

Good morning,

Please see below for information and resources related to your work with older youth.

- February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
- Taylor J. Ertel Scholarship for Foster Children
- Aging Out Podcast
- LGBTQ+ Resources

### Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Dating violence is more common than you may think, especially among teens and young adults. In fact, 1 in 3 U.S. teens will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse from someone they're in a relationship with before becoming adults. And nearly half (43%) of U.S. college women report experiencing violent or abusive dating behaviors.

- <https://www.loveisrespect.org/tdvam/>
- <https://www.teendvmonth.org/>

### [Taylor J. Ertel Scholarship for Foster Children](#)

The First Community Foundation Partnership of PA (FCFP) is announcing a scholarship available to students who have been in foster care at some point in their lives. Please pass along this information to anyone who might be eligible. Information about applying for the scholarships is available [here](#).



Have a resource to share across PA? [Email us](#).

### Aging Out Podcast:

Maddy Day, co-founder of Fostering Academic Achievement Nationwide, recently joined the Field Center as a guest on the [Aging Out Podcast](#)! In this important episode, she underscores the impact of connection, reliable data, persistent advocacy, and the importance of listening to students in creating equitable educational pathways for youth with experience in foster care.

### LGBTQ+ Resources:

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**Supporting Black LGBTQ+ Young People and Their Families**

*This Black History Month more than ever it is crucial to show up for Black LGBTQ+ youth. Here are some of our favorite resources:*

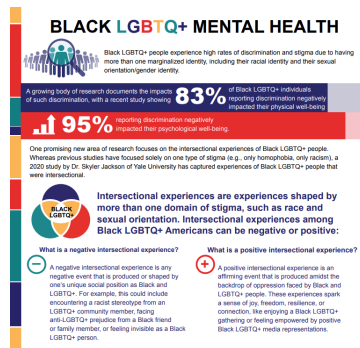
## Through Our Lens: Black LGBTQ+ Strength and Mental Health

*Through Our Lens: Black LGBTQ+ Strength and Mental Health* is an animated short that brings viewers into the “Black LGBTQ+ Empowerment Hall,” a museum-like space celebrating resilience, creativity, and history. Viewers should read the companion [Discussion and Exhibit Guide](#), which offers reflection questions and activity prompts to spark meaningful conversations about

intersectionality, stigma, resilience, and the social determinants of health. It also doubles as an exhibit companion, inviting viewers to spot the same artworks and figures in the animation. [Watch now](#)



## Black LGBTQ+ Mental Health Infographic

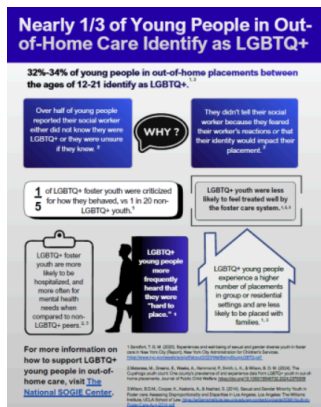


Black LGBTQ+ people experience high rates of discrimination and stigma due to having more than one marginalized identity, including their racial identity and their sexual orientation/gender identity. Based on cutting edge research on intersectional experiences of Black LGBTQ+ people, the National SOGIE Center and the [African American Behavioral Health Center of Excellence](#) have collaborated to create this new infographic on mental health impacts of these experiences, including tips for how behavioral health providers can support Black LGBTQ+ individuals.

[Download here](#)

## New Infographic: LGBTQ+ Youth in Out-of-Home Care

This infographic highlights disparities faced by LGBTQ+ young people in out-of-home care and the importance of affirming, knowledgeable support. Data shows many LGBTQ+ youth experience higher rates of residential placements, mental health hospitalizations, and challenges feeling treated well within the foster care system. More than half of youth report that their social worker either does not know their LGBTQ+ identity or they



are unsure, often due to fear of negative reactions or placement changes. These findings underscore the need for culturally responsive practices that build trust, improve engagement, and support positive outcomes. [Learn more](#)

Have a great weekend.

Thanks,

Meghan O'Hare, MSW