OppOrtunities fOr funding LGtB COmmunities in the u.s. sOuth

The South is home to more LGBT adults than any other region in the country...

In fact, 3 in 10 LGBT adults live in the U.S. South.

The South only receives about 8 percent of domestic LGBT funding each year.

LGBT Southerners face alarming disparities compared to non-LGBT Southerners and LGBT people in better-resourced regions.

LGBT people in the South are more likely to lack health insurance than their non-LGBT peers.

HIV infection rates continue to rise faster in the South than any region in the U.S., with youth, Black and Latino men, and transgender women at highest risk.

None of the 14 Southern states have statewide non-discrimination protections for LGBT people in employment, housing or public accommodations.

50% of rural LGBT students felt unsafe at school during the past year because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The majority of these groups are significantly underresourced and do impressive work with limited financial support and few paid fulltime staff.

Funders with a diverse array of priorities and strategies have the opportunity to positively impact LGBT communities in the South, particularly in the areas of economic opportunity, education, health, HIV/AIDS, media, arts and culture, policy reform, social justice, and youth:

- Build capacity of LGBT organizations as well as individual leaders
- Provide training for teachers, administrators and service providers working with LGBT youth
- Strengthen organizing that is locally-rooted and community-led
- Increase LGBT-inclusive programming among "mainstream" organizations
- Strengthen LGBT policy, advocacy, and service provision across areas of health, education, employment, and housing
- Increase LGBT cultural and clinical competence of health, HIV/AIDS & youth service providers
- Support efforts to change the narrative about LGBT Southerners and increase visibility through data-collection, public education, and cultural work