



# OR LGBTQ+ Older Adult Survey Prioritization Summary

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March 24, 2022

# Acknowledgements

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- Community Survey Participants
- Members of the Oregon LGBTQ Older Adult Survey Advisory Committee
- AARP Oregon
- Aging Well Program of Cascade AIDS Project
- Alzheimer's Association
- EngAGE NW
- Governor's Commission on Senior Services
- HIV Alliance
- Metropolitan Community Church of Portland
- Oregon Home Care Commission
- Oregon LGBTQ+ Aging Coalition
- Quest Center for Integrative Health
- PRIDE Foundation
- SAGE Metro Portland
- Internal Team: Jane-ellen Weidanz, Deb McCuin, Naomi Sacks, Marlen Torres, Adriana Taylor, Emily Duran, Stephanie Stephens, Nakeshia Knight-Coyle, Antonio Torres, Elisa Williams

# Process to Date/ How We Got Here

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- Begun in Spring, 2020 with community ask for a community needs survey from OR LGBTQ+ Older Adult Coalition, SAGE Metro Portland & Governor's Commission on Senior Services
- Research led by Dr. Karen Fredriksen Goldsen and her team at University of Washington and Survey Advisory Committee
- Survey & Data Analysis Completed and Released September, 2021
- Series of public presentations on survey findings – 25 to date, additional 8 scheduled
- Series of 7 Prioritization meetings: Survey Advisory & Coalition, LGBTQIA2S+, Latinx community, Interested Parties, African-American community, Tribal partners
- Community, communications, outreach, ongoing Community Engagement

# Top 10 Priorities Identified

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Health/Mental Health Care	Economic Security/Poverty
Housing	Discrimination
Elder Abuse (including self-neglect)	Food Assistance
Educate, Communicate, Support	Unmet Service Needs/Access
Community Engagement/ Social Support	Training, trained facility staff and homecare workers

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# Themes

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- Safety
- Basic needs
- Training & education
- Disparities
- Access barriers
- Mental Health
- Community-listening, outreach, trust building and collaboration
- Safe spaces, social support and connection

# Health/Mental Health

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- Issues: lack of providers, lack of LGBTQIA2S+ friendly providers, access barriers, health care for older adults that is not ageist or discriminatory, high rates of suicidal ideation amongst people of color, low disclosure rates
- Some ideas for APD:
  - Advocacy and training across health care networks
  - Increase suicide prevention efforts, including culturally specific interventions
  - Increase access to LGBTQIA2S+ friendly medical providers in rural areas
  - Build partnerships with other agencies doing suicide prevention training, communicate about call lines & other resources
  - Collaborate with Community Health workers and clinics on outreach and reducing access barriers
  - Reduce barriers to behavioral health services

# Housing

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- Issues: lack of affordable housing, lack of LGBTQ2SIA+ friendly housing and residential settings, discrimination or fear of discrimination, lack of knowledge including availability, how to apply, resources and rights, access barriers
- Some ideas for APD:
  - Provide housing navigation assistance
  - Provide supports to maintain housing
  - Regulate to reduce discrimination in housing including licensed, residential settings
  - Training for housing providers and staff on how to be more welcoming
  - Publicly identifying welcoming, friendly housing

# Elder Abuse

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- Issues: Prevalence, racial disparities, lack of knowledge about abuse and how to report
- Some ideas for APD:
  - Create safe resources and supports including after abuse
  - More regulatory protections
  - Ensure anti-discrimination language in policies & procedures
  - Training:
    - Increase community knowledge, provide education about what abuse is and early warning signs
    - Modify existing training to include information about safety, abuse and allyship
    - Increase reporting



# Educate, Communicate, Support

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- Issues: Raise awareness of LGBTQIA2S+ issues, reduce bias and discrimination
- Some ideas for APD:
  - Outreach & education on LGBTQIA2S+ introduction, rights and how to report discrimination and abuse
  - Represent LGBTQIA2S+ in materials/visuals
  - Create friendly resource list including improving population specific I&R and support and assistance to navigate access
  - Support caregivers
  - Use social media and community events for communication, education, socialization, resources

# Community Engagement/Social Support

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- Issues: high percent of people living alone, support for those without family support, social isolation
- Some ideas for APD:
  - Build social supports and community
  - Multi-generational engagement
  - Create/Increase peer supports in rural areas
  - Funding for social outings and events
  - Offer support/wellness groups

# Discrimination

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- Issues: prevalence of discrimination, intersectionality w/ageism, high racial/ethnic disparities and for people living with HIV
- Some ideas for APD:
  - Training:
    - Agency staff, AAA providers, ombudsmen, APS, survey & licensing staff, caregivers, health care providers and staff
  - Review rules and policies for impact
  - Hire LGBTQIA2S+ older adults in public facing jobs
  - Use trauma informed care methods and techniques
  - Ensure diversity on boards and commissions

# Economic Security/Poverty

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- Issues:
  - Financial insecurity
- Some ideas for APD:
  - Hire LGBTQIA2S+ older adults
  - Communication about availability of financial assistance to Veterans

## Food Insecurity

- Issues: Lack of ability to consistently purchase nutritious food
- Idea for APD:
  - Food boxes

# Unmet Service Needs/Access

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- Issues: prevalence of unmet service needs, higher across racial groups, the benefit of services may not be worth the effort to apply
- Some ideas for APD:
  - Provide more transportation services, especially in rural areas
  - Reduce access barriers
    - Offer materials in spoken language, Indigenous languages
    - Go to community
    - Use social media for outreach
    - Use visuals to indicate services are LGBTQIA2S+ friendly
    - Recruit culturally diverse providers

# Training

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- Issues: lack of LGBTQIA2S+ training for APD, AAA, providers, in home workers, LTCO
- Some ideas for APD:
  - Provide opportunities for ongoing training
  - Follow up events after training
  - Quarterly knowledge building opportunities
  - Train on intersectionality

# Racial/Ethnic Specific Priorities

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- Issues: LGBTQIA2S+ is taboo topic in some communities, Indigenous people may not speak or read Spanish, need to understand culture and customs, limited financial resources
- Some ideas for APD:
  - Multi-generational education and supports
  - Native speakers of Latinx Indigenous languages to go out to the community
  - Hold more listening sessions with other racial/ethnic communities
  - Prioritize actions considering racial equity
  - LGBTQIA2S+ resources for culturally specific groups
  - Culturally specific services that address intersectionality
  - Homebound seniors of color need technology access for social, recreational activities
  - Use technology for social support activities specific to women of color

# Other Actions for APD

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- Provide assistance for people to plan for the future, especially those without supports
- Develop partnerships and share information (about programs, services, resources) across systems and organizations, including VA
- Provide navigation assistance to overcome access barriers
- Support Age-Friendly planning
- Holistic interventions
- No wrong door, one stop shopping for service access
- Prioritize based on local input, uphold local priorities
- Educate people about ageism and make sure staff are well trained
- Partner with Community Based and faith-based organizations for outreach



# Survey Link and Contacts

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- Survey Web site:

<https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/Pages/data.aspx>

- Office of Aging & People with Disabilities Contacts:
  - Jane-ellen Weidanz, Administrator, Long Term Services & Supports  
[Jane-ellen.Weidanz@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:Jane-ellen.Weidanz@dhsoha.state.or.us)
  - Deb McCuin, Program Analyst [Debbie.McCuin@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:Debbie.McCuin@dhsoha.state.or.us)
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