

SAGE's National Housing Initiative (NHI)

Quarterly Newsletter: April 2021

SAGE's NHI is dedicated to providing information that helps LGBT elders and allies make informed decisions when it comes to housing. For LGBT older people, finding a place that's welcoming—where they can feel free to be themselves and be treated respectfully and compassionately is a mainstay of our program.

Derek Chauvin Jury Verdict

On April 20, 2021, the jury verdict represents some level of accountability, thanks to those people on the ground who have been tirelessly organizing against white supremacy, police violence, and systemic racism. We have a long way to go in the fight for justice, a world in which these murders would never happen in the first place. Please see SAGE's response to the verdict [here](#).

April is National Fair Housing Awareness Month

National Fair Housing Month celebrates the passage of the Fair Housing Act in April of 1968. The Fair Housing Act is a national law that prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, and gender. As progress has been made to maintain these protections, we have continued to fight for explicit inclusion of gender identity and sexual orientation into fair housing regulations as the Trump administration made attempts to rollback protections for vulnerable communities.

In February, the Biden administration announced it will [enforce fair housing protections](#) in alignment with President Biden's [executive order](#) on preventing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The order is based on the Supreme Court case of *Bostock v. Clayton County*, which confirmed that unlawful sex discrimination includes discrimination against LGBTQ employees under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Courts have interpreted Fair Housing Act protections by relying on this case, so this executive order helps to more clearly codify this. Simply put, sexual orientation and gender identity are now protected categories in fair housing law—let's see where this takes us in our work ahead!

Welcome Assistant Director, Tanisha Hines!

Join SAGE in welcoming Tanisha Hines as Assistant Director of the National LGBT Elder Housing Initiative. Tanisha brings with her practical experience designing programmatic initiatives through the lens of community development and social justice, supporting older adults aging in affordable housing. She has spearheaded programs to create access to housing for justice-impacted individuals and families residing in the shelter. Additionally, she has worked on translating lessons learned from programs into policy recommendations. Tanisha is originally a resident of the Bronx and has worked with communities to ensure their voices are "at the table." She has a strong desire to bring about positive change in her community through systems. Her favorite hobbies include hiking, traveling, planning Halloween events for the office, and she is known to have a good sense of humor.

Tanisha is excited to be joining SAGE and the National Housing Initiative team. She is looking forward to learning how to amplify and create housing solutions for LGBT elders at a national level. She is thrilled to have begun coordinating and working with stakeholders on national events being led by the team and hopes to center racial equity within our work. Tanisha has started to archive SAGE's housing process and hopes we can leverage this more broadly for other markets.

Join us May 11 and May 13 for a Chicago Regional Roundtable

For National Honor Our LGBT Elders Day, please [join us in May](#) to gain a deeper understanding of LGBT elders' clinical and housing needs, with a focus on Chicago's robust network of LGBT advocates. This first regional roundtable of its kind is hosted by SAGE, LeadingAge, and Hinshaw & Culbertson. These two-day, 90-minute virtual forums will center Chicago's local strategies to develop affirming housing, medical care, and aging services, followed by an opportunity to network with Chicago advocates and elders in the field through informal conversational sessions. Together we will explore barriers to medical care and housing, local best practices, critical policy interventions, and Chicago-specific resources and networks to help build your service and housing provision in the area. Sign up to gain tools for your local agencies and pay homage to our fearless leaders!

- **CLINICAL PANEL: Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 1:00pm-3:00pm CST**
Join us to explore the clinical issues facing LGBT elders, understanding how generational histories have impacted the psycho/social needs of LGBT elders today. Learn strategies to better serve LGBT elders in your work.
- **HOUSING PANEL: Thursday, May 13, 2021, 1:00pm-3:00pm CST**
Come together to learn about the unique barriers LGBT elders face accessing housing and innovative housing models and exciting planning happening on the ground in Chicago.

Remember to reserve your spot [here today!](#)

International Partnership: Tonic Living Updates!

Tonic Housing is opening the [UK's first LGBT+ affirming retirement community](#) after securing a £5.7m loan from the Mayor of London to support the purchase of 19 properties at Bankhouse, a One Housing older living scheme in Lambeth. Tonic Housing will become the UK's first provider of LGBT+ affirming housing, with sales for 1 and 2 bedroom shared ownership homes due to begin later this spring. This is a major milestone, as there is no LGBT+ affirming provision with care currently operating in the UK, despite there being a clearly defined need and demand from the LGBT+ community.

Tonic@Bankhouse will create a unique offering of housing with care that celebrates LGBT+ identities with the community at the very heart of their homes. Tonic will co-create events and activities with residents based on their interests, including collaborations with other LGBT+ organizations and support providers. One Housing provides a flexible range of on-site care and support packages, with all the Bankhouse staff having LGBT+ training.

Read the fierce [Manifesto for London LGBTIQ+ Community](#) Housing to learn about the organizing Tonic and other community-based LGBTQ+ leaders have done for the 2021 Mayoral Election Campaign!

Coming This Summer: Training Products for Housing Developers

Thanks to the generous support of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the NHI is developing training products for affordable housing developers. Trainings will focus on the unique developer roles and needs in the LGBT-affirming elder housing development process. Topics will include fair housing regulations, trauma-informed design, property management roles, community engagement, establishing key partnerships, working with providers, cultural competency, and more! If you have feedback on what you'd like to see in these trainings, please reach out to [Sydney Kopp-Richardson](#) with your thoughts.

NYC Housing Updates: Stonewall House and Pride House

The Bronx: Pride House, the 84-unit LGBT-affirming elder housing developed by HELP USA, has opened! Tenants have started to move in, and the SAGE Center Bronx at Crotona Pride Center is located on the ground floor of the residence.

Brooklyn: The NYC Housing Team has been working diligently throughout the last year to provide supportive services and wellness assessments amidst the uncertainty of the pandemic. A highlight of the previous few months has been the team's COVID-19 vaccine events. The Housing Team collaborated with Tenant Leaders, Senator Jabari Brisport's office, and a local pharmacy to bring the [Moderna vaccine to Stonewall House](#). Extensive outreach on the part of Tenant Coordinators and Tenant Leaders

resulted in 53 people getting vaccinated. The Housing Team also held a separate event in conjunction with Housing Works, resulting in 15 tenants getting the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The vast majority of tenants are now vaccinated, and the NYC Housing Team continues to secure appointments for those who aren't.

RESOURCES

BlackSpace

[BlackSpace](#) is a collective that brings together planners, architects, artists, and designers as Black urbanists, people who are passionate about the work of public systems and urban infrastructures. The collective demands a present and future where Black people, Black spaces, and Black culture matter and thrive. Please read more about this critically important work led by experts in neighborhood and design justice—their work should guide our work in housing, design, and community organizing and healing.

Check out their [Black Heritage Conservation Playbook](#), a free tool to help fight displacement, address systemic racism in city planning, and fight for the preservation of community and culture.

National Resource Center

National Resource Center on LGBT Aging COVID-19 [Resource List](#)

Please feel free to forward any helpful information or questions to Sydney at skopprichardson@sageusa.org. Be well, friends!