocacy to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights.
Rainbow Families	DC, VA, MD	Support Resource	Rainbow Families supports and connects LGBTQ parents and prospective parents by providing educational programs, social events, and discussion forums for LGBTQ parents and prospective parents in the DMV area.

<u>Transgender Education Association of Greater Washington</u>	DC, VA	Support Resource	TGEA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a comprehensive transgender (TG) support system and means for individuals to understand transgenderism, helping individuals to overcome their sense of isolation, and providing appropriate educational and social opportunities and activities.
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