

Good morning,

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

- Back to School Health and Wellness Fair (attached)
- Paving the Way to Education Success Conference
- The World Works Better With Us: Disability Pride 2026
- LGBTQ+ Young People of Color: Breaking Down the Data
- Black LGBTQ+ Mental Health Infographic
- Through Our Lens: Black LGBTQ+ Strength & Mental Health
- Designated Placements Rule Rescinded

Paving the Way to Education Success Conference:



2026 Paving the Way to Educational Success Conference

Oct. 6-7 | Lancaster, PA

The World Works Better With Us: Disability

Written by Jenn Quiggle



One in six people in the world have a [disability](#). Disability occurs in all walks of life and isn't limited by ethnic group, geographical region or social class. Even though it affects approximately sixteen percent of the population, disability is often not considered when building the infrastructure within which we live our lives. This year's Disability Pride theme, "[The World Works Better With Us](#)," challenges that standard, because when people with disabilities are considered and included, everyone wins.

Each July we celebrate Disability Pride Month, in conjunction with the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26th, 1990. It recognizes and celebrates the identity, culture and leadership of the disability community. The movement celebrates the unique viewpoints brought forward by the disability community and challenges the untrue, negative stereotypes of [ableism](#).

Ableism sees disability as something to fix. Disability Pride instead encourages accessibility for all. This year's Disability Pride theme reflects the benefits of inclusion and acknowledges the improvements to everyday life for everyone when people with disabilities are considered and included.

Innovations in assistive technology help people with disabilities to experience the world in ways that work. Assistive technology includes a variety of tools (simple and complex, high and low-tech) that not only help people with disabilities to more easily interact with the world around them but also increase accessibility for everyone, hence this year's theme. Curb cuts, closed captioning and audiobooks are all examples of assistive technology designed for people with disabilities that have improved the lives of more than just the people for which they were designed.

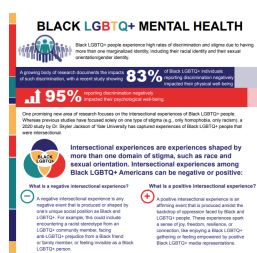
Disability Pride events have been happening across the country this month. Hopefully, you've been able to participate. If you haven't, you'll get the chance this [September 26th in Pittsburgh at Schenley Plaza](#). In the meantime, continue to advocate for the inclusion, acceptance and celebration of people with disabilities, because when people with disabilities are considered and included, everyone wins. Shout it loud and proud. "The World Works Better With Us"!

LGBTQ+ Young People of Color: Breaking Down the Data

In recognition of BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month, The Trevor Project has released a new research brief examining findings from its 2025 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People. Drawing on responses from more than 16,000 LGBTQ+ youth ages 13–24, the brief highlights the unique challenges faced by young people living at the intersection of LGBTQ+ and BIPOC identities. The findings underscore how overlapping experiences of racism and anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination contribute to heightened mental health disparities and suicide risk. This resource offers important data to help better understand and support LGBTQ+ young people of color. [Learn more](#)



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 collaborated to create this infographic on mental health impacts of these experiences, including tips for how behavioral health providers can support Black LGBTQ+ individuals. [Download here](#)

Through Our Lens: Black LGBTQ+ Strength & 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 here](#)



Designated Placements Rule Rescinded



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has rescinded the 2024 Designated Placement Rule for LGBTQI+ youth in foster care. The rule was created to help ensure that LGBTQI+ youth in care had access to placements equipped to provide affirming, supportive environments and services. With the rule's removal from federal regulations, there is no federal protection to ensure affirming placements for LGBTQ+ youth in care. For youth-serving professionals, this policy change underscores the importance of understanding the protections that remain in place for LGBTQ+ youth in your state. While the federal rule has been rescinded, many states have enacted their own laws, policies, and nondiscrimination protections related to foster care placement and services. The [Movement Advancement Project's Equality Map](#) provides an easy way to explore current child welfare protections for LGBTQ+ youth and families in your state. [Read more](#)

Have a great weekend!

Thank you,

Meghan O'Hare, MSW