

## **SAGE's National Housing Initiative (NHI)**

Quarterly Newsletter: August 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.*

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### **Surviving and Thriving in a Pandemic: Join us in September for the 2021 LGBT Elder Housing Virtual Institute!**

Please [join us in September](#) for the third annual NHI symposium, the 2021 National LGBT Elder Housing Virtual Institute!

This year, SAGE's National Housing Initiative will build on the previous two years' symposia through a two-day virtual institute of engaging workshops, group problem-solving, and ongoing learning, with a focus on anti-racism and the responsibility we all have to provide non-oppressive spaces for LGBT people to age. We will learn from people building LGBT-affirming affordable elder housing and a wider range of community advocates to understand the housing challenges and solutions for LGBT older adults, and we will provide space for working group cohorts to learn from and create new solutions within the current global context.

A few key highlights include Keynote Speaker [Dr. Imani Woody](#) of Mary's House for Older Adults, Peter Robinson from the [BlackSpace Urbanist Collective](#), and a range of advocates and experts in the housing, community engagement, financing, and social justice arenas.

If you missed last year's week-long event, you can watch the [event recordings here](#). Make sure to join us this year! **Remember to reserve your spot [here today!](#)**

### **Openhouse Social Service Symposium**

With generous support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, SAGE is co-hosting a virtual symposium on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> this fall. Openhouse will lead and coordinate this virtual event on the clinical and social service systems necessary in

addressing the holistic health of LGBT elders in affirming housing. Beyond the brick and mortar, what are the cognitive, mental, and social health needs of LGBT elders as they age? How can we build housing communities that address these needs with a robust clinical and trauma-informed focus?

In a two-day virtual symposium, join Openhouse and a robust collection of aging, cognition, and holistic health experts, as well as elders and tenants, to help build better systems of social wellness and care for LGBT people to age in housing.

Registration will open soon, so stay tuned to participate in this inaugural event!

### **NHI & National Resource Center on LGBT Aging**

The NHI has partnered with SAGE's National Resource Center on LGBT Aging to develop a series of fact sheets for LGBT elder consumers. These fact sheets provide education, helpful tips, and resources around housing access, knowing your rights, and self-advocacy. The housing journey for LGBT elders is not always easy, but access to support is one key piece of the puzzle. The fact sheets are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), and on the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging's [website](#).

### **Toolkit Modules 4 and 5: Release this Fall!**

SAGE continues to launch iterative modules of the Housing Development Toolkit, a guide featuring strategies for developers, nonprofits, and community-based organizations to develop LGBT-affirming affordable housing. The first three modules, focused community engagement and building buy-in, reaching tenants in need, and affirmative marketing, are [available here](#). The next two modules, focused on vetting partners and using data as evidence, will be released in September 2021. So stay tuned!

### **Stay tuned: 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! Stay tuned for the public launch of the trainings later this Fall.

*Please feel free to forward any helpful information or questions to Sydney or Tanisha at [skopprichardson@sageusa.org](mailto:skopprichardson@sageusa.org) or [thines@sageusa.org](mailto:thines@sageusa.org). Be well, friends!*