



AFFIRM Caregiver Application Form

Introduction

AFFIRM Caregiver is an evidence-informed, seven-session, manualized intervention aimed at enhancing affirmative parenting practices in order to promote LGBTQ+ youth safety and well-being. With this application, you can apply to be an AFFIRM Caregiver site with a specific focus on implementing and evaluating the AFFIRM Caregiver intervention at your organization. The Center of Excellence on LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health Equity (CoE LGBTQ+ BHE) is devoted to providing the training, coaching, and technical assistance to support sites for the effective and sustainable implementation of AFFIRM Caregiver.

Participation Cost

The opportunity to be an AFFIRM Caregiver site is completely free for accepted applicants. Typical costs for implementing the AFFIRM Caregiver intervention ranges from \$10,000-\$25,000 and includes coaching sessions, facilitated peer-to-peer learning, fidelity, and booster sessions. Accepted applicants would receive all of these supports at no cost.

For more information on AFFIRM Caregiver: <https://lgbtqequity.org/affirm/>

Eligible Applicants

Organizations are eligible to apply if they are:

- Currently running parenting/support groups with caregivers/family members of LGBTQ+ youth **OR** have parents/caregivers identified that would be willing to participate in groups (e.g., have the time to do a weekly interactive group, open to learn LGBTQ+ content & transportation to meeting space or access to a virtual platform).
- Have organizational readiness to implement group programs
 - Your organization already offers groups
 - Your organization has a method to recruit participants to group programs
 - You have ways to pay for group programs (or are willing to offer them for free)
 - You have leadership support to implement group programs (i.e., staff are given time to prepare for and implement group programs)
 - You have a physical space and/or virtual platform to implement group programs
 - Participating therapists have experience facilitating groups
- Must have at least 4 experienced therapists willing to go through 21 hours of training and 10 hours of group coaching provided by the CoE LGBTQ+ BHE throughout the year
- Must agree to administer a pretest and posttest to participants in the program





Agency Requirements:

- a) Identify at least 4 therapists who will participate in all AFFIRM Caregiver activities
- b) Ability to recruit and retain a minimum of 15 parents/caregivers (with matched pretest and posttest evaluations). Parents/caregivers must be caring for LGBTQ+ youth and must participate in the 7-session AFFIRM Caregiver group
- c) Support recruitment and delivery of AFFIRM Caregiver groups beginning in January 2023
- d) Capacity to effectively deliver AFFIRM Caregiver groups virtually or in person as needed
- e) Commit to ensure, to the extent possible, that AFFIRM Caregiver participants complete the online pretest and posttest assessments

Therapist Requirements:

- a) Complete 3 hours of virtual training modules prior to attending the interactive AFFIRM Caregiver training
- b) Attend the 3-day (18 hour) interactive, virtual AFFIRM Caregiver training to be held **Monday, October 17, Tuesday, October 18, and Wednesday, October 19, 2022 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. ET** prior to delivery of any AFFIRM Caregiver groups
- c) Attend a minimum of 4 virtual site-specific coaching sessions (1 hour each) and 2 virtual cross-site group learning sessions (3 hours each)
- d) Complete and submit AFFIRM facilitator process notes after each AFFIRM Caregiver cohort

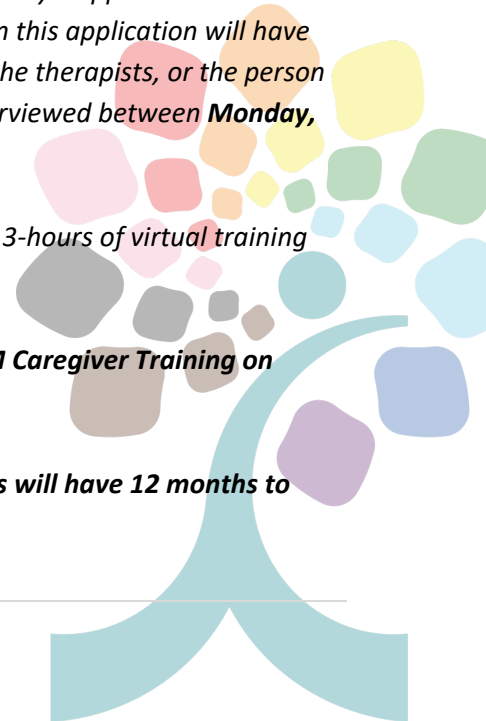
Applications must be emailed to LGBTQEquity@ssw.umaryland.edu no later than Friday, July 8th, 11:59 p.m. ET.

*Agencies selected for an interview will be notified by **Monday, August 1st**. If your agency's application is selected for an interview, the lead listed on this application and at least one therapist listed on this application will have to attend a one-hour Zoom call. It is also recommended that the person supervising the therapists, or the person who signed the commitment letter, be in attendance. Selected applicants will be interviewed between **Monday, August 15th and Wednesday, August 17th**.*

*Accepted applicants will be notified by **Thursday, September 1st** and must complete 3-hours of virtual training modules before **October 14th**.*

*All therapists listed on the application must commit to the mandatory **3-day AFFIRM Caregiver Training on October 17, 18, and 19**.*

*AFFIRM Caregiver groups are expected to begin in **January 2023**. Selected applicants will have **12 months to collect pretest and posttest evaluation data for at least 15 caregivers**.*





Section 1: Contact Information

A. Agency Lead Contact Information

Name:
Title:
Organization:
Address:
Phone number:
Email address:
Organization website:

B. Therapist Contact Information (at least 4 therapists who will be trained and will implement AFFIRM Caregiver)

Therapist A

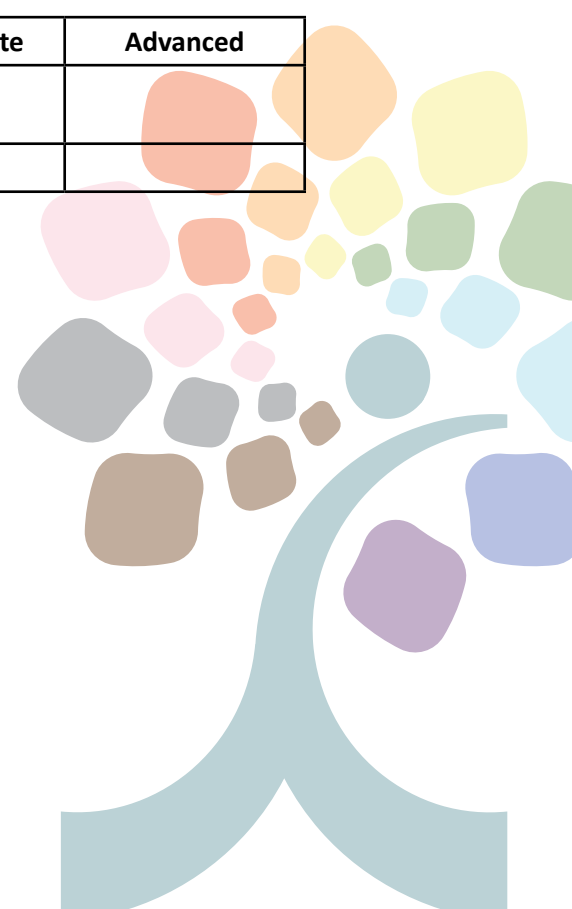
Name:
Degree:
Title:
Role in Organization:
Phone number:
Email address:
Years of Clinical Experience:
Prior LGBTQ+ Training: Yes No

Please check the response that best describes this therapist's skill level:

| Competency | Beginner | Intermediate | Advanced |
|--|----------|--------------|----------|
| Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity/Expression Practice | | | |
| Group Therapy | | | |

Therapist B

Name:
Degree:
Title:
Role in Organization:
Phone number:
Email address:
Years of Clinical Experience:
Prior LGBTQ+ Training: Yes No





Please check the response that best describes this therapist's skill level:

| Competency | Beginner | Intermediate | Advanced |
|--|----------|--------------|----------|
| Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity/Expression Practice | | | |
| Group Therapy | | | |

Therapist C

Name:

Degree:

Title:

Role in Organization:

Phone number:

Email address:

Years of Clinical Experience:

Prior LGBTQ+ Training: Yes No

Please check the response that best describes this therapist's skill level:

| Competency | Beginner | Intermediate | Advanced |
|--|----------|--------------|----------|
| Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity/Expression Practice | | | |
| Group Therapy | | | |

Therapist D

Name:

Degree:

Title:

Role in Organization:

Phone number:

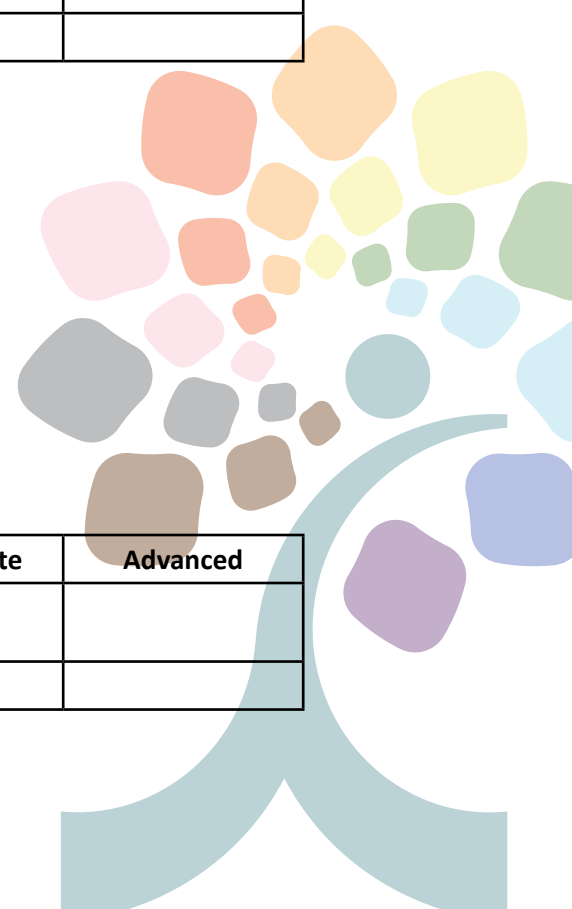
Email address:

Years of Clinical Experience:

Prior LGBTQ+ Training: Yes No

Please check the response that best describes this therapist's skill level:

| Competency | Beginner | Intermediate | Advanced |
|--|----------|--------------|----------|
| Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity/Expression Practice | | | |
| Group Therapy | | | |





Section 2: Narrative (please keep this section to 2 pages or less).

- I. Describe your agency's experience engaging and supporting LGBTQ+ youth
- II. Describe your agency's experience engaging and supporting parents/caregivers of LGBTQ+ youth
- III. Describe your agency's strategy for recruiting AFFIRM Caregiver participants (parents or caregivers of LGBTQ+ youth)
- IV. Describe any policies, training, or practices your organization implements, or has implemented, related to LGBTQ+ populations

Section 3: Letter of Commitment

Include a letter of commitment from agency leadership supporting your organization in becoming an AFFIRM Caregiver site.

The letter of commitment should speak explicitly to leadership's support for *therapist's time spent participating in all trainings, coaching sessions, and learning collaboratives*, as well as, *time spent with activities related to delivering AFFIRM Caregiver groups including recruitment, engagement, group preparation, and completing required paperwork*.

In addition, letters should specify other ways in which the organization will demonstrate its commitment to becoming an AFFIRM Caregiver site--e.g., resources for recruitment/engagement of caregivers (meals, snacks, child care) and active support from supervisors or clinical directors for the implementation of AFFIRM Caregiver groups.

AFFIRM Caregiver is an intervention developed by

