



Wake County CoC Membership Meeting

Monday, March 24

2:00pm

Wake County Emergency Services Education Center

Please Sign-in!

AGENDA

- Welcome & Housekeeping
- White Flag – Community Feedback Session
- Lead Agency Updates
- Agency Updates
- CoC Training:
 - LGBTQ Education & Understanding within Homeless Communities (LGBT Center of Raleigh)



Welcome & Housekeeping

White Flag Feedback Session

White Flag Feedback Session

Purpose

To collect feedback on

- Successes and challenges during the 2024-25 Cold Weather Season and
- Recommendations and planning considerations for the 2025-26 Season.

Background & Context

- Reminder that the Wake County x CoC MOU includes responsibility to:
 - *“Establish a White Flag annual response plan in collaboration with the Wake CoC Governing Board, to include notification of declared White Flag nights and Cooling Centers and the creation of a community-wide plan for severe weather.”*
- The Homeless Emergency Response Committee (HERC) is the lead!

White Flag Feedback

(10 – 15 mins)



Alert Activation & Communications



Shelter Access, Capacity/Utilization & Operations



Services & Supplies (staffing, meals, etc.)



Open Feedback

White Flag Feedback Survey

- Scan the QR code with your phone camera.
- Be sure to share with your team and clients!



Lead Agency Updates

Lead Agency Updates

- **Collaborative Applicant (CA):** Transitioning to the County April 1st
 - Stay tuned for updated calendar invites starting in April and other announcements or changes via CoC newsletter!
- **HMIS:** Transitioning to the County April 1st via 3-month contract.
- **Coordinated Entry (CE):** County currently facilitating.
 - Short-term guidance forthcoming, including updates to HMIS workflow.

Email eileen.rosa@wake.gov and/or Info@wakenc507.org with any questions or concerns!

Call for Agency Updates

LGBTQ Education & Understanding within Homeless Communities

LGBT Center of Raleigh



LGBTQ+ IDENTITIES

*At the Intersection of Experiencing
Homelessness*





Kori Hennessey

They/Them

LGBT Center of Raleigh

Executive Director

Leadership Triangle

Goodman Fellow

Duke University

Nonprofit Management



4%

of adults in North Carolina
identify as LGBTQ+

9.3%

of U.S. adults identify as LGBTQ+
according to a
2025 Gallup poll

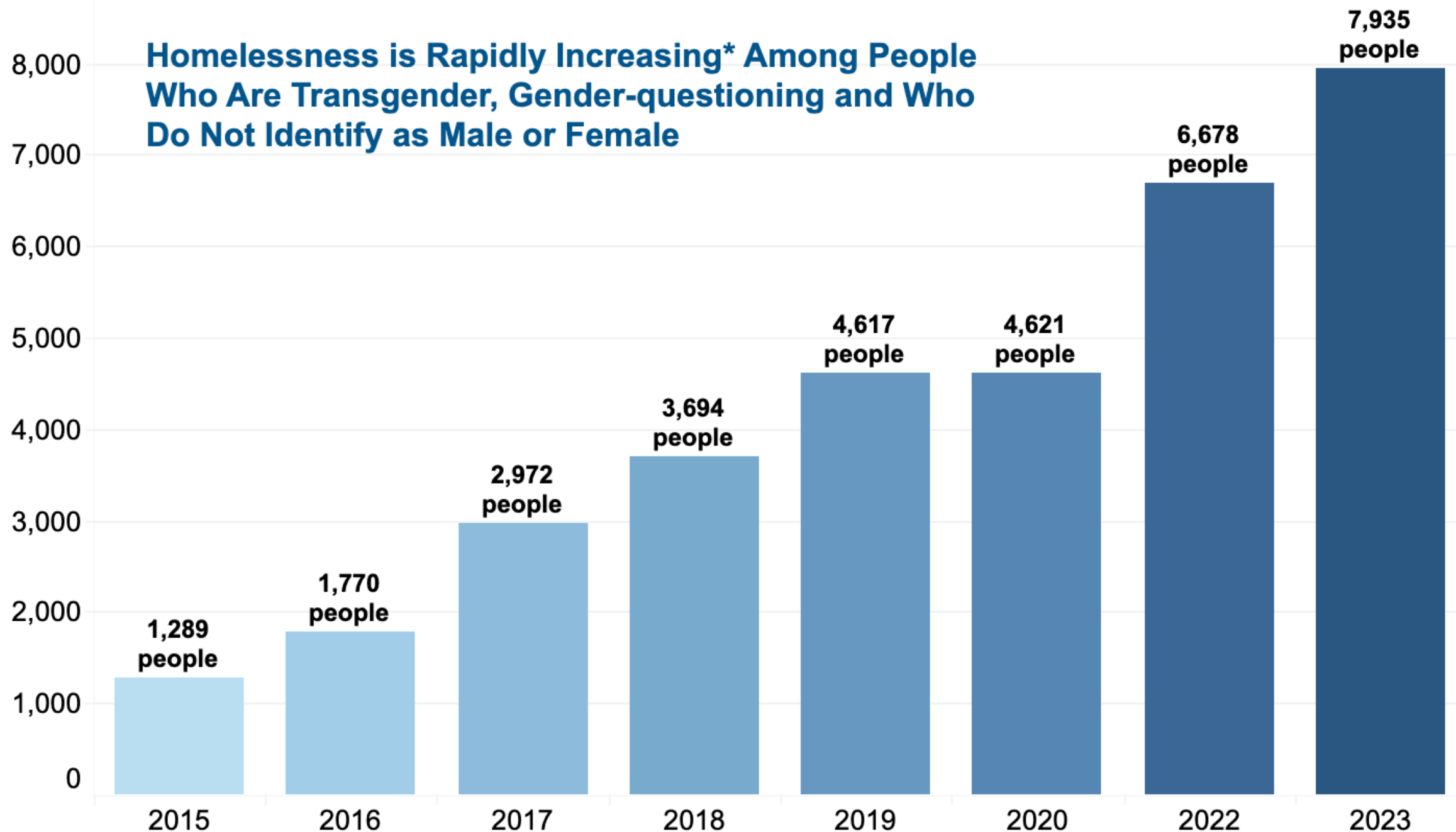
71,300

number of transgender
adults in North Carolina



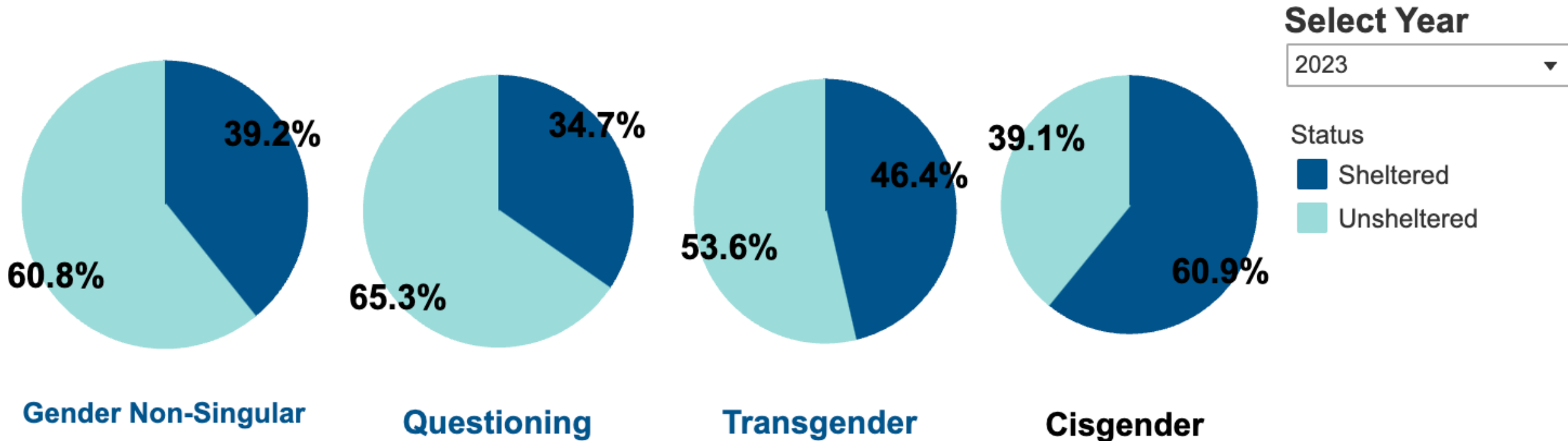
Total Gender-Expansive People Experiencing Homelessness

Homelessness is Rapidly Increasing* Among People Who Are Transgender, Gender-questioning and Who Do Not Identify as Male or Female



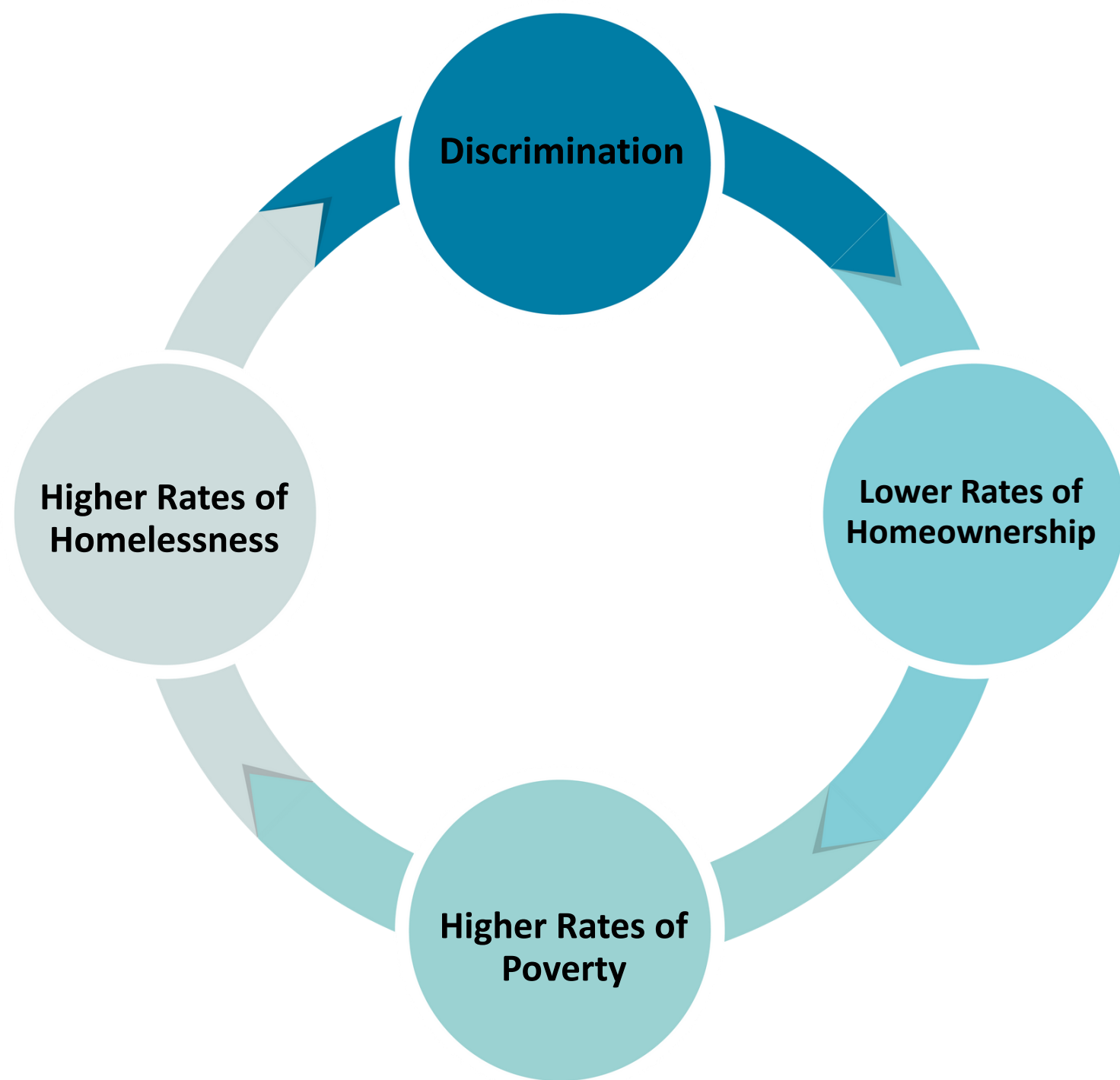
Gender-Expansive People Are More Likely to Be Unsheltered: Services Can Be Unsafe and Inaccessible for These Groups

Hover or Click to See Total Number



Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress.

Due to disruptions in data collection during the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 data is omitted.



“Stigma and discrimination create or exacerbate housing instability for LGBT people across their lives—from family rejection of LGBT youth to discrimination in the rental market and mortgage industry to harassment at senior living facilities.”

- Adam P. Romero, Federal Policy Director and Arnold D. Kassoy Scholar of Law at the Williams Institute

UNIQUE CHALLENGES

The LGBTQ+ community, especially transgender individuals, face unique challenges that contribute to disparities such as housing insecurity.

- Queer and transgender people are often seen as inhuman; therefore, experience discrimination and stigma in multiple forms
- LGBTQ+ people experience higher levels of mental health challenges in part due to the stress of navigating stigma and discrimination
- LGBTQ+ people deal with substance abuse and addiction at a higher rate as a way to cope with stigma and discrimination



UNIQUE CHALLENGES

- There are very few places that queer and transgender people can go where they can be fully authentic
- There are more laws being introduced that take away the most basic human rights of LGBTQ+ people
- Transgender people experience violence and harassment at extremely high rates
- Transgender people do not have access to safe and competent medical resources, employment, and more
- There is very little legal protection for LGBTQ+ people



HOW DO WE DISRUPT THIS CYCLE?





WIDESPREAD EDUCATION

Provide (and attend) regular, mandatory educational opportunities to help others understand LGBTQ+ identities and dispel misinformation.

POLICY

Create policies that are inclusive of LGBTQ+ identities, struggles, and unique needs. This may include policies on how to respond to other clients/participants discriminating against queer or transgender clients/participants.

EQUITY

Understand that **equality** is not the same as **equity**. LGBTQ+ people facing housing insecurity may need more support and more resources than their heterosexual, cisgender counterparts.

RESOURCES

Proactively compile resources for other needs that are LGBTQ+ affirming and safe, including food, medical, clothing, and community support. This may also include building a better referral network.





WHAT CAN YOU DO AT YOUR AGENCIES?



Adjourn



Next Meeting: TBD

CoC Coordination or for more info:
Info@wakenc507.org

If you have not done so already, please sign-in!