



Friendly House Elder Pride Services: Centering LGBTQ+ Older Adults

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About Elder Pride Services (EPS)

- A program of Friendly House, a nonprofit community center in northwest Portland
- Since 2001, we've worked to enhance the lives of LGBTQ+ older adults through education, advocacy, and social and community-building activities
- We primarily work in Multnomah and Washington Counties, but advocate for LGBTQ+ adults statewide



LGBTQ+ Older Adults: An Underserved Population

- Experienced discrimination in employment and housing throughout their lives, leading to financial instability as they age
- Continue to experience discrimination in housing, health, and other services
- Often rely on peer networks rather than family of origin



LGBTQ+ Older Adults: An Underserved Population



Karen Fredriksen Goldsen, Hyun-Jun Kim, Hailey H. Jung, Adam Davis, & Charles A. Emlet. 2021. "Oregon LGBTQ+ Older Adult Survey." *Goldsen Institute*.

A 2021 survey of LGBTQ+ older adults in Oregon found that:

- Nearly **one third** (32%) reported a need for housing services
- Nearly **60%** had experienced discrimination in the past year due to their sexual orientation, gender identity, race, age, or sex
- **21%** of those living in a residential setting had experienced discrimination
- **19%** felt uncomfortable being "out" to housing service providers

What We Do

Support	Community Building	Virtual Programming	Special Events	Training and Outreach	Advocacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Options Counseling• Information & Referral• Case management for LGBTQ+ older adults (<i>Multnomah County only</i>)• Resident Services (<i>The Opal only</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coffee socials• Happy hour socials• Museum visits and outings• Affordable housing workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trans-specific socials• “All are Welcome” socials• Lectures• Movie nights	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource fairs• Pride events• Holiday parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elder Panels• Trainings• Tabling• Partner events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LGBTQAI+ Housing Collaborative• LGBTQ+ Aging Coalition



The Opal

- Independent living for LGBTQ+ adults with culturally specific programming and support
- First and only building of its kind in the state
- 54 Units, 1 & 2 Bedrooms
- All units are designated affordable housing
- Income restricted and age restricted
- 0-60% Area Median Income



How it Works

- A collaboration between Christ United Methodist Church, Home First Development, and Elder Pride Services
- EPS:
 - Manages the interest list
 - Provides resident services and support
 - Provides social, educational, wellness, and cultural programming
 - Brings additional resources to the building, such as Meals on Wheels

A Community Hub for LGBTQ+ Older Adults

- We encourage LGBTQ+ older adults in Washington County to participate in our programs, both at The Opal and around Portland!

The Opal's regular programming includes:

- Conversations on Aging
- Meals on Wheels site
- Intergenerational lunches
- Crafting
- Tai Chi
- Writing workshops (forthcoming)



EPS Winter Party

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, December 5 11-1PM

Friendly House Community Center

1737 NW 26th Ave.

Portland, OR 97210

- An annual EPS tradition
- Join us for dancing, fun, raffle prizes, and food!

Opal Art Show and Open Mic Night

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, December 19 3:30-5:30PM

The Opal Apartments

2691 NW Dogwood St.

Portland, Oregon 97229

- Featuring art, music, poetry, and more created by Opal residents and EPS participants
- All are welcome!





End-of-Life Resource Fair

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, January 24 1-3PM

Friendly House Community Center

1737 NW 26th Ave.

Portland, OR 97210

- A resource fair for LGBTQ+ older adults to find supportive and affirming resources for end-of-life planning
- All are welcome!



Connect with Us!

The Opal

- **Kian Annus** (they/he)
 - Email: kian@fhpdx.org
- **Echo Taylor** (they/them)
 - Email: echo@fhpdx.org

EPS Training/Outreach

- **Alex Maresca** (she/they)
 - Email: alex@fhpdx.org

Online

- Web: fhpdx.org
- Facebook: Friendly House Elder Pride Services
- Instagram: [fh_elderprideservices](https://www.instagram.com/fh_elderprideservices)