

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Transgender

RESOURCE GUIDE 





The City of West Hollywood is proud to support the transgender community

and this resource guide
serves to enhance and improve
its health and well being.

WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY COUNCIL

Mayor John J. Duran
Mayor Pro Tempore John D'Amico
Councilmember John Heilman
Councilmember Lindsey P. Horvath
Councilmember Lauren Meister

WEST HOLLYWOOD TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD

E. Jaye Johnson
Alexis Sanchez – Chair
Lindsey Deaton
Erika De La Cruz
Madison Fairchild
Drian Juarez – Vice-Chair
Leslie Monroy
Karina Samala
James Wen

La mayoría de los servicios están disponibles en español, por favor llame a las agencias para obtener más información.

The City's Transgender Advisory Board (TAB)

meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7pm at West Hollywood City Hall, Community Conference Room, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069. Call Bonnie Smith at (323) 848-6371 or visit www.weho.org

Special Thanks: Drian Juarez, Mariana Marroquin and April Saravia

For more copies of the **Transgender Resource Guide**, contact the West Hollywood Social Services Division at (323) 848-6510 or email croskin@weho.org

©2015 City of West Hollywood.
Revised 07/2018

Photos by Rakeem Cunningham
Design by Cynthia Tan

Transgender Education

TRANSGENDER is a term used to describe people whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth.

GENDER IDENTITY is a person's internal, personal sense of being a man or a woman (or boy or girl.) For some people, their gender identity does not fit neatly into those two choices. For transgender people, the sex they were assigned at birth and their own internal gender identity do not match.

People in the transgender community may describe themselves using one (or more) of a wide variety of terms, including (but not limited to) transgender, transsexual, and non-binary. Always use the term used by the person.

Trying to change a person's gender identity is no more successful than trying to change a person's sexual orientation – it doesn't work. So most transgender people seek to bring their bodies into alignment



with their gender identity. This is called transition.

As part of the transition process, many transgender people are prescribed hormones by their doctors to change their bodies. Some undergo surgeries as well. But not all transgender people can or will take those steps, and it's important to know that being transgender is not dependent upon medical procedures.

Transgender is an adjective and should never be used as a noun. For example, rather than saying "Max is a transgender," say "Max is a transgender person" or "Max is a transgender man." And transgender never needs an "-ed" at the end.

The above is from the The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) website and additional educational information can be found at www.glaad.org/transgender



Community

TRANS CHORUS OF LOS ANGELES (TCLA) is the largest group of trans and gender non-conforming people anywhere in the world who gather together regularly to raise their voices in song. To sing or volunteer for TCLA visit www.transchorusla.org

TRANS LIFE LA was formed to be a resource for the Transgender | Queer | Gender Non-Conforming community. Their mission is to make available access to education, experiences, resources and opportunities that inspire the empowerment, enrichment and sustainability of all community members. www.translifela.org or on Facebook at TransLifeLA

GENDER JUSTICE LA is a grassroots organization building the power of the transgender and gender non-conforming community in LA. Visit www.gjla.org or call (323) 300-8599

TRANSLATIN@COALITION advocates for the specific needs of the trans, non-binary and non-gender conforming Latin@ community with programs based in Los Angeles including a drop-in center, daily meals, ESL classes, life skills group, judo classes, job development/opportunities, a computer lab and S.P.U.N.K. (support to survivors of immigration detention and incarceration with rental assistance, transportation and food vouchers). Visit www.translatinacoalition.org

Employment

JVS WEHO WORKS is a partnership with the City of West Hollywood and provides a Career Resource Center for job seekers who live or work in West Hollywood providing free job search skills training and job placement assistance. JVS WeHoWorks also collaborates with employers, and hosts employer recruitment and is located in the West Hollywood Library. www.jvs-socal.org/wehoworks or (310) 652-6378

“Imagine...you feel great about yourself, but when you look down, your body is the opposite sex from who you know yourself to be. Imagine what it would feel like to live with that discrepancy.”

– JAMISON GREEN,
AUTHOR OF *Becoming a Visible Man*

TRANSGENDER ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (TEEP)

is a program that provides support to those looking for a trans-friendly job, support in coming out in the workplace, developing long-term career goals, improving employability skills, and financial coaching. In addition, TEEP works to address employment discrimination through gender and sexual diversity trainings for employers to establish a safer work environment and clear transition guidelines. With the support of the City of West Hollywood and local business partners, TEEP hosts an annual job fair in November with trans-friendly employers. For more information, please call (323) 993-7410, e-mail teep@lgbtcenter.org or visit www.lgbtcenter.org/teep

Health & HIV Prevention Programs

APLA HEALTH provides services that promote well-being for the LGBT and other underserved communities and people living with and affected by HIV at various locations in LA County. Main website and contact is www.aplahealth.org or (213) 201-1600

Their programs include:

- **C.L.A.S.S.** is a unique leadership program funded by the Los Angeles AIDS Coordinator Office that equips transgender women of color with the personal development tools to become leaders, live powerful lives, and improve the overall well-being of the transgender community in the greater Los Angeles area. Over



the course of six months a wide variety of topics are covered ranging from transgender history and leaders, to financial planning and mental health coping skills. Fun events will take place and food is provided at each meeting. For more information visit Facebook at **apla**class****, twitter at **class_sisters**, or call (323) 329-9715

- **Red Circle Project** is the only HIV prevention program in Los Angeles County that specifically provides services to the Native American/Alaska Native Community. Red Circle Project provides culturally competent HIV/AIDS resources and referrals, group level interventions for Native Gay/Two Spirit men and Native transgender individuals, and mobile HIV testing to urban Native community at outreach events such as powwows, cultural

“We were all born with special gifts, and we can develop our own unique identities without labels and achieve greatness in a society that aspires to embrace individual differences.”

**- KARINA SAMALA
WEST HOLLYWOOD
TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD**

events, etc. For more information visit **www.aplahealth.org** or on Facebook at **redcircleproject** or call (323) 329-9905.

- **Trans Connections** is a comprehensive high-impact HIV prevention program for Young Transgender Persons of Color (18-29) who reside in South Los Angeles, South Bay and Long Beach. The program is funded by the CDC.

APAIT offers HEART, a peer-led, skills building intervention designed to reduce HIV risk behaviors among Asian and Pacific Islander transgender women in LA County. The multi-session program seeks to empower transgender women to negotiate safer sex with their partners as well as to enhance their self-esteem and self-worth. For more information call (213) 375-3830 or visit **www.apaitonline.org**



BIENESTAR provides a variety of free programs for transgender Latina women which provide health, education, mental health services, HIV testing, referrals and CRCS Counseling (Comprehensive Risk Counseling and Services). CRCS is one-on-one counseling that focuses on HIV prevention and creating positive improvement in overall well-being. For more information call (866) 590-6411 ext. 402 or visit www.bienestar.org

CEDARS-SINAI TRANSGENDER SURGERY AND HEALTH PROGRAM

offers individualized care for all patients seeking gender-affirming surgery and transition-related care, including those covered by Medi-Cal and Medicare. For more information call (800) 233-2771 or visit <https://www.cedars-sinai.org/programs/transgender-surgery-and-health.html>

THE CENTER FOR TRANSYOUTH HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT (CTYHD)

at Children's Hospital Los Angeles offers affirming care for transgender and gender non-confirming children, adolescents and young adults, and their families. Services include medical services (including hormones and puberty blockers), HIV and



STI screening and treatment, gender-affirming mental health services, case management, peer and family support services and name and gender marker change support. The CTYHD accepts Medi-Cal, most major insurance plans, and a number of HMOs and staff are available to support navigating eligibility for medical and drug assistance programs. Visit www.chla.org/the-center-transyouth-health-and-development or call (323) 361-5372.

FRIENDS COMMUNITY CENTER

has a number of different programs for HIV and substance abuse prevention. For more information, see the Friends Community Center listing in this brochure in the Substance Use/Abuse section.

HORMONES can be obtained through BAART Programs, a multi-service organization providing

drug treatment and rehabilitation. BAART Beverly is located at 1926 W. Beverly Blvd. and can be reached at (213) 353-1140.

LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER- TRANSGENDER HEALTH CARE

offers medical providers who specialize in the care of transgender women and men who are considering transitioning, are in the process of transitioning, or have already transitioned. In addition to a full range of primary care services, the Transgender Health Program providers offer hormone therapy, including education and management; pre- and post-surgical care; and trans-sensitive Pap smears, pelvic exams, and prostate exams. The program accepts Medi-Cal, Medicare, most major insurance plans, and some HMOs. If you are uninsured, we can help you get insurance through Covered California or determine your eligibility for medical and drug assistance programs.

www.lalgbtcenter.org/health-services/medical-services/transgender-health-program

MINORITY AIDS PROJECT has a Transgender Outreach Program that provides HIV/AIDS education and prevention, counseling and referrals as well as various workshops. For more information,

call (323) 936-4949 or visit www.minorityaidsproject.org

SILICONE INJECTIONS are illegal and dangerous and can disfigure and be life threatening. The most common causes of death immediately following a silicone injection are from an immune response which causes the lungs to fill with fluid, or from a pulmonary embolism.

ST. JOHN'S WELL CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER

offers a Transgender Health Program with services including comprehensive primary care, HIV/STD testing, treatment, and counseling; and mental health services. For more information and clinic locations throughout South LA, call (323) 541-1411 or visit www.wellchild.org



HIV/STD Testing

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

Various locations
(213) 405-5800
www.aidshealth.org

BIENESTAR

4955 W. Sunset Blvd.
(323) 660-9680
www.bienestar.org

THE CENTER FOR TRANSYOUTH HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

See listing on page 5

THE LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER

www.lalgbtcenter.org

- Jeffrey Goodman Clinic
1625 N. Schrader Blvd.
(323) 860-5855
- Center WeHo
8745 Santa Monica Blvd.
(323) 993-7440

THE SABAN COMMUNITY CLINIC

Various locations
(323) 653-1990
www.sabancommunityclinic.org



Legal Issues

Most sections of California law prohibit discrimination based on a long list of protected classes, including sexual orientation, gender and gender identity. LGBT Californians are protected from discrimination in securing employment and housing, accessing government services and participating in state-funded activities. LGBT people are also protected under the state's hate crime law.

Go to the Equality California website at www.eqca.org for more information.

BATHROOM USAGE

Transgender women and men should use the restroom that matches their gender identity, regardless of whether they are



LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER'S LEGAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

can help navigate the process of legally changing your legal name and gender markers. They can also assist in connecting you with an attorney or trans-friendly legal resource to help guide you through cases such as employment discrimination, reporting hate crimes/incidents, intimate partner violence/abuse, immigration, asylum applications, and preparation of various legal documents. For more information, please call (323) 993-7670, email legalservices@lalgbtcenter.org or visit www.lalgbtcenter.org/legal_services

TRANSGENDER LAW CENTER

is a national organization that works to change law, policy, and attitudes so that all people can live safely, authentically, and free from discrimination regardless of their gender identity or expression. For more information, call (415) 865-0176 or visit www.transgenderlawcenter.org

making a gender transition or appear gender-nonconforming. An informative fact sheet titled, "Equal Access to Public Bathrooms," is available as part of the "Transgender Rights Toolbox" located on the Lambda Legal website at www.lambdalegal.org/issues/transgender-rights

BET TZEDEK LEGAL SERVICES

provides legal services for community members, with emphasis on benefits advocacy and landlord/tenant issues. For more information, call (323) 939-0506 (West Hollywood residents call 323-549-5841) or visit www.bettzedek.org

LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES (LAFLA)

provides free civil legal aid to those who are underserved in Los Angeles County in areas including housing, public benefits, immigration, domestic violence and homelessness. Visit www.lafla.org or call (800) 399-4529

"For me, personally and politically, there's no separating my womanness, my blackness, my transness from my me-ness"

**- JANET MOCK
WRITER AND TRANS ACTIVIST**

LAW ENFORCEMENT: SOME BASIC RIGHTS

Adapted from the American
Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

- **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT
to remain silent**

(including when asked about immigration or citizenship status with police, immigration agents or any other officials). If you wish to remain silent, say that out loud.

- **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT
to a lawyer** if you are arrested. Ask for one immediately.

- **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT
to refuse to consent to
a search** of yourself, car
or home.

- **Stay calm and polite.**

Do not interfere with or obstruct the police.

- **Do not lie or give false
documents.**

For additional basic rights regarding the police, visit the ACLU website at www.aclu-sc.org

Mental Health and Support Groups

BIENESTAR provides support and HIV risk reduction services for the transgender community, including support groups in Spanish. The Transgéneros Unidas (TU) program provides services to the Latina transgender community including support groups, education and intervention programs, educational forums and social events. For more information, call (323) 660-9680, or visit www.bienestar.org



TRANSGENDER SUPPORT AND EMPOWERMENT GROUPS

offer groups for trans women, trans men, and for individuals who identify at various points along the gender spectrum (e.g., transgender, gender-queer, gender-nonconforming). For more information, call (323) 860-5806, or visit www.lalgbtcenter.org/transgender_support_empowerment_group

TRANSITIONS is a weekly peer-led support and discussion group for HIV+ transgender individuals held at Being Alive on Saturdays from 10am–noon. Participants will also have the opportunity to learn about risk and harm reduction and trans-safety. For more information, call (323) 874-4322, email info@beingalivela.org or visit www.beingalivela.org

Shelter

ASCENCIA provides comprehensive services for adults who are homeless including street outreach, case management and shelter. For more information, call (818) 246-7900 or visit www.ascenciaca.org

WEST HOLLYWOOD HOMELESS INITIATIVE provides on-site outreach and services at the West Hollywood Library (625 N. San Vicente Blvd.) for people in the community who are homeless. Outreach is coordinated by representatives from direct service nonprofit organizations including APLA Health, Ascencia, LA LGBT Center, JFS/West Hollywood Comprehensive Services Center, Safe Refuge, Step Up on Second, and Tarzana Treatment Centers. For more information visit www.weho.org/homeless or call (323) 848-6590

“I am here because when I was young, I wanted very badly to be a writer, I wanted to be a filmmaker, but I couldn’t find anyone like me in the world and it felt like my dreams were foreclosed simply because my gender was less typical than others.

If I can be that person for someone else then the sacrifice of my private civic life may have value.”

**– LANA WACHOWSKI
DIRECTOR/SCREENWRITER PRODUCER**

Excerpted from her speech upon accepting the Human Rights Campaign’s Visibility Award.



Substance Use/ Abuse

FRIENDS COMMUNITY CENTER is located on the border of Hollywood and West Hollywood, which is the primary sex-work district for gay men and transgender women. Several service programs and research studies run out of Friends Community Center, including HIV and substance abuse prevention services to out-of-treatment substance users, as well as methamphetamine abuse treatment. For more information, call (323) 463-1601 or visit www.friendscommunitycenter.org

Friends programs include...

- **TransAction** is designed to reduce high-risk sexual and drug behaviors among moderate to

high-risk transgender women. Sign up hours are weekdays from 4:30–7:00pm at Friends Community Center located at 1419 N. La Brea Ave.

- **WeHo Streets** offers HIV/AIDS education to gay and bisexual men and transgender women through street outreach in the West Hollywood area.
- **Social Network HIV Counseling and Testing Program** aims to identify and test gay and bisexual men and transgender women in L.A. County who are at high risk of HIV acquisition and transmission and who are unaware of their HIV status via a social network methodology.

LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER offers a variety of crystal meth support groups for the LGBT



community facilitated by mental health professionals at locations in Hollywood and West Hollywood. Call (323) 993-7448, email healthservices@lalgbtcenter.org or visit www.lalgbtcenter.org/methrecovery

A SAFE REFUGE (formerly known as Substance Abuse Foundation of Long Beach), is a supportive and caring recovery community with a unique home-like environment. Treatment services include residential and outpatient care, supportive services and aftercare. For more information, call (888) 476-2743 or visit www.asaferefuge.org

TARZANA TREATMENT CENTER is a behavioral healthcare organization that provides high quality, cost-effective substance abuse and mental health treatment. Their programs include medical detox (alcohol and drug),

residential rehab, outpatient alcohol and drug treatment services. For more information, call (800) 996-1051 or visit www.tarzanatc.org

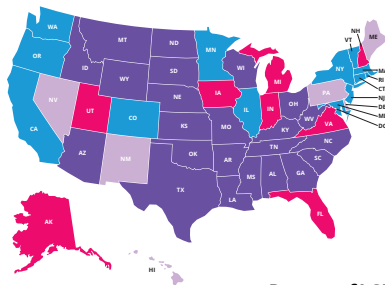
WEST HOLLYWOOD RECOVERY CENTER hosts 12-step recovery meetings on a daily basis at 626 N. Robertson Blvd. For a list of meetings, call (310) 360-4833 or visit www.thewhrc.org

Youth

THE CENTER FOR TRANSYOUTH HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT
See listing on page 5

YOUTH CENTER ON HIGHLAND, a program of the Los Angeles LGBT Center, is a drop-in center for LGBT youth that provides case management, support groups, meals, clothing, laundry, showers, computer access and an educational/GED preparation center. The Center is located at 1220 N. Highland Ave., and is open M-F (8:30am-5:30pm) and Sat-Sun (8:30am-4:30pm). For more information, call (323) 860-2280, email youthservices@lalgbtcenter.org or visit www.lalgbtcenter.org/social_services_and_housing/youth

MAPPING TRANSGENDER EQUALITY IN THE UNITED STATES



Percent of LGBT People
Living in States at each Policy Tally Level



MOVEMENT ADVANCEMENT PROJECT is an independent think tank that provides rigorous research, insight and analysis that help speed equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. Check out the site for "Mapping Transgender Equality in the United States". Go to www.lgbtmap.org/mapping-trans-equality for more information.



I AM, WE ARE is a social marketing campaign, developed by the West Hollywood HIV/Substance Use Prevention Providers, that features diverse groups of LGBT individuals and their allies who are making a positive difference in the community. The campaign targets the LGBT community and directs them to the weholife.org website in order to access resources for HIV prevention, substance use/abuse programming and other health and mental health related services. Twelve different images and tag lines have been created for the campaign over the past three years, including the image shown here.



“Our likeness is no longer invisible and our history must not be forgotten, our bodies transcend the limitations of sex and gender and our legacy will continue in the spirits of the youth.”

- EDÉN ANAÏ LUNA
Manager,
Transgender Economic
Empowerment Program
LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER