

The Campaign to Ensure Culturally Competent Support for LGBTQ+ and HIV-Positive Elders Nationwide

FROM SAGE'S 40+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

in serving LGBTQ+ older people and engaging in advocacy on LGBTQ+ aging issues, we know first-hand that social isolation, poverty, and a lack of access to affordable and welcoming housing are major challenges as we age.

Most older people experience at least some of these issues, but they are compounded for LGBTQ+ elders due to lifetimes of facing stigma and discrimination, harassment, a lack of access to culturally-competent service providers, and thin support networks.



LGBTQ+ older adults are **TWICE AS LIKELY TO LIVE ALONE** and **FOUR TIMES AS LIKELY TO NOT HAVE CHILDREN**, making it more difficult to age successfully in their homes and communities.

THE PROBLEM

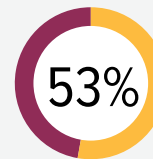
We know that local aging services and supports are critical for the LGBTQ+ community to succeed as they age. However, fear due to a lifetime of discrimination and current lived experiences prevents many LGBTQ+ elders from accessing the care and support they need to thrive.

THE SOLUTION

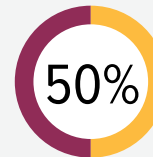
Old and Bold: Services for All

is a campaign launched by SAGE to ensure that LGBTQ+ and HIV-positive older people nationwide are able to access welcoming aging services and supports regardless of where they live.

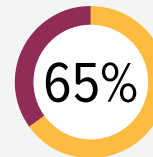
Our mission is to build a world where LGBTQ+ people can age with dignity and respect. A world where they can access services like meal assistance, senior center programs, health and wellness promotions, caregiver support, benefits enrollment, transportation, or any other aging service.



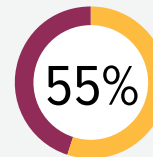
53% of LGBTQ+ older people report feeling isolated from others.



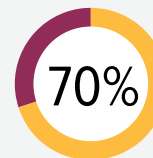
50% of all Americans living with HIV are over 50 years old.



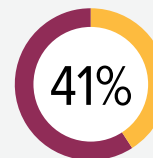
65% of older transgender respondents felt there would be limited access to care as they aged...



55% from the same 2015 national survey feared they would be denied medical treatment.



70% of LGBTQ+ elders fear having to “re-closet” themselves when seeking elder housing.



41% of LGBTQ+ older people report having a disability, compared to 35 percent of heterosexual older adults.



HOW CAN WE DO THIS?

THE CORNERSTONE of **Old and Bold: Services for All** is the Older Americans Act (OAA). The OAA is the federal law that ensures older people receive the services and supports they need to age well in their communities. Since 1965, the OAA has supported programs like home-delivered meals (e.g., Meals-on-Wheels), congregate meals, programs through senior centers, chore and transportation assistance, and an entire range of services and supports. These programs allow people to age successfully at home and in their communities.

In 2020, SAGE successfully advocated for LGBTQ+ inclusion when Congress updated the OAA. Now, the OAA requires state and local aging agencies to conduct outreach and engage with the LGBTQ+ community, and to determine what services are needed and if their needs are being met. This updated law will impact LGBTQ+ elders in every single state and every single community across the nation.

In 2021, the Biden administration issued guidance to states that details how to implement the updated OAA. As states develop their State Plans



on Aging, they are encouraged to equitably include LGBTQ+ elders and older people living with HIV/AIDS in those plans. To ensure that LGBTQ+ elders receive the services and supports they deserve, LGBTQ+ elders and allies must speak out.

That's why **Old and Bold: Services for All** exists. We will make sure that LGBTQ+ and HIV-positive older people get the tools and resources needed to make their voice heard. Together, we will work with states to ensure that their State Plans on Aging include LGBTQ+ and HIV communities and that service providers serve our communities with care.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?



GET ACTIVE!

Many states hold public listening sessions or offer comment periods as they develop their State Plans on Aging. We will make sure you have the tools and resources you need to speak out! Join our list and to stay informed at sageusa.org/oldandbold-states.



SHARE YOUR STORY AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Old and Bold: Services for All is collecting stories of LGBTQ+ and HIV-positive elders nationwide to provide real-world examples. Do you have a story of facing challenges in seeking elder services? Or maybe you have one about the life-saving impacts of LGBTQ+-friendly services? We want to hear from YOU! Learn more at sageusa.org/oldandbold-stories.

We are already working in communities around the country and will provide opportunities on our web page at sageusa.org/oldandbold to get involved.