

SAGE's National LGBTQ+ Elder Housing Initiative (NHI)

Quarterly Newsletter: April 2022

SAGE's NHI is dedicated to providing information that helps LGBTQ+ elders and allies make informed decisions when it comes to housing. For LGBTQ+ 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.

April is National Fair Housing Awareness Month

National Fair Housing Month celebrates the passage of the Fair Housing Act (FHA) 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 sex. In the wake of the Supreme Court's historic decision in *Bostock*, the Biden administration has interpreted the FHA's bar on discrimination on the basis of sex to include sexual orientation and gender identity. As progress has been made to maintain and expand the FHA's protections, SAGE has continued to fight for explicit inclusion of gender identity and sexual orientation into fair housing law as we continue to witness backlash attempts to rollback protections for vulnerable communities across the country.

Training Products for Housing Developers

This May, the NHI is launching free trainings for affordable housing developers, property managers, and service providers! These self-administered trainings will focus on the development, management, and service provision needs specific to LGBTQ+ affirming, affordable elder housing. Topics will include fair housing regulations, trauma-informed design, role definition, community engagement, establishing key partnerships, culturally relevant service provision, marketing tools, and more!

The trainings are free for anyone, and registrants can take the online trainings at their convenience. We developed this training series through an online platform to easily reach housing stakeholders interested in developing affordable housing to fit the needs of LGBTQ+ aging communities. We will reach out in May when the training has been launched, and we hope you enjoy these comprehensive training modules! Please reach out if you have any questions.

NHI Housing Development Toolkit Modules 6 and 7 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 seven modules, focused on community engagement and buy-in, reaching tenants in need, developing affirmative marketing, vetting partnerships with mission alignment, using data as evidence, defining roles and expectations, and intentional design are [all available here](#)! The following two modules, focused on cultural competency and addressing potential challenges, will be released later in 2022. Stay tuned!

Silvernest: Homesharing to Affordably and Safely Age in Place

Silvernest was created to change how elders live by delivering the many benefits of homesharing (independence, housing choices, financial wellness, powerful social connections) at scale through an all-in-one online homesharing platform. Features include roommate matching via a proprietary compatibility algorithm, in-app messaging and background checks, a lease creator, and an online hub of resources and tools. To date, Silvernest has helped homeowners and renters recognize over \$50 million in rental income and savings by homesharing with a compatible roommate. To learn more about homesharing with Silvernest or to inquire about developing a local homesharing program in your area, [click here](#).

During Sydney's leave, April - August 2022, please feel free to forward any helpful information or questions to Thomas Godwin at tgodwin@sageusa.org.

Be well, friends!