

Family Acceptance of LGBTQ+ Youth Initiative Program Model
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
CONCEPT PAPER
Release Date: January 5, 2023

Purpose of the RFP

On June 17, 2022, New York City Mayor Eric Adams, the Mayor’s Office of Equity’s Unity Project, and the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development announced an investment of nearly \$6.7 million to provide new and expanded services for the LGBTQ+ community as part of the Unity Project. Of this new funding, \$1.5 million was directed to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department)’s Bureau of Hepatitis, HIV, and Sexually Transmitted Infections (BHHS) to launch a new initiative addressing family acceptance of LGBTQ+ youth.¹

The purpose of the Family Acceptance of LGBTQ+ Youth Initiative is to encourage parents, caregivers, family members, and communities to accept and support their LGBTQ+ youth to promote health and well-being among this population. Research shows that family rejection is strongly associated with increased mental health issues, suicidality, substance use, and sexual risk behaviors among LGBTQ+ youth.² Family rejection can also lead to decreased tangible support (e.g., housing, food) and social support from parents and caregivers, which may lead to certain sexual risk behaviors (e.g., survival or transactional sex) and increased risk of acquiring HIV or other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).³ Family rejection is among the primary drivers of housing instability among LGBTQ+ youth. Reports estimate that between 40% and 50% of youth experiencing homelessness in New York City identify as LGBTQ+.⁴

The Family Acceptance of LGBTQ+ Youth Initiative aims to reduce these negative outcomes by promoting family and community acceptance of LGBTQ+ youth and creating safer, healthier spaces for LGBTQ+ youth and the adults in their lives. The initiative is designed to reach LGBTQ+ youth ages 12 to 21 years and their parents, caregivers, families, and community members, including teachers and other school-based staff, and will offer educational workshops, support groups, role model stories, social marketing campaigns, and short films

NYC Health Department plans to allocate funding for this initiative to one (1) local community-based organization through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process administered by Public Health Solutions (PHS) and anticipates awarding one award.

¹ Press Release, Office of the Mayor, Mayor Adams Announces Nearly \$6.7 Million Investment in New and Expanded Services for LGBTQ+ New Yorkers (Jun. 17, 2022), available at <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/410-22/mayor-adams-nearly-6-7-million-investment-new-expanded-services-lgbtq-new>.

² Michael E. Newcomb et al., *The Influence of Families on LGBTQ Youth Health: A Call to Action for Innovation in Research & Intervention Development*, 6 (4) LGBTQ HEALTH 139-145 (Jun. 1, 2019); Family Acceptance Project, San Francisco State University (last accessed Aug. 24, 2022), available at <https://familyproject.sfsu.edu/>.

³ Jason D. P. Bird et al., “I Had to Go to the Streets to Get Love”: Pathways From Parental Rejection to HIV Risk Among Young Gay and Bisexual Men, 64 (3) J. HOMOSEXUALITY 321-342 (Apr. 19, 2016).

⁴ QUEER STUDENTS OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING, & PRESERVATION, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY’S GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING, & PRESERVATION, SAFE SPACE HOUSING LGBTQ YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESS (2019), available at <https://www.arch.columbia.edu/books/reader/432-safe-space-housing-lgbtq-youth-experiencing-homelessness>; N.Y.C. CENTER FOR INNOVATION THROUGH DATA INTELLIGENCE ET AL., NEW YORK CITY YOUTH COUNT REPORT 2017 (2018), available at https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/cidi/downloads/pdfs/youth_count_report_2017_final.pdf; Ali Forney Center (last accessed Aug. 24, 2022), available at <https://www.aliforneycenter.org/>

Planned method of evaluating proposals

All proposals submitted to PHS by the submission deadline will be reviewed to determine if they are responsive to the requirements of the intended RFP. Responsive proposals will be reviewed based on the Evaluation Criteria listed below. The proposal, along with a deliverable-based budget request with justification, must represent the program that the applicant will implement if funded.

Evaluation Criteria include:

- Organizational experience;
- Organizational capacity, staffing, and qualifications;
- Proposed approach, implementation, and service delivery;
- Program monitoring, quality management, data management, and reporting;
- Management of client confidentiality; and
- Budget Management.

Proposals will be scored on a scale of 0-100 points. Only proposals that have an average score of 70 points or more will be eligible for consideration for funding. Any organization that meets the minimum eligibility requirements detailed in the intended RFP may apply for these funds.

BHHS Mission and Vision

The Bureau of Hepatitis, HIV, and Sexually Transmitted Infections (BHHS) oversees the NYC Health Department's viral hepatitis, HIV, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) work. BHHS envisions a New York City without transmission or illness related to viral hepatitis, HIV, and STIs, and works to improve the lives of New Yorkers by ending transmission, illness, stigma, and inequities related to viral hepatitis, HIV and STIs using an approach that is strengths-based, community-driven, and intersectional. Our structure promotes a syndemic approach — one that considers co-occurring diseases and their common drivers, including race, ethnicity, gender, sex, and socioeconomic status, among others, and combined impacts — in addressing the health and experiences of New Yorkers related to viral hepatitis, HIV, and STIs.

Anticipated RFP Timeline

The following is a current tentative timeline for the intended Family Acceptance of LGBTQ+ Youth RFP. The contract awarded through this intended RFP will have a **July 1, 2023** start date.

Activity	Anticipated Date
Release of Concept Paper	January 5 th , 2023
Comments on Concept Paper due date [45 days post release]	February 21 st , 2023
Release of RFP	February/March 2023
Projected award announcement	April/May 2023
Contract negotiations	[May - June 2023]
Projected contract start date	July 1, 2023

Total Anticipated Funding – \$1,500,000

Total Anticipated Annual Funding - \$750,000. It is anticipated that up to 2 subawards will be awarded from the forthcoming RFP.

Proposed term of the contract

The awarded organization(s) will receive a term of 2 years with the option to renew for a 3rd year contingent on funding. The Health Department reserves the right to increase/decrease the total funding amount depending on funding availability, and the right to award more than one award dependent on the proposed budgets of applicants.

Eligibility and Funding Information

Organizations applying for funding must meet the following requirements:

1. Be legally incorporated by the New York State Department of State as a not-for-profit corporation;
2. Have federal tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and
3. Operate a brick-and-mortar site in one of the five boroughs of New York City.

Organizations must be able to articulate the needs of LGBTQ+ youth and craft thoughtful and intentional services, programming, and other opportunities to encourage parents, caregivers, family members, and communities to accept and support their LGBTQ+ youth, thereby promoting the health and well-being of this population.

Programmatic Information

Service Elements

The agency which is awarded funding for the Family Acceptance of LGBTQ+ Youth Initiative will be expected to develop and implement services, programming, and other opportunities with the aim of encouraging acceptance and support of LGBTQ+ youth, thereby promoting LGBTQ+ youth health and well-being. Programming and services supported by this award **may include**:

Programming and Services	Sample topics to be included:
Workshops for parents, caregivers, and families on accepting and supporting LGBTQ+ youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a supportive and safe home environment for LGBTQ+ youth; • Reducing risk for substance use, depression, and HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and promoting sexual health and wellness; • Reducing risk of harassment and violence, including physical, sexual, and gender-based violence; • Encouraging healthy communication; • Understanding sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; and • Resources to help parents, caregivers, and families improve relationships with LGBTQ youth.
Workshops for teachers and other school-based staff, and community members (e.g., from after-school centers, faith-based institutions and groups)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a supportive and safe home environment for LGBTQ+ youth; • Reducing risk for substance use, depression, and HIV and other STIs, and promoting sexual health and wellness; • Reducing risk of harassment and violence, including physical, sexual, and gender-based violence; • Encouraging healthy communication; • Understanding sexuality, sexual orientation, and gender identity; and • Resources to help parents, caregivers, and families improve relationships with LGBTQ youth.
Role model stories	<p>Stories and testimonials of parents, caregivers, families, teachers and other school-based staff, and community members who have participated in the initiative and made changes toward greater acceptance of their LGBTQ+ youth, which may be depicted through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live interviews or storytelling performances; • Video recordings of interviews or storytelling performances; and • Letters, blogs, or other written materials.
Support groups for parents, caregivers, and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups for families who have transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming youth; • Groups for fathers who have LGBTQ+ youth; • Group for mothers who have LGBTQ+ youth; • Group for families who identify as Black and have LGBTQ+ youth; • Groups for families who identify as Asian or Pacific Islander and have LGBTQ+ youth; • Groups for families who identify as Latino and have LGBTQ+ youth; and • Groups open to anyone with an LGBTQ+ loved one.
Social marketing campaigns	<p>Traditional and/or social media campaigns promoting acceptance of LGBTQ+ youth that feature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign messages and images in subways, buses, or bus shelters; • Campaign messages and images or videos on social media platforms; and • Campaign messages and images on branded merchandise.
Short films	<p>Short films that address theme of acceptance of LGBTQ+ youth or highlighting narratives that aim to expand voices in support of LGBTQ+ youth</p>

Final details of the Family Acceptance of LGBTQ+ Youth Initiative’s programming, services, and evaluation will appear in the forthcoming RFP.

Organizational Capacity and Staffing

The awarded agency will be responsible for ensuring staff and program leadership are effective at engaging with LGBTQ+ youth and their families. The selected agency will have a minimum of two years of documented experience delivering services (e.g., workshops, support groups) as detailed in the forthcoming RFP and demonstrate active support of their LGBTQ+ staff. Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate the reach of program services that span boroughs.

Agency Reporting Requirements

Reporting requirements will appear in the forthcoming RFP. The awarded agency will be required to submit regular reports detailing progress toward completion of deliverables including but not limited to staffing updates, successes, any barriers encountered during program delivery, reach, and number of participants served.

Feedback on Concept Paper

Please submit all comments regarding this Concept Paper for the **Family Acceptance of LGBTQ+ Youth Initiative** no later than February 21, 2023. Comments regarding this Concept Paper must be submitted via PHS’ new Procurement Portal:

<https://healthsolutions.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>

To use the PHS Procurement Portal, you must first Register for a New Vendor Account.

To submit your comments/questions:

Select the “View Opportunity” button for this Concept Paper. From the Project Details page click the “Ask a Question” button which will prompt you to the “Opportunity Q&A” tab. Click on “Start a new Opportunity Q&A” to begin the process of submitting your comments/questions. For more information on how to ask a comment/question through the PHS Procurement Portal please visit:

<https://vendorsupport.gobonfire.com/hc/en-us/articles/6832480724503-How-do-I-contact-the-Project-Owner->