



Advocacy &  
Services for  
LGBT Elders

**We refuse to be invisible®**

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

Quarterly Newsletter: November 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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### **NHI Housing Development Toolkit Modules 4 and 5 are Out!**

SAGE continues to launch iterative modules of the Housing Development Toolkit, a guide featuring strategies for developers, nonprofits, and community-based organizations to develop LGBTQ-affirming affordable housing. The first five modules, focused on community engagement and buy-in, reaching tenants in need, developing affirmative marketing, vetting partnerships with mission alignment, and using data as evidence, are [all available here!](#) The next two modules, focused on intentional design and setting clear stakeholder expectations, will be released in early 2022. Stay tuned!

### **Surviving and Thriving in a Pandemic: The 2021 LGBTQ+ Elder Housing Virtual Institute**

On September 23 and 24, the NHI built 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 the responsibility we all have to provide non-oppressive spaces for LGBTQ+ people to age. In these two days, we discussed the importance of mission alignment with every single partner in a project, leveraging the expertise and needs of trans people as leaders, working with and supporting people of color and not recreating white-dominated spaces, developing new housing models, trusting the expertise of people who are deeply connected to their communities, and resourcing and platforming local housing work in all areas of the country. We talked about supporting work creatively in virtual systems, telehealth innovations, federal policy, getting involved in your local arenas, cultivating safety home spaces, and deeply supporting people who have been pushed into the margins.

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. The event was closed in a virtual reception with a rousing bingo session hosted by Mister Showbiz himself, Murray Hill!

If you missed it, you can [watch the event recordings here](#), including English and Spanish closed captioning. Special thanks to Citi for their ongoing and generous support of this event and of the NHI.

### **Healthy Aging Begins at Home: The Inaugural Openhouse LGBTQ+ Elder Housing Services Virtual Symposium**

With generous support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, SAGE co-hosted a virtual symposium on November 4 and 5, led by Openhouse in San Francisco. This virtual event focused on the clinical and social service systems necessary in addressing the holistic health of LGBTQ+ elders in affirming housing. Beyond the brick and mortar, what are the cognitive, mental, and social health needs of LGBTQ+ elders as they age? How can we build housing communities that address these needs with a robust clinical and trauma-informed focus? How does oppression impact cognitive decline and health outcomes? What can elders and tenants share about their personal journeys to better humanize the professionalization of this work?

Openhouse created 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. Special focus was given to deep vulnerability for trans women of color, the impact of collective and historical violence and trauma, and opportunities for healing and resilience in LGBTQ-affirming housing. Participants appreciated the deep dive into the impact of white supremacy on aging, medical, and social service systems today. Salient was not only the brick and mortar housing needs of elders, but also the clinical, cognitive, mental health, and quality of life and trauma-informed support we must provide.

If you missed it, you can [watch the event recordings here](#), including English and Spanish closed captioning.

### **Training Products for Housing Developers**

The NHI is developing training products for affordable housing developers, property management, and service providers. Trainings will focus on the unique developer roles in the LGBTQ-affirming elder housing development process. Topics will include fair housing regulations, trauma-informed design, property management functions, community engagement, establishing key partnerships, working with providers, cultural competency, and more! Stay tuned for the public launch of the trainings in 2022.

*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!*