



# 2019 CHICAGO LGBTQ COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## DATA SUMMARY PRESENTATION



THE LGBT COMMUNITY FUND  
AN INITIATIVE OF



THE CHICAGO  
COMMUNITY TRUST  
AND AFFILIATES



Morten Group

# OVERVIEW

In 2018, the Steering Committee of The LGBT Community Fund retained Morten Group to conduct the Chicago LGBTQ Community Needs Assessment in order to gather data on current needs, issues, strengths and resources of the Chicagoland LGBTQ community. Morten Group conducted the first needs assessment of this nature for The LGBT Community Fund in

2011; the purpose of this new assessment was to provide an updated snapshot of the community's needs for 2019. There were three goals implicit in the development of the updated needs assessment process:

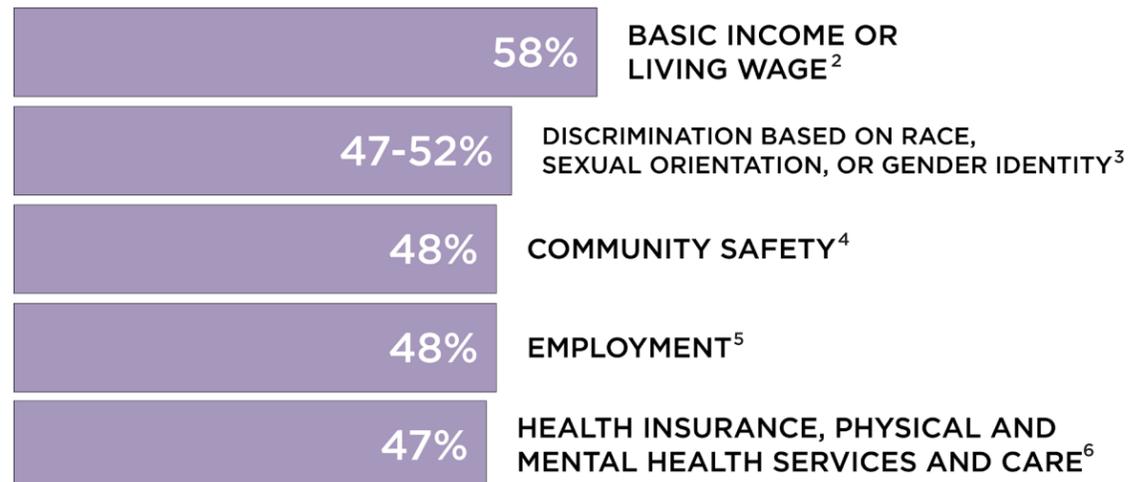
- 1. To provide exposure and information** about the needs, issues, strengths and resources of the Chicagoland LGBTQ community;
- 2. To utilize the data collected** to inform the funding goals and directives shaping The Chicago Community Trust's LGBT Community Fund; and
- 3. To develop key findings and recommendations** that inform and educate the Chicagoland community about the needs, issues, strengths and resources within our local LGBTQ community.

## TOP 5 IDENTIFIED COMMUNITY NEEDS FROM SURVEY

In both 2011 and 2019, survey respondents were asked to choose the top five issues they felt the government should address within the next year. The following were the top five reported needs for 2012 and 2019, respectively; they are presented here side-by-side for comparison. Keisha Farmer Smith, Ph.D., led the data analysis process for both years.



## 2019



## DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

		2011	2019
Sexual Orientation	Gay	43%	36%
	Lesbian	35%	25%
	Queer	23%	30%
	Bisexual	14%	23%
Gender Identity	Woman	51%	46%
	Man	42%	37%
	TGNC	15%	35%
Race	White	65%	67%
	Black	18%	18%
	Latinx/a/o	13%	13%
	Asian, PI, Indigenous	6%	7.5%
Income	> \$25K	35%	31%
	\$25-50K	28%	26%
	\$50-75K	18%	18%
	\$75-100K	9%	11%
	> \$100K	11%	14%
Age	14-24	17%	17%
	25-34	32%	31%
	35-44	21%	21%
	45-54	18%	15%
	55-64	9%	11%
	> 65	3%	5%

\*survey participants only - 2,088 individuals; 78% of total study population

<sup>1</sup> 21%-24%, depending on discrimination type

<sup>2</sup> 58% ranked as #1 or #2; 41% as #1, 18% as #2

<sup>3</sup> 47-52% ranked as #1 or #2; 23-31% as #1, 21-24% as #2, depending on discrimination type

<sup>4</sup> 48% ranked as #1 or #2; 32% as #1, 16% as #2

<sup>5</sup> 48% ranked as #1 or #2 - 20% as #1, 28% as #2

<sup>6</sup> For health insurance: 47% ranked as #1 or #2—32% as #1, 15% as #2. For physical/mental health services: 43-44% ranked as #1 or #2—24% as #1, 19-20% as #2

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The data collection and analysis for the 2019 Chicago LGBTQ Community Needs Assessment was a grassroots effort for which the research team is deeply grateful. Thousands of people contributed their time and energy, including over 2,500 study participants and over 70 community partner organizations. Full acknowledgements can be found in the full-length version of this report.

## DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

Data were collected over a fifteen-week field period (October 17, 2018 through January 31, 2019), using a participatory action research model and a snowball sampling method. Three data collection tools were used:

- 1. Online survey** (2,088 participants)
- 2. Community drop boxes with data cards** (413 participants)
- 3. Focus groups** (49 participants, 6 groups)

“I feel fortunate to live in Chicago but I know that there are huge disparities across this city. If an outcome of this survey and funding stream is to better distribute resources to grassroots orgs and efforts that have a positive impact for TGNC people of color, I think that would be a success for all of us.”

## 7 KEY IDENTIFIED THEMES ACROSS DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

2011

The following seven themes were found to be the most salient across the survey, data card, and focus group tools in 2012 and 2019, respectively; they are presented here side-by-side for comparison. Keisha Farmer Smith, Ph.D., led the data analysis process for both years.

2019

- 1. HIGH-QUALITY, AFFORDABLE, CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE**  
including insurance, sexual/reproductive health (including PrEP/HIV information and medications), gender reassignment support, substance abuse support and harm reduction, socio-emotional support groups, health navigators (promotorxs/as de salud). Stakeholders also called for more health services on the West and South sides of the city.
- 2. EMPLOYMENT/UNDEREMPLOYMENT AND EQUITY IN THE JOB MARKET**  
Disparities within the community around income, livable wage and employment status mean that employment programs building hard and soft skills, work force development opportunities, and LGBTQ-specific workforce development are needed.
- 3. SUPPORT ACCESSING QUALITY SERVICES**  
Comprehensive and intersectionally-responsive services for LGBTQ+ community members aged 25-50 are needed. South and West side communities continue to face a dearth of resources; the few services that exist for underserved LGBTQ folks are north. Key groups within the community do not feel comfortable or knowledgeable enough to access basic government human services.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Please see the full data summary report for detailed funding recommendations, organized by the seven key themes across data collection tools.

- 1. UNIQUE NEEDS OF LGBT SENIORS**
- 2. COMMONALITIES BETWEEN LGBT SENIORS AND YOUTH**
- 3. SUPPORTS NEEDED BY LGBT FAMILIES**
- 4. NEEDS OF THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE UNDEREMPLOYED**
- 5. DIVERSITY AND THE LGBT COMMUNITY**
- 6. THE RECESSION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE LGBT COMMUNITY**
- 7. EXISTING RESOURCES + UNDER-SERVED AREAS**

- 4. SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION FOR ALL**  
Serious safety concerns were shared by stakeholders across demographic groups who must travel to services, especially safety on CTA/public transit. TGNC people and people of color also reported safety issues with police, including feeling that they cannot access police department services when needed. Members of the LGBTQ+ community experience harassment, threats, and physical violence disproportionately and need safety planning and violence prevention support.
- 5. AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND GENTRIFICATION**  
This is a core issue across most survey demographic groups. Key concerns include: quality housing for seniors and young people who are transitioning and experiencing homelessness, housing for adults who have “aged out” of youth development services, and affordable housing in gentrifying neighborhoods.
- 6. SIMILARITIES AND STARK DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE LGBTQ+ POPULATION**  
There are key differences between the cisgender/white population and others in the community that should be explored further. This includes deeper equity issues experienced by people with disabilities, people of color and TGNC individuals.
- 7. RESILIENCY AND CAPACITY OF A PARTICIPATORY, INTERSECTIONAL LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY**  
There are valuable, grassroots and innovative resources embedded within diverse LGBTQ communities of color, identity and ability. These LGBTQ+ intersectional communities are untapped resources.