



**Committee on Human Services
Budget Hearing: February 8, 2017**

**Testimony of
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center
*New York, NY***

**THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER
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THE CENTER

- Offerings that respond directly to input from youth, women and transgender individuals, as well as evidenced-based research to enhance program effectiveness.

Investing in efforts to support the LGBT community in accessing these crucial economic empowerment services only serves to benefit the State. We believe that this model is sustainable, will improve the livelihoods of transgender people and will reduce negative health consequences such as HIV and other STDs, suicide, homelessness and more. In addition, this funding will allow The Center to create replicable models of this programming which can be exported around the State, a gain for all LGBT New Yorkers.

For over three decades, The Center has worked to ensure that the LGBT community of New York City has access to the highest quality and most diverse range of services and resources. Though we are living in a time of unprecedented social, legal and political acceptance of the LGBT community, there is still much work to be done on a local and state level to ensure that our community members can successfully combat the economic injustice they face daily. With the support of tailored human services programming from experience, culturally competent and trusted providers, LGBT New Yorkers can access vital health and human services and achieve improved health and socioeconomic outcomes.

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