In Spring 2018, the Movement Advancement Project and CenterLink surveyed LGBT community centers around the country about their programs, capacity, and challenges. LGBT community centers are community-based organizations that provide programming and services by and for LGBT people. The bottom line: LGBT community centers are on the forefront, serving more than 40,000 LGBT people each week, and advocating for change in their communities.
93% of all centers engage in public education and advocacy to influence public policy of these centers:

- 31% Engage at the federal level
- 67% Engage at the state level
- 78% Engage at the local level
- 91% Participate in city or regional coalitions or working groups (e.g., homelessness task force).

(Note that some centers may engage at more than one level)

Most frequent activities for centers:

- 88% Educate the general public about LGBT issues
- 69% Participate in coalitions or collaborations with the goal of changing public policy
- 52% Voter registration
- 41% Provide trainings to policymakers
- 29% Center Staff, board, or volunteers directly lobby lawmakers
- 28% Placing op-eds
- 27% Organize lobby days
- 26% Mobilize center patrons to lobby lawmakers
- 25% Host or cosponsor candidate forums
- 24% Get out the vote drives
- 23% Online action program to connect patrons with lawmakers

Least frequent activities for centers:

- 18% Participate in city or regional coalitions or working groups (e.g., homelessness task force).

Top issues on which centers engage:

Participating centers listed 225 issues and policies that are key priorities for advocacy.

- 18% Trans Laws & Policies
- 15% LGBT Nondiscrimination Laws
- 10% LGBT Youth in Schools
- 8% LGBT Health and Healthcare
- 4% Hate Crimes & Violence
- 4% HIV/AIDS

Other Topics Including:
- LGBT Youth Homelessness
- Homelessness Generally
- LGBT Older Adults
- Funding
- Conversion Therapy
- Policing
- Immigration
BARRIERS TO ENGAGE IN ADVOCACY

- 501(c)(3) status: 41%
- Lack of staff or staff capacity: 41%
- Lack of time: 22%
- Lack of funding: 17%
- Board prohibits us from participating: 6%
- Other (see below): 6%

CONNECTING WITH CENTER ACTION NETWORK

EDUCATING  MOBILIZING  ADVOCATING

- Center Leaders
- Board Members
- Donors
- Volunteers
- Constituents
- Partners
- General Public
- Federal Agencies

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

LEARN MORE AT  WWW.LGBTACTIONLINK.ORG

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LGBT COMMUNITY CENTERS: A COLLECTIVE, EFFECTIVE, AND POWERFUL FORCE FOR CHANGE