



## Help Your Community Celebrate LGBT Health Awareness Week!

*There are many ways to celebrate LGBT Health Awareness Week – below are a few of the ideas we’ve come up with, and we’d love to hear what you and your community are planning! Share your thoughts at [coalition@lgbthealth.net](mailto:coalition@lgbthealth.net) about how to spread the word about the importance of LGBT health.*

- Ask federal, state, and municipal officials to issue an official statement or proclamation recognizing LGBT Health Awareness Week – check out the example at [www.lgbthealth.net](http://www.lgbthealth.net)
- Ask any professional organizations that you are a member of to issue a policy statement about the importance of LGBT health and LGBT Health Awareness Week
- Ask your state and national representative to sign **A Commitment to LGBT Health** – check out the state and federal versions at [www.lgbthealth.net](http://www.lgbthealth.net)
- Hold a local press conference on LGBT Health Awareness Week and the Affordable Care Act
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper, an op-ed or a blog piece, or a letter to your Congressional or state representative to share your story and educate readers about the importance of LGBT health and LGBT Health Awareness Week
- Host on a round table on how [to talk to providers](#) about sexual orientation and gender identity and the health care needs of the LGBT community
- Encourage community health centers and other health care facilities in your community, including hospitals and clinics, to participate in the [Healthcare Equality Index](#)
- Host an event celebrating LGBT Health Awareness Week in your community, and invite co-sponsorship from LGBT organizations and progressive health organizations like Raising Women’s Voices for the Healthcare We Need ([www.raisingwomensvoices.net](http://www.raisingwomensvoices.net))
- Sponsor a Health Forum at your local LGBT community center – check out [www.lgbtcenters.org](http://www.lgbtcenters.org) to find a community center near you
- Sponsor an LGBT health booth or exhibit at your community’s next health fair or festival

- Host or sponsor an open house for LGBT youth or seniors at your local community health center
- Host or sponsor a panel discussion on LGBT cultural competency with local health care providers
- Work with your local clinic, community health center, or hospital to provide dedicated drop-in hours for LGBT people that focus on particular concerns, such as sexual health, transgender health, or mental health
- Host or sponsor a panel discussion with the Gay/Straight Alliance at a local college or high school – some ideas for topics might be:
  - Relationships and coming out
  - Mental health
  - Transgender health
  - Women’s health
  - Gay and bisexual men’s health
  - Smoking
  - Cancer
  - HIV/AIDS
  - Substance use, including crystal meth and alcohol
  - LGBT youth
  - LGBT seniors
  - Access to health care
  - Sexual health
  - Preventive health and wellness