

Guidebook for Best Practices with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth

The Indiana Department of Child Services is committed to meeting the needs of all children, youth and families it serves. Because of the unique needs of youth who identify as LGBTQ, it is vital that social services staff ensure all placements and services are safe and supportive. It is the expectation that providers and staff treat all individuals and families respectfully and non-judgmentally, irrespective of one's personal views of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Social work best practice dictates that staff be aware of personal biases in order to ensure that equitable services are provided to all individuals and families. The following links are intended to increase awareness, knowledge and appropriate skill sets of social services staff and administrators in the child welfare system, so they may effectively and competently meet the needs of LGBTQ youth and their families.

Resources from the Administration on Children and Families (ACF), the Children's Bureau and the Training and Technical Assistance Network (T/TA):

[Supporting Your LGBTQ Youth: A Guide for Foster Parents](#)

[National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections](#)

[Affirming and Supporting LGBTQ Children and Youth in Child Welfare](#)

[Resources for Parents](#)

[Tips for Caregivers](#)

[Caring for LGBTQ children & youth a guide for child welfare providers](#)

[ACF Providing appropriate services to LGBTQIA2S+ youth in out of home care](#)

[Glossary of terms](#)

IYG <https://www.indianayouthgroup.org/>

Trevor Project <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

Strong Family Alliance <https://www.strongfamilyalliance.org/>

Indiana Pride Organizations <https://indypride.org/about/indiana-pride-network/>

Evidence-Based Research and Reports:

[Identifying and Serving LGBTQ Youth: Case Studies of Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Grantees](#)

Other Resources and Publications:

[Caring for LGBTQ Children & Youth: A Guide for Child Welfare Providers](#)