



LGBTQIA+ Youth Resources in WNY

2023

## **PSA for those accessing this document**

**211 WNY** is your free and confidential link to health and human services. Every day, across Western New York, people just like you are looking for help. 211 WNY is here 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**The Homeless Alliance of Western New York** is the lead agency for both the Continuum of Care (CoC) and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) in Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Wyoming and Orleans Counties. Please contact us if you are seeking information about homelessness in the five-county area. [If you are homeless and seeking help, please click this link.](#)

For more information regarding LGBTQ+ topics or additional services, visit **The Trevor Project** website at <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>. They provide information & support to LGBTQ young people 24/7, all year round.

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# Homeless Alliance of WNY Partner Agencies

## Erie County Homeless Services

### Youth Services

Youth and Young Adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness fall between the ages of 15-24, with school age children 14 and under. A YYA needs to be 24 or under to qualify for any youth services.

### Shelter

- BestSelf Safe Space Drop In Center  
Open 11 PM-7 AM  
430 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14201  
P. 716-853-1335
- Compass House-Youth Emergency Shelter  
370 Linwood Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14209  
P. 716-886-0935
- Department of Social Services,  
Erie County  
158 Pearl Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716-858-8000

### Support Services

- Compass House Resource Center  
1451 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14201  
P. 716-886-1351
- BestSelf Behavioral Health  
1050 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14213  
716-856-2587

### Youth Hotlines

- Buffalo 24/7 Youth Helpline 716-834-1144
- Crisis Text-line: Text "GO" to 741741
- Western New York 211: Call 211

### Homeless Outreach

- BestSelf Street Outreach, P. 716-818-7222
- NFTA Bus Station at 181 Ellicott St, Buffalo. M, W, Th 1-2 pm, Tu 7 pm, F 6 am
- Matt Urban Street Outreach, P. 716-893-7222 ext. 305  
Serving General Homeless Population

## Domestic Violence Services

- Cornerstone Manor (Single Women and Families) at 150 E. North Street. P. 716-854-8181 x100
- Hope House (Women, Children/Families). P. 716-893-7222 ext. 401
- Haven House (Women and their Children shelter) undisclosed location  
24-Hour Hotline  
716-884-6000
- Crisis Services Hotline 716-834-3131
- Hispanos Unidos de Buffalo: 716-856-7110

## Coordinated Entry

### By Phone

- Restoration Society Coordinated Entry Line: 716-842-4184 ext 131.

### Hubs:

- Harbor House Resource Center at 241 Genesee St, Buffalo
- Buffalo Central Library at 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo

### Partner Shelters:

- Buffalo City Mission (Adult Men) at 100 E. Tupper, Buffalo. P. 716-854-8181

### Community Partners:

- Friends of the Night People at 394 Hudson St, Buffalo. P. 716-884-5375
- Matt Urban Center at 1081 Broadway, Buffalo. P. 716-893-7222
- Little Portion Friary at 1305 Main St, Buffalo. P. 716-882-5705 (Adult Males/Females)

### Other Services

- Peaceprints of WNY (Reentry)  
660 Smith Street  
Buffalo, NY 14210  
716-856-6131
- GLYS Western New York, Inc. (LGBTQ+)  
750 Wehrle Drive  
Buffalo, NY 14225  
716-855-0221
- Buffalo SNUG  
1461 Kensington Avenue  
Buffalo, NY  
716-961-6947

## Niagara County Homeless Services:

### Youth Services

#### Shelter

- Casey House Youth Shelter: 716-285-7125  
(12-17 Year Olds)
- Community Missions Falls Street Station  
Emergency Shelter (18-24)  
1570 Buffalo Ave, Niagara Falls, NY 14303  
716-285-3403
- Niagara County DSS Emergency Shelter  
(18-24)  
301 10th Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14302  
716-285-3515

#### Support Services

- Youth Resource Hub (18-24)  
Community Missions  
1622 Falls Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14303  
716-285-3403
- Family Engagement Team (12-24)  
Pinnacle Community Services  
1552 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14305  
716-285-6984

#### Youth Hotlines

- Pinnacle Community Services
- 24/7 Youth Runaway Hotline 716-285-7125

#### Other Services

- Office of Children and Family Services(OCFS)  
Statewide Number  
1-800-342-3720
- SNUG Niagara Falls  
1702 Pine Avenue  
Niagara Falls, NY 14301  
716-205-8803
- Peaceprints of WNY (Reentry)  
660 Smith Street  
Buffalo, NY 14210  
716-856-6131
- GLYS Western New York, Inc. (LGBTQ+)  
750 Wehrle Drive  
Buffalo, NY 14225  
716-855-0221

### Domestic Violence Services

Clients are required to call providers directly.

- Passage House: 716-299-0909  
(Victims of Domestic Violence/Children)
- Safe Dwelling YWCA of Niagara:  
716-433-6716 (call or text)  
(Female Victims of Domestic  
Violence/Children)

#### DV Hotlines:

- Crisis Services of Niagara County  
716-285-3515
- National Domestic Violence Hotline (24/7)  
800-799-7233
- New York State DV Hotline 1-800-942-6906  
New York State Chat/Text hotline: Text at  
844-997-2121

#### Coordinated Entry

- Heart Love & Soul  
(CE Lead)- 716-282-5687
- Community Missions emergency shelter  
(for shelter residents, only).
- Save The Michaels Of The World: 81 Walnut  
St. Lockport, NY 14094 716-984-8375

# Evergreen Health

## Transgender Youth Program

The Pride Center's new Transgender Youth Program offers the following services:

- Drop-in services and activities in a safe space to socialize and get connected
- Groups for transgender, nonbinary, gender non-conforming, gender expansive, and questioning youth
- Groups for parents and caregivers of transgender, nonbinary, gender non-conforming, gender expansive, and questioning youth
- One-on-one and family support
- Linkage and referrals to affirming medical, mental health, legal, and other services and care

[Sign up here](#) or check their [calendar](#) for dates, times, and more information.

## Safer Schools

The Safer Schools project is here to help create safer learning environments for all youth throughout Western New York. We offer resource development, capacity building, and school stakeholder outreach to support LGBTQ-affirming school practice. Through [training and education](#), they're able to mobilize and support student leaders, educators, and other school professionals. The Pride Center is:

- Supporting the availability and success of GSAs in the majority of schools
- Increasing educator support to LGBTQ+ youth so that all LGBTQ+ students have a network of adult support at school
- Increasing LGBTQ-affirming curricula
- Promoting educational leadership opportunities for LGBTQ+ students

## Sexual Health Services

These services are reflective of the Pride Center's commitment to providing accessible, youth-focused reproductive justice options to young LGBTQ+ people in the Western New York region:

- Condom distribution
- STI screenings
- HIV testing
- PrEP and PEP referrals

## ONLINE SUPPORT

[Q Chat Space](#) provides online discussion groups for LGBTQ+ teens ages 13 to 19. It is not a forum. It is live and chat based; there is no video or audio. Everyone is chatting during the same pre-scheduled time. Conversations are facilitated by experienced staff who work at LGBTQ+ centers around the country. Q Chat Space facilitators are NOT mental health professionals.

If you are in crisis or need help immediately, please use the resources available [here](#).

# GLYS of WNY, Inc.

## Youth Gender Affirmation Program

The Youth Gender Affirmation Program, or YGAP, helps guide youth and families through gender exploration and affirmation. We are committed to youth and family-centered care by engaging and allowing youth and their caretakers to make all the decisions in each step of their journey.

Services include:

- Social Work Services
- Mental Health Assessment
- Support Groups for Youth and Family
- Referrals for:
  - Hormone Blockers
  - Hormone Therapy
  - Gender Affirming Surgery (Currently ages +18 and up)

## Volunteer

GLYS of WNY may have opportunities for individuals with diverse experiences and backgrounds to lend their time and knowledge to our mission.

If you are interested in volunteering please let them know in what capacity -- volunteering can be geared towards your areas of interest and experiences. While they may not always be in need of volunteers, they frequently have visitors to our Drop-In Center who talk with youth about their profession, hobbies, life experiences, and intersecting identities.

Glys provides a basic background check for all volunteers and a more thorough one for regular volunteers. All volunteers must meet with them before they are approved.

Complete this form to let them know you're interested!

- <https://forms.monday.com/forms/d346d48ea998d4faeece778e62f8a018?r=use1>

Resources for LGBTQ+ Youth & Students (click on the names for links to the website)

## Local Resources:

- GLYS Western New York
- Pride Center of WNY
- Evergreen Health
- MOCHA
- Planned Parenthood
- NACS
- Compass House
- Crisis and Restabilization Emergency Services (C.A.R.E.S)

## National Resources:

- The Trevor Project

- Trans Lifeline
- Online Therapy
- Ultimate Guide to Resources for LGBTQ+ Students
- LGBTQIA+ Friendly Drug Rehab Facilities Near Me
- 44 Self-Esteem Resources for Nonbinary Adolescents and Teens
- Adults and Teen Mental Health: How to Help Yourself and Your Friends

## Buffalo and Erie County Public Library

### Websites:

#### [ACLU - LGBTQ Rights](#)

Works to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people can live openly without discrimination and enjoy equal rights, personal autonomy, and freedom of expression and association

#### [Find a Health Provider](#) GLMA

Looking for a healthcare professional you can trust? GLMA's online Provider Directory can help. The service is free and you do not need to register.

#### [The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation \(GLAAD\)](#)

GLAAD works with print, broadcast and online news sources to bring people powerful stories from the LGBT community that build support for equality.

#### [Gender Identity Development in Children](#) HealthyChildren.Org

Article discusses how parents can promote healthy gender development in children.

#### [Huffington Post - LGBT History](#)

The online news source also contains sections for LGBT Wellness, Gay Voices News, and more.

#### [Human Rights Watch - LGBT Rights](#)

Human Rights Watch works for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people's rights, with activists representing a multiplicity of identities and issues.

#### [It Gets Better Project](#)

The It Gets Better Project's mission is to communicate to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth around the world that it gets better, and to create and inspire the changes needed to make it better for them

#### [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health](#)

Health topics presented by the CDC. This link is not a substitute for medical advice. Please consult your personal healthcare provider.

#### [LGBT New York Wedding Guide](#)

LGBT-friendly wedding venues, planners, ceremony officiants, photographers and honeymoon destinations.

#### [LGBTQ Nation](#)

Online news magazine, reporting on issues relevant to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer community.

#### [National Center for Transgender Equality](#)

The Center's mission advocates to change policies and society to increase understanding and acceptance of transgender people.



### [National LGBTQ Task Force](#)

The country's oldest national LGBTQ advocacy group. Advances full freedom, justice and equality for LGBTQ people.

### [Rainbow Book List](#)

Annual bibliography of quality books with significant and authentic GLBTQ content, which are recommended for ages birth - 18 from the American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table.

### [Straight for Equality](#)- a project of PFLAG national

Provides information and resources that will help straight allies understand their role in supporting and advocating for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

### [The Trevor Project](#)

National organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people ages 13-24.

### [YA Pride](#)

Website and blog dedicated to everything LGBTQIA+ Young Adult literature, containing author interviews and reviews. There is also a Queer YA Masterlist divided into six sections: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Asexual/Aromantic.

## **Community and Local Links:**

### [Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus](#)

Dedicated to producing vocal music of high quality in the rich tradition of men's choral singing.

### [Buffalo Pride Festival](#)

The week of celebration included a Flag Raising Ceremony, Gay 5K, Chroma (an art opening hosted in memory of longtime LGBT supporter Jim Rolls), the Dyke March, Allen Street Festival, Pride Parade, and Pride Festival at Canalside.

### [Buffalo United Artists](#)

BUA is committed to uniting the finest performers in the city to bring you a provocative array of plays.

### [embraceWNY](#)

Dedicated to equality and fairness within Western New York and seeks to raise awareness, understanding and acceptance of the LGBT community amongst all citizens.

### [Evergreen Health](#)

Fosters healthy communities by providing medical, supportive and behavioral services to individuals and families in Western New York — especially those who are living with chronic illness or who are underserved by the healthcare system. They also specialize in LGBT health concerns, including: medical care, counseling, educational/social groups and more.

### [Gay & Lesbian Youth Services of Western New York](#)

GLYS offers a variety of opportunities & services for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender & questioning youth and their friends, ages 14-21.

### [MOCHA Center](#)

The Center's mission is to improve the health and wellness of LGBT Communities of Color.

### [Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays of Buffalo \(PFLAG\)](#)

PFLAG's mission is to promote the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered people, their families, and friends through support, education and advocacy.

### [Pride Center of Western New York](#)

The mission of the Pride Center is to work with the community to make Western New York a safe, healthy, and satisfying place for LGBTQ people to live, work, and establish their families. This is a comprehensive site providing access to various services.

### [Silver Pride Project](#)

The Silver Pride Project, led by the Pride Center of WNY, provides a range of services and activities for LGBT people over 50.

### [Spectrum - Transgender Group of WNY](#)

Provides support, information, education, and advocacy for transitioning transsexuals and questioning transgender individuals. Friends, families, and allies are welcome. Monthly meetings are held on the second Friday of every month at 7 p.m.

### [Visit Buffalo Niagara](#)

Buffalo's warmth, friendliness, commitment to history, dedication to art and culture and fighting underdog spirit make it a great city for LGBT visitors.

## **Library Materials**

Click on the following topics for a quick search in the Library's Catalog.

- Bisexual Fiction
- Bisexuality
- Gay Fiction
- Gay Liberation Movement
- Gender Identity
- Lesbian Fiction
- LGBT General Nonfiction
- Marriage
- Rights
- Transgender Fiction
- Transgenderism
- Weddings