

# Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ Advocacy Sheet

Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ American Indian and Alaskan Native people face greater health disparities due to experiences of discrimination, stigma, and poor access to affirming and competent healthcare. In order to achieve Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ health equity, we encourage legislators to support:

- 1. The adoption of non-discrimination policies**
- 2. The adoption of best practice guidelines for gender-affirming care**
- 3. Funding for Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ healthcare initiatives**

The following talking points can help you discuss these issues with your legislators. Feel free to personalize these points to your community and organization!

## Adopt Non-Discrimination Policies



Support the adoption of non-discrimination policies to protect Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals.

- Experiences of discrimination, both within and outside of healthcare settings, can create health disparities for Native people who identify as Two Spirit or LGBTQ+.
- Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals are at higher risk for sexually transmitted infections like HIV/AIDS, mental illness such as depression and anxiety, and substance use.
- Non-discrimination policies in clinics not only protect Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals, but also encourage and foster safe and welcoming clinical environments for all patients.

## Adopt Best-Practice Guidelines for Gender-Affirming Care



Support the adoption and implementation of best practice guidelines for gender-affirming care.

- Guidelines that reflect best practices in healthcare for Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals have been developed by the University of California in San Francisco, the Endocrine Society, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- These guidelines help ensure clinics and providers are able to provide quality care to Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals.
- These guidelines include recommendations for creating a safe and accepting clinical environment along with information on best practices for gender-affirming medical care, including gender-affirming hormones and surgery.
- Adoption of these guidelines in IHS clinics will improve the quality of care and treatment provided to Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ patients by providing access to the affirming and high-quality healthcare all people deserve.

## Support Funding for Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ Health



Support funding for Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ healthcare initiatives.

- Grants and funding for trainings to educate clinicians can help them provide Two Spirit and LGBTQ+-affirming care.
- Funding for clinics helps them implement changes necessary to ensure safe and welcoming environments for Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals, including providing Two Spirit and LGBTQ+-inclusive pamphlets and posters in waiting rooms, ensuring intake forms and electronic medical records record correct name and pronouns, and hosting support groups or gatherings for Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ individuals.