



What is a SAGE Affiliate?

- SAGE's national network of affiliates help to reduce isolation and enhance the quality of life for LGBT older people living in every region of the United States and Puerto Rico.
- Affiliates are a conduit for local and national impact, on-the-ground presence and reach into communities that give SAGE visibility.

How are affiliates different from chapters?

- Affiliates are independent from SAGE.
- Affiliates are joined to SAGE's mission by an Affiliate Agreement between SAGE, the Affiliate and their fiscal sponsor, agent or host organization.
- Affiliates do not receive regular funding from SAGE or joint fundraising.
- Affiliate staff work for the affiliate and not for SAGE.

What values does affiliation bring your organization?

- Strengthen your program's success, visibility and relevance across the country
- Expand your program's reach through social and educational activities, local advocacy, strategic partnerships, etc.
- Build positive relationships with affiliate leaders across the country

How are affiliates staffed?

- Most of our affiliates have full time staff who also manage various programs. Some affiliates have part-time staff while others are volunteer led.

What are the program budgets like?

- Their budgets range from \$2,500 to a more robust \$300,000. The majority operate with budgets under \$25,000.

Which are our oldest affiliates?

- SAGE of South Florida and SAGE Milwaukee are the oldest current affiliates, both founded in 1994.

Which are our newest?

- The most recent affiliate additions are SAGE of the Bluegrass in Kentucky (2017), SAGE Puerto Rico (2018) and SAGE New Orleans (2020).

What do affiliates do?

- SAGE affiliates offer their own regular programming and much needed services in their communities. In addition, affiliates also:
 - Advocate with and on behalf of LGBT elders on a local, state and federal level

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- Occasionally pilot SAGE's programs (i.e. [SAGEConnect](#), [SAGECents](#))
- Support SAGE's national advocacy efforts for LGBT older people
- Mobilize LGBT people and allies when our rights are at stake

What are some of the benefits to affiliates?

- **Monthly calls:** During the monthly calls, affiliate leaders receive timely, relevant information that assures that they are informed and up to date. This is also another opportunity to highlight the work of the affiliates.
- **Annual Gathering:** An annual meeting is held for all SAGE affiliate leaders. When grant funds are available, SAGE is able to cover the cost of training, materials, travel, accommodations and meals.
- **Relationships:** Participants form lasting relationships with other affiliate leaders. As affiliates grow and develop new programs, advocacy initiatives, services and funding sources, they rely on each other for ideas, support and information.
- **Training:** The quality, specificity and variety of trainings offered at the annual meeting would be hard to find anywhere else. Participants select the training topics themselves based on their most pressing issues and concerns.
- **National promotion:** The successes and accomplishments of our affiliates are continuously highlighted in our publications and media outlets, providing exposure to future constituents, funders and policy makers.
- **Technical assistance:** Affiliates have access to ongoing technical assistance which can take many forms including trainings, research, best practices and information.
- **National LGBT Aging Roundtable:** Affiliate leaders are also members of the National LGBT Aging Roundtable which affords them the opportunity to engage with LGBT aging professionals across the country in monthly calls and to integrate diverse elders into policy conversations.

How did the first affiliates come about?

- **Phase 1.** Beginning in the late 1990's through 2005, SAGE extended permission to use the SAGE name to a small handful of mission-aligned organizations that comprised our first affiliate network: SAGE of South Florida, SAGE Milwaukee, SAGE Upstate and SAGE Long Island. This permission did not include any requirements or standards beyond the mandate to serve LGBT elders.

When did SAGE first formalize the process of becoming an affiliate?

- **Phase 2.** In 2006, SAGE established the first formal framework, a memorandum of understanding, and benchmarks for organizations to become an affiliate in order to assess the readiness of both the community and the group to provide the services. Between 2006 and 2013, we added 14 affiliates.

What has happened since that initial framework?

- **Phase 3.** In 2013, after a year of study and deliberation, SAGE increased the rigor of the process to become an affiliate through the adoption of additional benchmarks and requirements. Since 2013, we have added 11 affiliates.
- **Phase 4.** Through these increases in the standards and requirements for becoming an affiliate, SAGE has become largely successful in ensuring continuity of brand and affiliate engagement.
- **2021 Update.** A new affiliate agreement was created to replace any previous MOUs. SAGE hired a consultant group in December 2020 to lead its strategic planning process in January-October 2021. Their expertise on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will be essential in developing the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan and the future affiliate framework.

What are the current requirements to become an affiliate?

- **Governance**
 - Build Relationships
 - Build relationships with the aging service sector, LGBT organizations, grassroots groups serving underserved populations (transgender older people, BIPOC-Black, Indigenous, People of Color, veterans), etc.
 - Determine Need
 - Conduct several focus groups with key stakeholder populations and submit summary and conclusions.
 - Host at least two large-scale community meetings with key stakeholder populations.
 - Conduct a formal qualitative needs assessment.
 - Structure
 - SAGE encourages affiliates to have a fiscal sponsor, agent or be a program of a larger non-profit to help ensure long-term sustainability.
 - Submit an 18-month work plan and budget.
- **Programs and Services**
 - Offer at least 5 programs per month specifically for LGBT elders at the time of launch
 - Work with SAGE to develop a core set of programs based on the domains of wellness.
- **Advocacy**
 - Submit evidence of relationship with key appointed and elected officials in their city, county and state and to agree to participate in SAGE's advocacy initiatives.
 - Work with SAGE to develop a plan for providing training in their communities.
 - **Note:** [SAGECare](#) is the official training and credentialing program offered by SAGE. SAGE supports opportunities for affiliates to collaborate with SAGECare by developing a marketing and outreach plan in their service area and participate in the SAGECare Referral Fee Program.

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- **Communications**
 - Comply with SAGE branding requirements and use the logo provided by SAGE.
- **Fundraising**
 - Submit an 18-month fundraising plan that is approved by host organization and includes: map of local agencies, foundations and corporations to approach for support; program budget; and staffing plan.

Is there a cost to become an affiliate?

- There is a one-time \$100 application fee that will need to be submitted with the application packet. The fee is non-refundable and non-returnable.

To schedule an initial meeting, please complete the online interest form.

[SAGENet National Affiliates Interest Form](#)