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
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Councilmember Lindsey P. Horvath
Councilmember Lauren Meister

WEST HOLLYWOOD TRANSGENDER ADVISORY BOARD
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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

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Photos by Rakeem Cunningham
Design by Cynthia Tan
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](http://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.gila.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
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

"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*
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 aplaclass, 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 events, etc. For more information visit [www.aplahealth.org](http://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](http://www.apaitonline.org)

“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

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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](http://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](http://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](http://www.wellchild.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...

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

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

“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](http://www.aclu-sc.org)

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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](http://www.bienestar.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.

– 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
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
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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Tally</th>
<th>States</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Policy Tally</td>
<td>12 states + D.C.</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Policy Tally</td>
<td>7 states</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Policy Tally</td>
<td>8 states</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Policy Tally</td>
<td>23 states</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“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.”

– EDEN ANAÏ LUNA
Manager, Transgender Economic Empowerment Program
LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER