# **How to create a community resource guide for Trans**

# **and Gender diverse communities**

What is a community resource guide? Community resource guides are a group of services and or assisted programs, social support programs that are provided to the members of a community. Each resource is made available to community members to help them become self-reliant, maintain their human rights and wellbeing. It is updated regularly to reflect a wide range of current resources.

**Community Resource Areas**

Women of trans experience living with HIV may have a variety of needs that go beyond the services one organization can realistically provide.  Therefore, it’s extremely important that programs put together a comprehensive and robust referral list to provide key services for the participants in your program. Resources that address social determinants of health experienced by women of trans experience. To maintain the fidelity of resources, it is critical that each organization and or providers contact every referral agency to ensure that, if you refer clients to them, they have trans-competent services and that the community will feel welcome and safe at their agency. See the proceeding section for tips on vetting community resource referrals.

The purpose of this community resource guide is to highlight local, regional and state transgender community services that are specific to affirming care, HIV care and prevention needs.

1. Identify community and state resources.
   * Compile a list that includes what resources and services they provide, their physical locations and their contact numbers.
2. Identify the key groups within the trans community who can be considered as a resource.
   * Engage your local community to help identify and involve key leaders in the trans community.
3. Specific resources should reflect the needs of trans people, with the idea that in obtaining resources, trans people will also receive information about affirming services, HIV care and prevention services.
   * For example, a resource may provide pro-bono law services or have an understanding of specific issue that the women of trans experience may face in getting their name and or gender mark changed, their driver’s license updated or simply finding support.
4. Check the following for resources that have non-discriminatory policies and preferably are trans specific:

i. **State or city institutions**

* Department of public health
* Universities or local schools
* Local hospitals or health clinics
* Medical facilities
* Law enforcement agencies

ii. **Community-based organizations**

* Victim services for trans people
* Advocacy groups for trans people
* Food kitchens and distribution centers
* Housing organizations
* Mental health services
* Emergency housing shelters, halfway houses, substance abuse homes
* Legal services for trans people

iii. **Private sector**

* Local businesses who are supporters of the trans community

1. Make sure the resource list is current and updated.
   * Add new resources as you and your organization become aware of them. Delete the ones that have become obsolete.
2. Include resources in other life areas addressing social determinants of health
   * **Medical Services**
     + HIV care
     + Gender affirming care
     + Education on hormones and ART
     + Silicone-related health issues
     + Reproductive health
   * **Social Services to Address**
     + Coping with HIV stigma
     + Coping with transphobia
     + Building social support
   * **Mental Health**
     + Trauma-informed care
   * **Substance Abuse**
   * **Housing**
   * **Safety/domestic abuse**
   * **Reentry Services**
   * **Legal Services** 
     + Immigration
     + Victimization
     + Criminal law
     + Legal education
     + Discrimination (HIV-related, employment, housing, public accommodations)

* **Low Income Services**

## SSI

* General assistance

**Tips for vetting community resource referrals**

The availability of community resources for women of trans experience can vary depending on the local, state and regional differences. Community resources are more readily available in urban areas where trans people are known to live and thrive. Local and state laws and protections of the rights of trans people including HIV criminalization laws may also impact the availability of community resources available to women of trans experience. It is critical that providers be aware of local and state laws affecting women of trans experience and spend time vetting community resource referrals by, directly contacting community resources and asking questions that assesses their capacity to serve transgender people.

Below are some questions that may be asked when contacting a community resource referral:

1. How has your agency made its public spaces (waiting rooms, lobbies) welcoming and inclusive for transgender people (e.g., any trans-inclusive images on display)?
2. What kind of training has your agency’s staff received to ensure that transgender people are treated in a respectful manner?
3. What protocols does your agency have to ensure that transgender people are not mis-gendered (e.g., correct pronouns are used; what to do if gender on legal ID doesn’t match their current gender identity)?
4. About how many trans staff does your organization have?
5. What kinds of trans-specific services or programs does your agency have?
6. In general, how comfortable are your agency’s staff working with transgender people?

etc.