

Best & Promising Practices

This list was originally compiled by over 30 LGBTQ public health professionals in 2007; it has been updated and undergone expert review several times since. These practices have formed the basis for our technical assistance for years. They also are the backbone of our own program evaluation; we are successful as a project if we spur better performance on these measures.

1

Promote LGBTQ professional safety and leadership in public health.

The first resource for LGBTQ expertise is your own staff. Are LGBTQ staff valued? Have you formed an internal advisory group to assist with agency engagement?

2

Include LGBTQ community members in policy planning steps.

The second resource for LGBTQ expertise is local community leadership. Do you routinely make sure we are represented on advisory bodies and review groups? Do you ask the same of grantees?

3

Monitor impact of tobacco/cancer on LGBTQ populations.

In the past two years, 35 states have included LGBTQ measures on their Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey; including these measures as key demographic variables is becoming routine. Have you asked your state BRFSS to collect these data? Have you fielded community surveys? Do you ask grantees to report LGBTQ measures in program data? Do you urge clinicians to collect these data in health records?

4

Establish cultural competency standards for agency and agency-funded programs.

Do LGBTQ persons know that your program is welcoming? How would we find this out? If it is not clear, we can presume a program is not welcoming.

5

Fund community-based programs.

Local community-based organizations are the best experts in behavior change in this population; funding these organizations directly consistently achieves the greatest level of community engagement.

6

Routinely integrate LGBTQ tailored materials into larger campaigns.

Do your full population campaigns routinely integrate LGBTQ-welcoming materials and practices? Do you ask grantees to do the same?

7

Disseminate findings and lessons learned.

Google “Hawai’i LGBTQ data” to find an excellent example of a state disseminating findings from their own data collection. Be sure to disseminate lessons learned as well; ask us how we can write up a case study of lessons learned and put it on our resource library. Your lessons help others move faster.