

State Representative Karina Villa

June 16th, 2020

LGBTQ+ Resources During COVID-19



A big big thank you!

I want to thank all of you who have engaged with our newsletters during the past few weeks. In this week's newsletter we have compiled information and resources for the LGBTQ+ community during COVID-19. Please continue to share our newsletters with anyone who may need it and continue to reach out to my office for support. You can reach my office by filling out our [constituent contact form](#), calling us at 630-326-9319, or emailing us at StateRepKarinaVilla@gmail.com.

Barriers to Health Care

The LGBTQ+ community often face challenges and barriers when accessing vital health care services that can result in disproportionately negative health outcomes. These challenges can stem from stigma, discrimination, violence, and rejection from family. Barriers can include employment discrimination, inequality in health insurance, inadequate services and care, and outright rejection by providers due to one's sexual orientation or gender identity. COVID-19 further compounds those vulnerabilities and makes many LGBTQ+ individuals reluctant to reach out to health care providers. For more information click [here](#).

There are a variety of clinics and providers that specialize in providing healthcare for the LGBTQ+ community. You can find a few LGBTQ+ healthcare clinics [here](#).

LGBTQ+ Resources

Equality Illinois is an advocacy organization dedicated to advancing equal treatment and acceptance for the LGBTQ+ community. They have created a [COVID-19 Resource Center](#) where you can find COVID-19 resources and information for all of the areas we will focus on below.

LGBTQ+ Youth

COVID-19 has had serious implications on the mental health of LGBTQ+ youth. The Trevor Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing support, crisis intervention, and suicide prevention to LGBTQ+ youth under the age of 25. If you are in need of immediate help please call the TrevorLifeLine at 1-866-488-7386, select TrevorChat on their [website](#) to connect with a counselor online, or text START to 678678 to be connected with a counselor through text message. The Trevor Project also offers TrevorSpace which is an online international peer-to-peer community for LGBTQ+ young people and their friends. You can access TrevorSpace [here](#).

[360 Youth Services](#) and [Youth Outlook](#) are offering virtual support groups and Drop-In services for LGBTQ+ youth.

HIV/AIDS

Until more information is known about the course of COVID-19, additional caution for all persons with HIV, especially those with advanced HIV or poorly controlled HIV, is warranted. The CDC has outlined several steps people with HIV can take to

prepare for COVID-19 which you can find [here](#). A list of community partners for people living with HIV can be found through Equality Illinois [here](#).

Trans/Non-Binary

Brave Space Alliance is a Black-led, trans-led LGBTQ+ Center dedicated to creating and providing affirming, culturally competent, programming, and services for LGBTQ+ individuals. Brave Space Alliance has launched a COVID-19 Relief Fund for trans, non-binary, and intersex individuals. Brave Space Alliance is also offering a Crisis Pantry, support groups, and telehealth mental health services during this time. You can find more information about the resources Brave Space Alliance is providing [here](#). Additional transgender and non-binary resources can be found [here](#).

Elder Care

[SAGE Advocacy and Service for LGBTQ Elders](#) provides life affirming care and tools to assist LGBTQ+ elders in housing, health care, financial matters, cultural competency, and caregiving. SAGE has a hotline at 1-877-360-LGBT(5428) that provides information and peer-support 24/7 in English and Spanish. Please visit their [website](#) for more information.

Domestic/Sexual Violence

[Mutual Ground](#) in Aurora and [Community Crisis Center](#) in Elgin are still providing emergency shelter as well as operating their 24 hour hotlines. Mutual Ground Domestic Violence Hotline 630-897-0080 (24 Hrs), Mutual Ground Sexual Assault Hotline 630-897-8383 (24 Hrs), Community Crisis Center Hotline 1-847-697-2380 (24 Hrs). If you are in immediate danger please call 911.

LGBTQ Communities of Color

The National Black Justice Coalition is a civil rights organization dedicated to the empowerment of Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and same gender loving (LGBTQ/SGL) people, including people living with HIV/AIDS. For more information about the National Black Justice Coalition please visit their [website](#).

Businesses

The [Illinois LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce](#) has created a list of resources and tips for LGBTQ-owned businesses during COVID-19. For those who would like to support LGBTQ-owned businesses during this time you can use their [directory](#) to identify LGBTQ owned businesses.

Workers

[One Fair Wage Emergency Fund](#) is providing cash assistance for tipped workers such as restaurant workers, delivery drivers, and other personal service workers who are facing economic hardship. You can apply for cash assistance [here](#).

Mental Health

Call 4 Calm is a free emotional support text line. Text “TALK” to 552020 or “HABLAR” for service in Spanish at the same number. The National Alliance on Mental Illness of [DuPage County](#) and [Kane County](#) are offering telehealth support groups and peer counseling.

Spanish Speaking LGBTQ+ Community

The [Spanish Community Center](#) in Joliet has compiled a list of resources in Illinois for the Spanish Speaking LGBTQ Community. The list of resources is available in both [Spanish](#) and [English](#).

Pride Month

The month of June is pride month. It is important to recognize this as the commemoration of the beginning of the modern day LGBTQ+ rights movement that began on June 28th 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, New York. Many Pride celebrations have been cancelled due to COVID-19. I encourage you to support LGBTQ+ organizations and reach out to your LGBTQ+ friends and family members who may have lost their sense of community during this time. Equality Illinois will also be hosting a virtual pride event called Can't Stop Our Pride from 12 to 5pm on June 20th. The event will feature elected leaders, community leaders, performers, chefs, activists, and many others. You can find tickets to this event through the Equality Illinois website [here](#).

Naper Pride is a family centered, Naperville focused, celebration of the LGBTQ+ community in Naperville. Naper Pride is hosting weekly socials via Zoom on Monday nights. To receive an invitation to their weekly socials please email social.naperpride@gmail.com. Naper Pride is also distributing Pride flags to businesses as a way to paint Naperville rainbow during Naperville's first Pride Month. You can find more information about Naper Pride and their Pride Month events on their [website](#) and their [Facebook group](#).

CENSUS

The goal of the Census is to count everyone living in the United States but certain populations such as the LGBTQ+ community are inevitably undercounted. To

ensure fair access to democracy and social services funding, it is important for the LGBTQ+ community to be accurately counted in the 2020 Census. The National LGBTQ Task Force has created a guide for navigating the Census as an LGBTQ+ person, which you can find [here](#). Two important aspects of the Census is that it is confidential and self-identification is encouraged. Unfortunately, the Census currently restricts responses about sex to male and female only. The Census Bureau recommends that you answer this question in the way that feels most comfortable for you. The National LGBTQ Task Force is working to make this question more inclusive in future Census surveys.