

**Ending the Epidemic Task Force
Committee Recommendation
CR33**

Recommendation Title: Health, Housing, Human Rights for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual (LGB) and Transgender Communities

- 1. For which goal outlined in the Governor's plan to end the epidemic in New York State does this recommendation apply? 1, 2 and 3**

 - 2. Description of Proposed Recommendation:** Promoting the health, safety and dignity of our transgender communities will be a vital part of ending the HIV epidemic in New York. With regard to prevention, there were a dozen recommendations submitted that involve health care and housing for transgender communities. These proposals can be grouped in the following categories:
 - 1) **Programming and Funding:** These proposals support increased funding for culturally-competent service models that are individual, group and community-level as well as structural. The proposals emphasized that homegrown models can be evidenced-based and such models should be developed and funded specifically for transgender and women who have sex with women (WSW) communities of color. Further there is a call to develop community-based, economic empowerment initiatives targeting needs of transgender communities, including the development of transgender employment service programs with peer leadership, life skills training, mentorship programs and self-employment/small business development options.

 - 2) **Data and Metrics:** These proposals support data collection for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) individuals, who are accessing HIV-related care, especially those on Medicaid, in an effort to create an analysis of (and ultimately improve) LGBT access to services. Another proposal recommends creating a social disparities index for the Black LGBT community. Both collecting sexual orientation and gender identity information from vulnerable populations as well as creating tools that can identify and weigh social determinant that serve as a co-factors in creating a cluster of health, economic and social issues, can support the prevention of HIV for the Black transgender population.

 - 3) **Legislation:** There is strong support for the addition of the category “gender identity and expression” to the protected classes of the existing New York State (NYS) Human Rights Law. This recommendation requires legislative action and has long been fought for by LGBT and HIV advocates. The change would make it illegal to discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, national origin, etc. in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodation and credit.
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- 4) **Healthcare Access:** Several recommendations suggest the elimination of barriers for transgender New Yorkers to access healthcare. At the time of this report, the New York State executive branch issued guidance addressing one such proposal put forth banning exclusions for transgender health care and transition-related health care by all health insurance providers.

Additionally, there are more specific proposals that submit that Medicaid coverage should be expanded to include all medically-necessary transgender and transition-related healthcare services. The proposals make the case that low-income transgendered persons put themselves at risk to receive gender-confirming care. Lifting this ban provides an opportunity for these patients to access, be engaged and retained in care.

- 5) **Housing:** One proposal, which may overlap for the Housing Committee, supports targeted prevention incentives for high-risk individuals (including Trans) to encourage retention in care. TF32 recognizes housing as a critical intervention for prevention and care and supports the scale up of LGBTQ-specific housing.

3. Would implementation of this recommendation be permitted under current laws or would a statutory change be required? Permitted under current law.

- T55, T147 would require legislative change.
- T47, T52, T118, T156 would require regulatory change.

4. Is this recommendation something that could feasibly be implemented in the short-term (within the next year) or long-term (within the next three to six years)? N/A

5. Please list the TF numbers of the original recommendations that contributed to this current version: TF30, TF 32, TF47, TF52, TF55, TF90, TF118, TF142, TF147, TF148, TF155, TF156, TF275, and TF283.

