

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

Quarterly Newsletter: June 2023

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.

Pride, Juneteenth, and Resistance

by Kylie Madhav, SAGE's Senior Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Happy Pride! Joyeuse Fierté! ¡Feliz Mes del Orgullo LGBTQ+!

Whatever language you might say it in, since 1970, June has been observed as LGBTQ+ Pride Month by transgender, lesbian, bisexual, gay, and queer communities around the world. It is a time when our community's vibrancy and indomitable spirit are fêted with fervor and without reservation.

Since 1865, the 19th day of June has been honored throughout Black communities across the United States as Juneteenth – the day over three centuries of humanity-effacing chattel slavery came to a partial end in the United States. The first commemorations took place in Galveston, Texas, and soon spread to enclaves of newly liberated Black people throughout the nation. For LGBTQ+ and Black people, our struggle for true liberation for ourselves, our families, and, by extension, all of humanity has been arduous. Yet, our very lives – lived as they are in the light of day – are a testament to how far we have come over the centuries. We owe this progress to generations of Black and LGBTQ+ people who refused and refused to let societal myopia define the horizons of their ambition.

Nashville Regional Roundtable

With generous support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the NHI, Urban Housing Solutions, and Inclusion Tennessee hosted a virtual Nashville regional roundtable on the development of LGBTQ+ affirming affordable senior and intergenerational housing in the area.

The event began with grounding words from Ashley Hampton, Executive Director of Healing at the Margins. Ashley spoke to the intersectional mental health needs of vulnerable LGBTQ+

elders and people of color in Nashville and Tennessee, particularly considering the statewide legislative attack on LGBTQ+ rights and the traumatic impact on the community's mental health.

Phil Cobucci, ED and Founder of Inclusion Tennessee outlined the barriers facing LGBTQ+ elders nationally and locally in Nashville. This was followed by a panel discussion with leading stakeholders in Nashville, including Councilmember Nancy VanReece, Vice President of LDG Development; Brent Elrod, Managing Director of Urban Housing Solutions; Joe Mayes, Project Manager at Civic Design; and Sallie Hussey, CEO of FiftyForward. Roundtable speakers spoke about their local work, unified in the interest in affordable housing development for LGBTQ+ elders in Nashville within the current political climate. They also discussed ways to encourage the existing housing stock to become safer and more affirming of LGBTQ+ elders. Following the panel discussion, participants entered three breakout sessions on financing, supportive services, and design.

The lively and informative event helped continue the momentum of affirming housing development in Nashville with crucial stakeholder partners and advocates. For more information, contact Thomas Godwin at tgodwin@sageusa.org.

Openhouse Social Service Symposium

Save the dates for the LGBTQ+ Elder Housing Services Virtual Symposium Series, cohosted by Openhouse and SAGE, throughout September! Community advocates, housing and aging experts, and service providers will discuss the housing service needs and models to address LGBTQ+ aging in housing equitably. Each week, a range of experts will discuss specific challenges facing queer elders of color, various service and housing models to address disparate aging experiences, and unique community-based solutions for the holistic health of LGBTQ+ communities in housing. These four sessions will go beyond the brick-and-mortar to discuss implementing holistic care for LGBTQ+ elders to age and thrive in society. Stay tuned for registration information!

Updates in Rhode Island: New Housing Plans!

Community members have been planning to develop Rhode Island's first LGBTQ+-affirming affordable senior housing development for years. Activist and advocate Jodi Glass is a board member of Aldersbridge, a nonprofit that runs healthcare centers for elders. Jodi has been working with CEO Rick Gamache to develop cultural competency policies, procedures, and services for the Aldersbridge community. They have now connected with One Neighborhood Developers to build a 39-unit apartment building as a part of the 390-unit East Point housing development in East Providence. As they apply for funding and advocate for the first development in Rhode Island, stay tuned for updates and ways to support the project!

Access the NHI's New Resource Hub Today!

This year, SAGE and the National LGBTQ+ Elder Housing Initiative (NHI) launched [a new online](#)

[resource hub!](#) With generous support from Wells Fargo, this hub serves as a comprehensive, user-friendly repository of the multi-media assets, publications, and resources developed by the NHI. Over the past seven years, the NHI has generated and convened dozens of resources for developers on how to build LGBTQ+-affirming, affordable elder housing in the U.S. This rich archive of content is now housed in a clearly accessible hub to help even more builders, service providers, and community-based organizations across the country to build LGBTQ+-affirming elder housing.

What's Inside the New Hub:

- **A robust training series for housing developers on topics like fair housing law, LGBTQ+ cultural competencies, and trauma-informed design.** With Wells Fargo's support, this series of nine training courses (two that are highly interactive) are available in an asynchronous online format and free for developers, social service providers, and any interested stakeholders to complete at their own pace.
- **Free access to valuable panel discussions and keynotes from national leaders in the housing sphere** from past NHI virtual symposia.
- **Nine modules of the Housing Development Toolkit**, designed for developers and CBOs to distill the development process and gain tools around community buy-in, affirming marketing, financing, and community outreach strategies.
- **An interactive map of housing policies and resources by state** and more, such as developer surveys, links to studies and publications, and many more training and educational materials.

Reminder: Register for Free Housing Developer Trainings Today!

Last 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 9 modules are **free** for anyone interested, and registrants can take the online training 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!

For any questions, feedback, or communication, reach out to Sydney Kopp-Richardson at <mailto:skopprichardson@sageusa.org> or Thomas Godwin at <mailto:tgodwin@sageusa.org>. Be well, friends!

