



Inclusive, just communities

Idea 12	Intentional communities
Proposal 12a	Kinship groups pilot
Description	<p>Pilot self-sustaining kinship groups with a focus on intergenerational connections that enable elders to remain in their homes. Enable communities defined by attributes such as LGBTQ and other identity and/or military status. These communities could be residential (permanent or temporary) but would also enlist members of the broader community – who identify in related ways – to provide supports and resources.</p>
<p>How will the proposed action advance equitable health and well-being?</p>	<p>Studies show loneliness is a great detriment to the health of elders. Shared responsibility would provide sense of purpose. LGBTQ adults face unique circumstances, such as fear of discrimination. By 2060 this population will exceed five million and will account for more than 20 million older adults, including those who do not publicly self-identify but have engaged in same-sex sexual behavior, or romantic relationships, and/or are attracted to members of the same sex. Many do not have children to help them in older age. Senior housing, transportation, legal services, support groups, and social events were the most commonly-cited services needed in the LGBT community. These inequities increase when considered from an intersectional lens, i.e., IBPOC and IBPOtrans elders.</p> <p>There are similar concerns in other communities. For example, 20 veterans a day die by suicide. Older veterans are at greatest risk, and isolation is a key factor triggering suicide. Veterans may also be more likely to live remote from kinship groups.</p> <p>Creating community in the home is something that is accessible at all income levels. It promotes equitable well-being. It isn't expensive but it is a qualitative gain. From a positive youth development perspective, it could provide young people with relationships with caring adults who aren't their parents. Such relationships are proven to promote resilience (research by Dr. Sarah Friedman). Kinship models could intentionally support caregivers able to access pay for their work and respite care. The costs of in-home care are substantially less than care in facilities.</p>
<p>Is there work we can build on?</p>	<p>“Queer Kinship Models Could Heal the World” LGBTQ Policy Journal, a Harvard Kennedy Student Publication Kinship care resources compiled by the Children's Defense Fund</p>



	<p>The National LGBTQ Elder Housing Initiative led by SAGE</p> <p>VA programs that provide payments to family members for providing caregiving in the home</p> <p>VA programs that provide access to respite for family caregivers: https://www.caregiver.va.gov/ “AARP Liveable Communities” “If the Nuclear Family Has Failed, What Can Come Next?” Atlantic Monthly</p> <p>Intergenerational Partnerships Between Colleges and Retirement Homes</p>
<p>Who would have to act? Who would be key partners?</p>	<p>State and Federal HHS departments to pilot subsidies and measure outcomes of project</p> <p>Government to implement possible tax incentives for creating multi-generational homes that could be available at subsidy</p> <p>Communities that could host such a pilot, e.g., Los Angeles Veterans Village, VA subsidized apartments (e.g. in Chicago Lincoln Park), Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NY State)</p> <p>AARP</p> <p>Support services for these communities, including SAGE (Services and Advocacy for LGBT Elders), Los Angeles LGBTQ Center, Chicago LGBTQ Center (Center on Halstead), American Legion and VFW, and Centerlink: The Community of LGBT Centers</p>
<p>A few high-level action steps</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify communities whose populations include significant numbers of LGBT people and veterans 2. Determine sources of potential public and private funding 3. Develop a list of currently sustainable models that could be Consider building “veteran villages” type housing developments with specially designed intergenerational housing, supported by tax subsidies, so that individuals living in these houses would be surrounded by others in the same situation. 4. replicated to focus on these populations
<p>Other comments or guidance</p>	<p>LGBTQ and veterans are two examples of communities, but the applications could be for all communities or any subcommunity (e.g., deaf, Latinx, etc.)</p>