



THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

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HRSA AWARDS THE FENWAY INSTITUTE GRANT TO TRAIN U.S. COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS TO BETTER CARE FOR LGBT PATIENTS

The United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has awarded The Fenway Institute a grant to create a national LGBT health technical assistance and training center for community health centers. The multi-year, almost \$900,000 grant will allow Fenway to train health center providers, administrators and staff in how to better serve and care for LGBT patients.

Harvey Makadon, MD, The Fenway Institute's Director of Professional Education and Development, will oversee the program which will work with Fenway-affiliated faculty from across the country to:

- Lead seminars and webinars;
- Consult with clinicians and administrators;
- Develop print and online materials;
- Develop individually tailored curricula addressing things like fiscal and program management, operational and administrative support, and program development and analysis.

Trainings and consultations will be available to community health centers, but Fenway will also work with states' primary care associations to ensure that all geographic locations are offered on-site training to maximize the project's scope and reach. The HRSA grant represents the latest addition to Fenway's training and technical assistance program for healthcare professionals that includes publication with the American College of Physicians of [The Fenway Guide to LGBT Health](#) textbook and conducting grand rounds on LGBT health at teaching hospitals in conjunction with the American Medical Association.

"Many LGBT people use community health centers for their care, but staff often lack training in how to work with them," said Makadon. "One important thing we hope to do is help providers to talk in an open and non-judgmental way so that patients feel comfortable enough to discuss personal information that providers need to know about in order to deliver comprehensive, quality care. Another important part of this process will be helping health center administrative staff to create environments that are welcoming and respectful of LGBT patients."

"Community health centers are charged with caring for all of the diverse people that live and work in their neighborhoods," said Kathy McNamara, Assistant Director of Clinical Affairs, National Association of Community Health Centers. "This program is a tremendous opportunity to increase the capacity of health centers across the country to better serve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender patients."

"One of the most medically underserved populations in the United States, transgender people do not access care as often as they should because of real and/or perceived discrimination in the health care system. This program has the potential to greatly impact the health and well-being of transgender people by increasing access to local, friendly, high-quality care," said JoAnne Keatley, MSW, Director of the Center of Excellence for Transgender Health at UCSF.

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As noted in the recent Institute of Medicine report [*The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding*](#), not only do lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people each represent groups with distinct health care needs, but they also have many overlapping needs with other traditionally disadvantaged population groups. Research on sexual and gender minorities has found significant economic, health and health care disparities indicating that LGBT people as a whole would benefit from expanded access to community health centers. Changes under national health care reform will allow health centers to reach more LGBT people as well as other disadvantaged population groups, making this an opportune time to enhance their capacity to provide high quality care for L, G, B, and T people.

For nearly forty years, [**Fenway Health**](#) has been working to make life healthier for the people in our neighborhood, the LGBT community, people living with HIV/AIDS and the broader population. [**The Fenway Institute**](#) at Fenway Health is an interdisciplinary center for research, training, education and policy development focusing on national and international health issues.