# Safe and Supported

# Sub-Committee Structure and Overview

## Background

Safe and Supported submitted its community plan to prevent and end LGBTQ youth homelessness to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in September 2014. The plan focuses on 8 goals to end LGBTQ youth homelessness.

1. Facilitate greater community awareness of issues contributing to LGBTQ youth homelessness.
2. Facilitate greater local collaboration.
3. Improve data quality.
4. Use risk and protective factors for screening and assessment.
5. Improve the quality of interventions.
6. Support positive outcomes for LGBTQ youth in the areas of well-being; permanent connections; stable housing and education/employment.
7. Obtain new funding and in-kind resources.
8. Evaluate the initiative.

Safe and Supported leadership is currently provided by Lighthouse Youth Services as the lead agency along with lead partner agencies HRC of Greater Cincinnati, GLSEN Cincinnati and Strategies to End Homelessness. We hope to hire a dedicated Project Director as funding permits. Steering Committee members represent cross-system youth-serving agencies and community stakeholders.

## Call to Action—Join a Sub-Committee

Safe and Supported will achieve its 8 goals using a sub-committee structure with assigned activities to be conducted by its members. The 6 sub-committees are:

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| **Sub-Committee Name** | **Description** |
| Finance  | Obtain new funding and in-kind resources to support plan implementation. |
| Resource Sharing and Awareness Building  | Improve access to resources to for LGBTQ youth and providers, Increase awareness of LGBTQ youth homelessness and the Initiative’s efforts to implement solutions. |
| Cultural Competency and Training  | Expand policies within organizations and provide trainings to agency staff and other community members to better support LGBTQ youth. |
| Housing  | Increase the number of LGBTQ-affirming housing options for youth, including shelters, foster families and host homes. |
| School and Community Spaces  | Improve the social and emotional well-being of LGBTQ youth in schools, youth centers and workplaces. |
| Data and Evaluation  | Improve the quality of data collection around sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and support evaluation of initiative strategies. |

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. Who is eligible for membership?

Community members, service providers and youth who are committed to preventing and ending LGBTQ youth homeless are encouraged to join our efforts. Safe and Supported is also dedicated to encouraging youth participation and will provide a monetary stipend for their time and travel.

## 2. What membership opportunities are available for sub-committees?

Sub-committees are currently recruiting. Please contact the following Chairs for the sub-committee you are interested in to learn more. For general questions contact Meredith Hicks (mhicks@lys.org)

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| **Sub-Committee Name** | **Contact**  |
| Finance  | Meredith Hicks (mhicks@lys.org) |
| Resource Sharing and Awareness Building  | Meredith Hicks (mhicks@lys.org) |
| Cultural Competency and Training  | Lora Wolfe (wolfel01@jfs.hamilton-co.org) |
| Housing  | Linda Seiter (lseiter@caracole.org)Geoffrey Hollenbach (ghollenbach@lys.org) |
| School and Community Spaces  | Kathy Laufman (kathylaufman@att.net) |
| Data and Evaluation  | Christa Curfiss (ccurfiss@partnershipcenter.net) |

## 3. What are the expectations of sub-committee members?

Sub-committee members will be expected to attend monthly in-person meetings. Members will be expected to discuss critical elements, provide feedback and guidance towards goals, and have active involvement in carrying out activities determined by the group.

## 4. What level of time commitment is required for membership?

The frequency that each sub-committee meets is determined by that particular group. However, members should expect to meet at least once a month in-person, with additional meetings as necessary.

Members should also expect a level of work to be done in-between meetings, including in-person work and collaborative work over e-mail and phone.

### 5. I am not able to make a regular commitment. What can I do?

We encourage this discussion with the Chair of the sub-committee you are interested in. You may have expertise that could be useful to a sub-committee at a specific point during implementation and you could be a short-term resource. At times Safe and Supported may need volunteers for a one-time activity (i.e. Set up for an event, handing out flyers, etc.) that will require logistical help. You could be added to the volunteer list and contacted as opportunities arise.

### 6. What kind of impact will I make?

Safe and Supported will prevent and end LGBTQ youth homelessness but it will take a community-wide effort to implement the strategies and activities outlined in its plan. A structure is in place but we need your help.

**If you have additional questions, please contact Meredith Hicks (mhicks@lys.org)**