

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR LGBTQ2S FOSTER YOUTH

ABOUT THE QIC-LGBTQ2S

The National Quality Improvement Center (QIC) on Tailored Services, Placement Stability and Permanency for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S) Children and Youth in Foster Care, in collaboration with the Children’s Bureau (CB), invites eligible applicants who are limited to state governments, county governments, private agencies, and Native American tribal governments (federally recognized) that are responsible for administering the child welfare/foster care program throughout their jurisdiction, to apply to become a local implementation site. A designated state, county, private agency, or tribal government child welfare agency will lead the project as the primary applicant. For more information on the application process, see the [QIC-LGBTQ2S Application](#) and [FAQ documents](#).

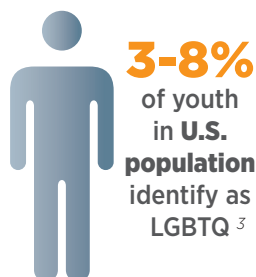
The QIC-LGBTQ2S will work to develop, integrate, and sustain best practices and programs that improve outcomes for children and youth in foster care with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities and expression (SOGIE). The QIC-LGBTQ2S is led by the Institute for Innovation & Implementation at the University of Maryland School of Social Work in Baltimore along with participating core partners: Human Service Collaborative, National Indian Child Welfare Association, Tufts University, and Youth M.O.V.E. National.



CURRENT LANDSCAPE

Children and youth with diverse SOGIE have been found to be at greater risk for physical and emotional abuse, drug use, suicide attempts, mental health concerns, homelessness, interpersonal and/or community violence, bullying, harassment, academic challenges, increased school sanctions, and various forms of discrimination than their heterosexual peers.

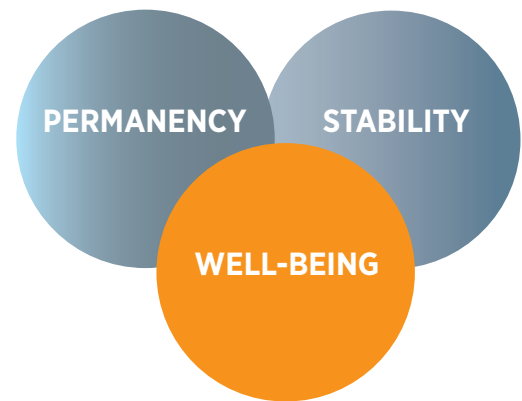
Common misperceptions among the child welfare workforce about children and youth with diverse SOGIE may contribute to a lack of culturally responsive supports and services. For more information, see the [QIC-LGBTQ2S Literature Review](#).



OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE THE FIELD

Children and youth with diverse SOGIE face a myriad of physical, emotional, academic, social, and financial challenges. Children and youth with diverse SOGIE are disproportionately more likely than their heterosexual and cisgender peers to experience greater health challenges, enter into the child welfare system, have more placements in both foster homes and group homes, experience homelessness, and lower rates of reunification with their families of origin.

The QIC-LGBTQ2S is working to improve



WORKING WITH QIC-LGBTQ2S

AIMS

The QIC-LGBTQ2S will identify and fund four to six local implementation sites (LIS). LIS will identify, select, adapt, implement, and evaluate evidence-based, evidence-informed, and/or promising programs and interventions that address the unique needs of children and youth with diverse SOGIE in foster care. Services, supports, and interventions provided will be comprehensive, culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and aimed at enhancing individualized services for children and youth with diverse SOGIE in foster care, the skills and abilities of caregivers of children and youth with diverse SOGIE (foster, kinship, and families of origin), the child welfare workforce, contracted providers, and/or system partners. At least one of the LIS identified interventions will be a direct practice intervention for clients aimed at addressing the needs of children, youth, and/or caregivers and which can be measured at the child/caregiver-specific level. LIS will work in partnership with the QIC-LGBTQ2S and CB throughout the entire project and will be required to participate in a mutually binding contractual relationship.

Each LIS, in partnership with the QIC-LGBTQ2S and the CB, will strive to improve placement stability, well-being, and permanency of children and youth with diverse SOGIE in foster care by:

- creating safe and welcoming environments for children and youth with diverse SOGIE to self-identify;
- enhancing assessment methods and processes that are strength-based, culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and that safeguard confidentiality (including data collection);
- providing culturally responsive, individualized, accessible, and tailored evidence-based or evidence-informed services to meet the specific needs of the children and youth with diverse SOGIE in foster care;
- establishing and implementing permanency innovations for those not reunified with families of origin;
- and, increasing knowledge, skills, and competence of and responsivity by the child welfare workforce, providers, and caregivers (foster and non-foster families and providers in congregate care settings) of children and youth with diverse SOGIE.



LEARNING COLLABORATIVE MODEL

LIS will participate in a national learning collaborative tailored for advancing quality services and supports for youth with diverse SOGIE in foster care. Each LIS will select an implementation team of four to five participants who represent key roles and functions necessary to advance identified intervention(s) and supports successfully.

These individuals may include: executive leaders with decision-making ability; child welfare staff who provide services and supports; providers; clinical staff; agency or system level quality assurance staff or evaluators; youth and young adult leaders who are currently involved or

recent alumni of the foster care system (who can speak to success and challenges in accessing tailored services for children and youth with a diverse SOGIE); parents, caregivers, and other supportive adults or system partners.

Each LIS implementation team will participate in virtual cross-team learning and sharing events monthly and is expected to attend six in-person learning sessions over the course of the five-year collaborative. The QIC-LGBTQ2S will cover the travel costs associated with these meetings and provide technical assistance, drawing from a broad and diverse consultant pool.

EVALUATION

The QIC-LGBTQ2S will conduct an in-depth evaluation in collaboration with each LIS. The evaluation will include site-specific and cross-site process and outcome evaluation activities, with a tailoring to cultural and community factors as appropriate.

The QIC-LGBTQ2S evaluation team will serve as the centralized, coordinating entity for the evaluation of each LIS and will provide expertise in implementation, evaluation, and child welfare research. The QIC-LGBTQ2S evaluation team will work with each LIS to implement the

most rigorous and feasible evaluation plan.

The QIC-LGBTQ2S team will collaborate with each LIS to support implementation and evaluation of evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising practices, programs, and interventions to help build evidence of effective practices for children and youth with diverse SOGIE, caregivers of children and youth with diverse SOGIE, the child welfare workforce, and providers and/or system partners. The LIS will be required to identify a local data manager to support the evaluation process.

1. Human Rights Watch (2001). *Hatred in the Hallways: Violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students in U.S. schools*. New York: Human Rights Watch
2. Massachusetts Department of Education. (2006). 2005 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey results. Retrieved from <http://www.doe.mass.edu/cnp/hprograms/yrbs/05/default.html>.
3. Wilson, B., Cooper, K., Kastanis, A., Nezhad, S. (2014). *Sexual and Gender Minority Youth in Foster care: Assessing Disproportionality and Disparities in Los Angeles*. The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law





SUPPORT AND FUNDING

The QIC-LGBTQ2S will provide technical assistance (TA) to LIS by internal experts through our partner organizations and our consulting pool comprising national experts, which include those with experience working with culturally diverse communities (e.g., the National Indian Child Welfare Association will provide TA to American Indian/Alaska Native LIS). Throughout the process, the QIC-LGBTQ2S will work with LIS to assess TA needs and will ensure provision of TA that will include virtual and onsite TA, as well as TA through the in-person Learning Sessions.

Upon execution of a mutually binding contractual agreement between the LIS and the University of

Maryland, Baltimore, the QIC-LGBTQ2S will provide funding to accepted LIS to support the implementation of proposed interventions. This funding amount will vary depending on the number of LIS selected. The sites will receive allocated funding by September 2017, December 2017, December 2018, December 2019, and December 2020. Annual QIC-LGBTQ2S funding to LIS could range from \$100,000 to \$300,000 depending on the number of approved project sites and their identified funding needs. Primary applicants are encouraged to contract with private agency contributors as strategic partners to add additional expertise where child welfare services are provided in such partnerships. However, the inclusion of independent sub-awardees is prohibited.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact the National Quality Improvement Center on Tailored Services, Placement Stability, and Permanency for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Two-Spirit Children and Youth in Foster Care at qiclgbtq@ssw.umaryland.edu or visit the website at www.qiclgbtq2s.org.



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