



United Way of Kennebec Valley Innovation Fund Supports – LGBTQ+ YeSS
**Increasing Summer Supports for LGBTQ+ Youth in Kennebec County
Year One - September 2021-August 2022**

The Problem:

In the summer there are few LGBTQ+ Youth specific welcoming environments, peer social and support settings, programming or inclusive recreational opportunities.

1. The 2019 MIYHS data shows LGBT high school students experience lower rates of family support than their non-LGBT peers; fewer believe that at least one teacher cares, and even fewer believe they matter to their community members. They experience more bullying and other negative impacts.
2. Many are not OUT to families, nor accepted; may spend time away from LGBTQ+ peers and supportive adults if not in school.

Mental health suffers; with increased anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation.

One Response: Build a Network, Collaborate, and Expand Supports and Programming

Healthy Communities of the Capital Area and OUT Maine help you build on existing resources to identify LGBTQ+ Youth summer programming that fits your organizations. The project will:

- a. Identify partners to co-create and link to summer resources for LGBTQ+ youth
 - b. Provide a LGBTQ+ youth cultural awareness training and add best practice workshops**
 - i. February 9, 2022, 10:00-11:00 with OUT Maine**
 - c. Collectively identify strategies for summer programming
 - d. Provide micro-grants to organizations to support the programs
 - e. Answer questions along the way.
2. Libraries, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs, School/GSTAs after school programs, recreation programs, and other youth settings would be appropriate partners
 3. LGBTQ+ Youth are important planners and partners in this project as well. We need your help in identifying and recruiting youth to assure that the plans fit the LGBTQ+ youth's needs and interests!

Goal: LGBTQ+ youth will have increased protective factors and resilience through engagement with summer programming that supports and affirms their lives and identities.

Timeline:

1. **Planning:** Fall 2021 through March 31, 2022
 - a. **LGBTQ+ youth cultural awareness training February 9, 2022, 10:00-11:00**
2. **Programming:** April 2022 through August 30, 2022

Find out more about OUT Maine at www.outmaine.org

Find out more about Healthy Communities of the Capital Area at www.hccame.org

Become a Network Member

Find out more

Contact Joanne Joy – j.joy@hccame.org or 207-446-6569

Visit www.hccame.org. Click on Initiatives, then Youth, then LGBTQ+ Youth