



DVLF TOY 2025 GRANTEEES

Philadelphia Black Pride: phillyblackpride.org | IG: [@phillyblkpride](https://www.instagram.com/phillyblkpride)

Philadelphia Black Pride (d.b.a. Philadelphia Black Gay Pride, or PBGP) was founded by the COLOURS Organization, the only LGBTQ health services provider in Philadelphia specifically focused on serving people of color. Launched in August 1999, COLOURS created the Philly Black Pride and Penn Relays festival, which quickly became a major cultural event. The partnership continued until PBGP obtained its own 501(c)(3) status in April 2004, allowing the organization to expand beyond the festival and offer year-round support for LGBTQ people of color in the Philadelphia area.

PBGP has been a member of the Center for Black Equity (formerly the Federation of Black Prides) since its inception. In November 2013, it formally became one of the Center for Black Equity's key programs, strengthening access to resources, support, and visibility for both its annual Penn Relays festival and its ongoing community programming.

Today, Philadelphia Black Pride remains a vital force for the cultural, social, and health needs of LGBTQ people of color, advancing engagement, empowerment, and visibility through its year-round programs and events.

Education Law Center: www.elc-pa.org | IG: [@edlawcenterpa](https://www.instagram.com/edlawcenterpa)

Through ELC-PA's Inclusive Schools and Honest Education Initiative, the organization continues to respond to harmful anti-LGBTQ+ policies affecting public school students across Greater Philadelphia, including book bans targeting LGBTQ+ characters, restrictions on transgender students' restroom access, and policies preventing students from using their identified names and pronouns. The initiative focuses on providing legal support and advocacy in school districts that have proposed, passed, or are considering policies that negatively impact LGBTQ+ students. The ongoing goal is to ensure that schools create affirming environments that support students' well-being and academic success.

A key component of this work is the Education Helpline, the state's only free legal service dedicated solely to helping students access a quality public education. Through the helpline, families, child-serving professionals, and community members receive legal advice, consultation, referrals, and direct representation. ELC-PA also strengthens the capacity of parents, students, and community stakeholders by offering training, information-sharing, and awareness campaigns that help communities resist discriminatory practices and defend students' rights.

The organization opposes anti-equity policies through direct advocacy and administrative complaints, advancing local and state reforms that prioritize the needs of LGBTQ+ youth. Attorneys at ELC-PA conduct ongoing legal and policy research and develop fact sheets and policy statements that bring clarity to emerging issues. The organization also monitors and publicly highlights the rapid deterioration of education rights across the region.

In 2025, ELC-PA is responding to a significant increase in requests from schools and families concerned about executive actions and discriminatory policies that undermine inclusive, affirming learning environments. Prior to the political shift of early 2025, the organization had already tracked 55 anti-LGBTQ+ initiatives in Pennsylvania school districts, including 15 involving book bans or curriculum changes, four censoring classroom discussion, and 30 targeting the rights of gay, transgender, and nonbinary students.

Parents of LGBTQ+ students are increasingly fearful for their children's safety as this small population becomes more heavily politicized. School leaders with affirming policies worry about the threat of weaponized federal investigations, while others feel emboldened to introduce or maintain discriminatory measures. Some districts are reacting to misunderstandings about the scope of executive orders, and many education agencies remain unsettled as terms such as "culturally responsive education," "socioemotional learning," and "dignity" are flagged by the federal government amid efforts to roll back civil rights protections and the institutions committed to upholding them.

Eastern PA Trans Equity Project: www.patransequity.org | IG: [@patransequity](https://www.instagram.com/patransequity)

Eastern PA Trans Equity Project (EPTEP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to empowering transgender and gender-diverse Pennsylvanians throughout Eastern Pennsylvania, including the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas. EPTEP provides a range of programs and services designed to help transgender people not just survive, but thrive, including legal name change assistance, financial support, mentoring, and peer support groups.

The organization also offers education and outreach through workshops, trainings, public speaking, and community events such as Transgender Day of Visibility, Transgender Day of Remembrance, and local Pride events. EPTEP maintains a comprehensive listing of trans-friendly resources, connects community members to supportive services, and provides scholarships and transportation to major transgender conferences.

Through these programs, EPTEP works to reduce barriers, increase safety and well-being, and foster a strong, connected transgender community across forty-two counties in Eastern Pennsylvania.

Sister Affirming Sisterhood Project: www.sasproject.org | @thesasproject_

Sister Affirming Sisterhood Project (SAS Project) works to empower Black and Latinx transgender and nonbinary people in Philadelphia through identity-affirming clothing, beauty products, and flexible skills programs. The organization provides pop-up closets with on-site alterations, low-barrier workforce training, paid micro-work, and community resources, centering those facing the steepest barriers to income, housing, and safe gender presentation.

SAS Project also promotes ethical and sustainable fashion by rejecting fast fashion, supporting second-hand and repurposed clothing, and advocating for fair wages and safe working conditions for garment workers. Over the past year, SAS Project hosted community closets and events across Philadelphia, New York City, and the Mid-Atlantic, including the “Happy Birthday Marsha” event in Center City, serving about 200 guests with tailoring, meals, classes, and resource referrals. Operating from its West Philly hub at Calvary Methodist Church, SAS Project builds lasting partnerships to maintain consistent access to affirming clothing and skills development.

The Welcome Project: welcomeprojectpa.org | IG: [@thewelcomeprojectpa](https://www.instagram.com/thewelcomeprojectpa)

In the spring of 2017, members of Love In Action United Church of Christ started a community group for LGBTQ+ individuals and allies that met in the church’s building. This initiative grew to host activity nights and support groups, co-led by other LGBTQ+ community members and allies, and eventually led to the creation of a queer library as part of a larger vision to establish an LGBTQIA+ center. All programs are free or offered on a sliding scale, ensuring accessible support for the community.

The organization provides a welcoming space for all LGBTQIA+ individuals and allies through community building, support, activities, education, and advocacy. It is an interfaith and no-faith affirming space, inclusive of all sexes, genders, sexual expressions, and linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Following a recent merger with Immigrant Rights Action, the organization now also addresses the growing needs of LGBTQ+ immigrant populations, especially asylum seekers. Services include legal assistance, food, fees, and accompaniment for LGBTQ+ identifying internationals, many of whom are escaping violence or countries where being LGBTQ+ is illegal.

In addition, direct support is provided, including food, healthcare, and rent, for trans and nonbinary community members experiencing extreme financial hardship. Rising living costs and workplace discrimination, particularly for QTBIPOC individuals, have made these services

increasingly essential. Together, these programs ensure that LGBTQ+ immigrants and trans and nonbinary community members receive the resources, affirmation, and support necessary to live safely and authentically.

Asylum Pride House: www.asylumpridehouse.org | **IG:** [@asylumpridehouse](https://www.instagram.com/asylumpridehouse)

Asylum Pride House was founded in 2022 to support LGBTQIA+ asylum-seeking immigrants in Philadelphia, many of whom have fled persecution or violence in their home countries because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The organization provides transitional housing in a five-bedroom West Philadelphia apartment, dedicated solely to LGBTQIA+ asylum seekers. Residents receive a private room and shared common spaces, along with initial resources such as hygiene supplies, clothing, food, bedding, and grocery support.

During their stay, typically around six to 12 months, each resident receives one-on-one case management to help connect them with legal aid, health care, ESL classes, job readiness support, and other community services as needed.

Asylum Pride House also extends case-management services beyond residents: any recently arrived LGBTQIA+ immigrant in Pennsylvania may access referrals and support, including legal, medical, mental-health, career, and housing guidance, even if housing is not required.

Through these comprehensive services and supports, Asylum Pride House works to give LGBTQIA+ asylum seekers the shelter, resources, and community they need to heal, stabilize, and build a foundation for independent, safe lives in the U.S.

Galaei: www.galaeiqtbipoc.org | **IG:** [@galaeiphilly](https://www.instagram.com/galaeiphilly)

Galaei is a Queer and Trans, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (QTBIPOC) radical social justice organization serving Philadelphia's Latinx community while expanding support to all QTBIPOC individuals. Founded in 1989 under the leadership of David Acosta as the Gay and Lesbian AIDS Education Initiative, Galaei was established to address the loss, fear, and trauma caused by the HIV/AIDS crisis in the LGBTQ+ Latinx community.

Galaei provides educational services, community wellness programs, advocacy, and resources with a focus on sexual empowerment, economic development, and healing historical harm. As the largest Queer and Trans-operated organization north of Vine Street in Philadelphia, it employs a syndemic approach to serve the community through vibrant programming, including youth services (SPLAT), prevention and education initiatives (POP), trans-specific services (TINGS), and events such as Philly Pride 365 and National Coming Out Day.

For over 35 years, Galaei has been a unifying and affirming presence, offering care, love, and resources to QTBIPOC communities while fighting systemic oppression, structural racism, discrimination, and white supremacy. Its mission of radical social justice centers love, care, and affirmation for QTBIPOC individuals across Philadelphia, nationally, and globally.

Ark of Safety: www.instagram.com/arkofsafetyphilly

Ark of Safety's Drop-In Center addresses one of Philadelphia's most urgent needs: safe, affirming space for Black and Brown trans people experiencing homelessness, violence, and systemic neglect. In a city where gentrification and rising housing costs collide with shrinking social supports, trans residents are often turned away from shelters or face harassment when seeking help. The Drop-In Center offers safety, dignity, and essential resources, including nightly access to food, showers, laundry, phone charging stations, and a computer lab for job searches, school applications, and reconnecting with loved ones.

Guests also have access to on-site HIV/STI testing, peer counseling, case management, and referrals to affirming medical, legal, and educational services. The Center provides safer sex kits, harm reduction supplies, and creative spaces for art and music, recognizing that healing requires joy as well.

Ark of Safety reaches people through street-based outreach, referrals, and word of mouth. Outreach staff connect directly with individuals where they are, on corners, under bridges, in encampments, and outside shelters, providing care when people are ready. Support from DVLF helps sustain and expand this lifeline, ensuring that Philadelphia's most vulnerable trans residents always have a place to turn.

Attic Youth Center: atticyouthcenter.org | [@atticyouthcenter](https://www.instagram.com/atticyouthcenter)

The Attic Youth Center creates opportunities for LGBTQ youth to develop into healthy, independent, civic-minded adults within a safe, supportive community, while advancing acceptance of LGBTQ youth in society.

Founded in 1993 by graduate students Daren Wade and Carrie Jacobs at Voyage House, The Attic began as an eight-week, after-school support group meeting in the building's attic. Within those first eight weeks, 41 youth attended—demonstrating the urgent need for affirming space and inspiring the creation of the Youth Planning Committee, which later evolved into The Attic's youth-governance model and its education program, now known as The Bryson Institute.

Throughout the late 1990s, The Attic expanded rapidly, launching creative arts programs, summer internships, youth leadership retreats, and its first counseling and HIV-prevention services. In 1999, it became an independent nonprofit organization, and an anonymous gift allowed for the purchase and renovation of its current Center City home, where it moved in 2003.

What began as a single support group has grown into one of the nation's largest community centers dedicated exclusively to LGBTQ youth and allies. Since 1993, more than **20,000 young people** have accessed The Attic's programs—from counseling and health services to academic support, leadership development, community education, and housing and employment assistance.

Consistent engagement in Attic programs leads to measurable positive outcomes, including stronger social-emotional skills, increased leadership capacity, improved academic competencies, job-readiness skills, and better school attendance. The Attic remains a vital resource ensuring LGBTQ youth have the safety, support, and opportunities they need to grow and thrive.

Uplift Center for Grieving Children: upliftphilly.org | [@upliftcenter](https://www.instagram.com/upliftcenter)

Uplift Center for Grieving Children was founded in 1995 within the Bereavement Program at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. As the need for accessible grief support grew, the program became an independent nonprofit in 2000. Over the past 25 years, Uplift has expanded from a small set of support groups into a comprehensive grief and mental health service provider. With the rising demand for these services—both locally and nationally—Uplift continues to address urgent needs while working to reduce barriers shaped by historic and systemic inequities.

Uplift offers free peer-support groups for children and teens in grades K–12 who have experienced the death of someone significant in their lives. These groups reduce isolation and loneliness by creating a space where youth can connect with peers who understand their experiences. Guided by Master's-level clinicians, participants engage in creative activities, games, mindfulness practices, grounding techniques, and skill-building to help them navigate grief in age-appropriate ways. Groups are structured by developmental level to ensure tailored support, and caregiver groups are also available to help adults supporting a grieving child. All programs for youth and families are offered at no cost, ensuring that every child has access to compassionate, high-quality grief support.

Prevention Meets Fashion: www.preventionmeetsfashion.org | IG: [@preventionmeetsfashion](https://www.instagram.com/preventionmeetsfashion)

Prevention Meets Fashion (PMF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that uses fashion, creativity, and innovation as powerful tools for sexual and reproductive health education in queer and Black communities. PMF partners with organizations, schools, businesses, and individuals to build a network dedicated to community care and to addressing the specific sexual health needs of LGBTQ+ and BIPOC people. As economic instability increasingly affects LGBTQ+ individuals, who earn roughly 90 cents for every dollar earned by non-LGBTQ people, PMF also focuses on workforce readiness, helping participants build self-awareness, confront systemic barriers, and develop the confidence and skills needed to thrive in nonprofit and creative sectors.

PMF's Internship Program was offering paid opportunities well before national "Pay Our Interns" advocacy took hold. The program was created in direct response to the barriers LGBTQ+ interns face, including high unemployment rates, lower incomes, and reduced access to educational completion due to discriminatory hiring practices. By naming and addressing both personal and systemic obstacles, PMF increases the likelihood that interns will secure and maintain employment. With few workforce development programs designed specifically for LGBTQ+ people, this internship program fills a vital gap in Philadelphia and surrounding counties.

PMF is seeking support for its new project, "**Get to Know Our F.A.C.E.**", a storytelling and community-engagement initiative rooted in PMF's core pillars: Fashion, Advocacy, Community, and Education. The project includes a produced video featuring PMF staff and current and former interns; a community screening; and a guided discussion highlighting the impact of PMF's three-month paid internship program. The program supports the personal, academic, professional, and economic growth of Black, POC, LGBTQ+, and nonbinary participants. The video will serve as a long-term outreach and marketing tool for prospective interns, staff, and funders.

The project aims to increase awareness of PMF's internship program; educate communities about the workplace challenges faced by Black, POC, LGBTQ+, and nonbinary individuals; create safer spaces where interns can fully express themselves; and highlight PMF's innovative use of paid internships as a form of harm reduction. By reducing barriers to employment, education, and economic stability, PMF helps participants build long-term pathways to success.

Funding for this project strengthens PMF's community impact, supports program sustainability, and helps attract diverse interns who will benefit from the skills, empowerment, and affirmation that PMF provides. Offering sexual and reproductive health education through its four service areas—Fashion, Advocacy, Community, and Education, PMF continues to expand its mission through partnership, collaboration, and community-rooted care.

Till Arts Project: www.instagram.com/tillartsproject

Till Arts Project, in partnership with the 40th Street AIR Program, invites emerging trans artists of color in Philadelphia to participate in the **Emergence Program**, a dedicated initiative designed to nurture artistic growth, expand access, and strengthen creative careers.

As part of the Emergence Program, selected artists receive a **two-month solo exhibition**, comprehensive **curatorial support**, a **stipend** to facilitate an artist talk or workshop, a **monthly transpass**, **career counseling**, and structured **networking opportunities**. In addition, participants gain access to valuable resources that help them deepen their practice, build professional connections, and broaden their artistic reach.

Originally launched in 2018, the program continues to respond to a critical and ongoing need: meaningful career pathways and opportunities for trans and gender-expansive creatives. By providing space, visibility, and economic support, the Emergence Program has enabled participating artists to significantly increase their income through the sale of their work, an

essential step toward achieving greater personal and financial stability amid persistent marginalization and political hostility.

Till Arts Project remains committed to investing in trans artists of color, uplifting their visions, and ensuring they have the platform, resources, and community needed to thrive.

The Colours Organization : coloursorganization.org | IG: [@thecoloursorg](https://www.instagram.com/thecoloursorg)

The Good Plus Program was created **by and for HIV-positive young men of color who have sex with men (YMSM)**, shaped directly by the voices and lived experiences of community members openly living with HIV. This program responds to a persistent and urgent need for **culturally competent, community-led support** for HIV-positive YMSM—a group disproportionately impacted not only by HIV itself, but also by the layers of stigma that continue to surround it.

Good Plus provides a **safe, affirming, and identity-centered space** where participants can build connection, reduce isolation, and engage in healing. At a time when stigma, mental health challenges, and limited access to inclusive, affirming healthcare remain significant barriers—particularly for Black and Brown LGBTQ+ individuals—the program meets these gaps through **peer support, honest dialogue, and health education rooted in real lived experience**.

Good Plus ensures that HIV-positive young men of color are not navigating their journeys alone, but instead are supported by a community that understands, honors, and uplifts them.

BLAQLOV3: www.instagram.com/blaqlov3/

By transforming resource distribution into a digital harvest of care and connection, The Tool Shed will meet an urgent need for privacy, accessibility, and dignity. The platform will allow participants to discreetly “shop” for free items, track requests, and connect with affirming partner sites such as William Way, Mazzoni Center, COLOURS, The Attic Youth Center, The Morris Home, and GALEAI. Each partnership will extend The Garden’s reach into neighborhoods where affirmation is most needed, ensuring that every individual—whether housed, unhoused, or in transition—can access tools that help them live authentically and thrive. By transforming resource distribution into a digital harvest of care and connection, The Tool Shed will meet an urgent need for privacy, accessibility, and dignity. The platform will allow participants to discreetly “shop” for free items, track requests, and connect with affirming partner sites such as William Way, Mazzoni Center, COLOURS, The Attic Youth Center, The Morris Home, and GALEAI. Each partnership will extend The Garden’s reach into neighborhoods where affirmation is most needed, ensuring that every individual—whether housed, unhoused, or in transition—can access tools that help them live authentically and thrive.