

Listening Session & Discussion:

Challenges & Opportunities to Serve LGBTQ+ and/or Immigrant Youth

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Equal Justice Works Fellow at Youth Law Center Sponsored by Baker McKenzie & Salesforce Inc.

Youth Law Center

- **Youth Law Center is a Qualified Support Center that provides free legal training, legal technical assistance, and advocacy support. We work on:**
 - Trainings, and Workshops, Workgroups, and Outreach
 - Consultation, Research, Co-Counseling and Technical Assistance
 - Resource Materials, Information Services and Support

Disclaimer

- **This presentation by the Youth Law Center is provided for educational and/or informational purposes only, and should not be construed as legal advice.**

Purpose

- **Listen & Learn**
- **Elevate Provider & Youth Voices**
- **Identify Gaps & Solutions**
- **Strengthen Services for LGBTQ+ & Immigrant Youth**

Agenda

- 1. Introduction and Purpose**
- 2. Context Setting**
- 3. Listening Session: Your Experiences**
- 4. Discussion: Gaps & Solutions**
- 5. Next Steps & Resources**

2. Context Setting

Ground Rules

- **Speak respectfully & openly**
- **Confidentiality respected**
- **Listen to understand**
- **Value lived experiences**

Youth Homelessness Snapshot

- Research indicates that LGBTQ+ and undocumented/recent immigrant youth are overrepresented amongst youth who experience homelessness.
- **Common Challenges**
 - Discrimination & Rejection
 - Fear of authorities
 - Trauma & mental health needs
 - Lack of culturally competent services
 - Increasingly hostile laws, policies, and practices.

Common Service Provider Challenges

- Limited staff resources
- Fear/mistrust from youth
- Policy Barriers
- Fear/uncertainty from staff

3. Listening Session: Your Experiences

Let's Share

- What barriers have you or your staff faced in serving LGBTQ+ and/or immigrant youth?
- How have new policies impacted your ability to support youth?
- What strategies have worked well, even small ones?

4. Discussion: Gaps & Solutions

Identifying Gaps & Opportunities

- **Policy & Legal Barriers**
- **Staff training needs**
- **Safety and Inclusion Strategies**
- **Opportunities to Collaborate Better**

Best Practices Snapshot

- **Strengthen Internal Policies**
- **Leverage Youth Advisory Boards**
- **Provide continuous staff training/support**
- **Shore up Confidentiality Protections**
- **Foster Community Partnerships with organizations that also serve LGBTQ+ and immigrant youth**
- **Stay in the fight**

5. Next Steps & Resources

Next Steps & Collaboration

- I'll compile today's key takeaways and send out a summary document
- Share resources & opportunities
- Open door for future trainings, partnerships, and advocacy
- Interested in collaborating further? Let us know!

You're Invited

- Youth Law Center will be holding a webinar in April.
- The webinar is designed to equip youth-serving organizations, shelters, and service providers with essential knowledge about the rights and protections available to immigrant youth and them as organization.
- I will send out an RSVP link soon!

Thank you for your time today!
**If you have any questions about this
presentation please contact:**

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