

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

Quarterly Newsletter: August 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.

NHI Welcomes New Assistant Director, Thomas Godwin!

SAGE is thrilled to welcome Thomas Godwin as the new Assistant Director of the National LGBTQ+ Elder Housing Initiative! Thomas was the Project Manager of the NHI for the last four months amidst staff transition, demonstrating remarkable leadership, fostering curiosity, and building relationships, with a key focus on equity in all their work. Thomas recently completed their master's in social work and has experience working in mental health crisis care, project management, and nonprofit development. Thomas is passionate about cultivating LGBTQ+ joy, baking and decorating cookie cakes, and exploring state parks in Missouri. They are eager and excited to support the work of SAGE and the NHI!

SAGE and HRC Foundation release LGBTQ+ Inclusion Survey for Senior Housing

[SAGE](#) and [The HRC Foundation](#) invite senior housing communities to participate in [the Long-Term Care Equality Index \(LEI\)](#). The LEI is a national benchmarking survey for senior housing providers to assess, grow, and show their LGBTQ+ inclusion efforts. Opening in late August 2022 and closing in mid-November 2022, communities that complete the survey will appear in the national LEI 2023 Report and in an online searchable database. Communities with LGBTQ+-inclusive resident, employment, and visitation policies can achieve one of three tiers of recognition. Interested senior housing operators can [learn more and sign up online](#).

Training Products for Housing Developers Launched

This summer, the NHI launched [free trainings](#) for affordable housing developers, property managers, and service providers! These self-administered trainings focus on the development, management, and service provision needs specific to LGBTQ+-affirming, affordable elder housing. Topics include fair housing regulations, trauma-

informed design, role definition, community engagement, establishing key partnerships, culturally relevant service provision, marketing tools, and more!

The nine modules are **free** for anyone interested, 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. [Learn more and register here.](#) Please reach out if you have any questions!

October's Openhouse Social Service Symposium: Expanding Beyond Our Cities

SAGE and Openhouse are pleased to announce our second annual housing symposium registration page is [live!](#)

This year's theme, dubbed Expanding Beyond the Walls of Our Cities, highlights the needs of our rural and Native neighbors from Alaska to the rural South to provide housing developers the opportunity to learn directly from the communities they aim to serve. Join us on October 18 and 19 from 2 pm to 5 pm EST for an amazing event. Learn more and [register for free here.](#)

NHI Housing Development Toolkit Module 8 Launched 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 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 next module focuses on intersectional LGBTQ+ aging cultural competency and will be released later in September 2022. Keep your eyes out for the announcement this Fall!

For any questions, feedback, or communication, reach out to Sydney Kopp-Richardson at skopprichardson@sageusa.org or Thomas Godwin at tgodwin@sageusa.org.

Be well, friends!