

# THE PHYSICS OF LGBTQ FUNDING: MOMENTUM, RESISTANCE, & IMPACT



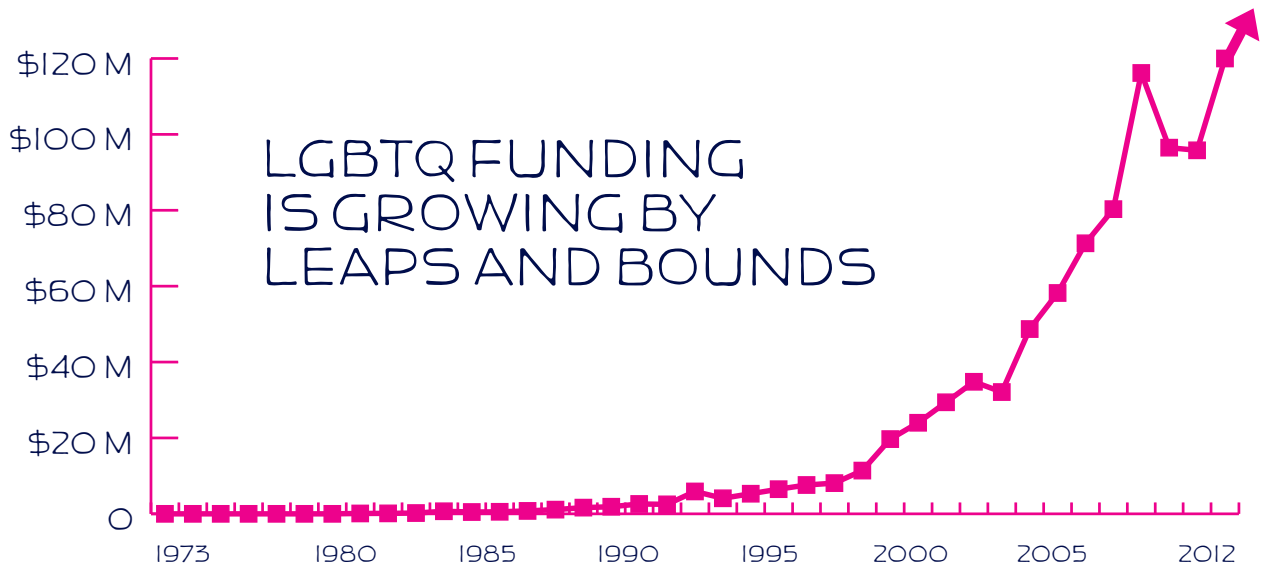
FUNDERS FOR  
LGBTQ  
ISSUES

*STRATEGIES FOR EXPANDING  
LGBTQ PHILANTHROPY*  
BY BEN FRANCISCO MAULBECK,  
PRESIDENT OF  
FUNDERS FOR LGBTQ ISSUES

AUGUST 2013



# MOMENTUM



# RESISTANCE

BUT WE'RE STILL A SMALL PORTION OF THE NEARLY \$45 BILLION GRANTED ANNUALLY. LGBTQ ISSUES ONLY RECIEVE **0.26%** OF FOUNDATION DOLLARS, WHICH IS ONLY **26 CENTS** OF EVERY 100 DOLLARS!



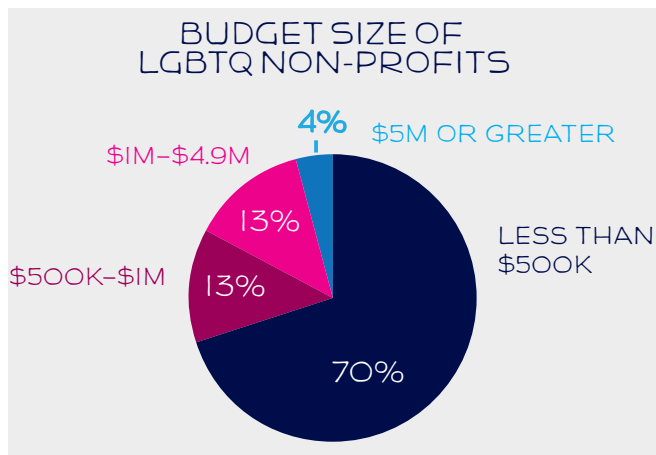
LGBTQ ISSUES = 0.26% OF PHILANTHROPIC DOLLARS (OR 26 CENTS OF EVERY \$100)

## WHY ARE LGBTQ COMMUNITIES UNDERFUNDED?

SOME OF IT IS PROBABLY THE USUAL SUSPECTS...

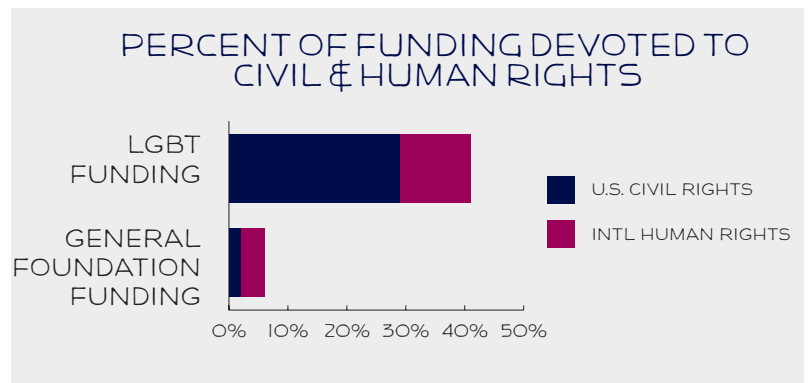
### HOMOPHOBIA – TRANSPHOBIA – AVERSION TO RISK

BUT PARTLY IT MAY BE BECAUSE MOST LGBTQ NONPROFITS ARE SMALL...



...AND MANY FOUNDATIONS DON'T FUND SMALL ORGANIZATIONS.

HISTORICALLY, A LARGE PORTION OF LGBT FUNDING HAS FOCUSED ON CIVIL RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND OTHER FORMS OF ADVOCACY...



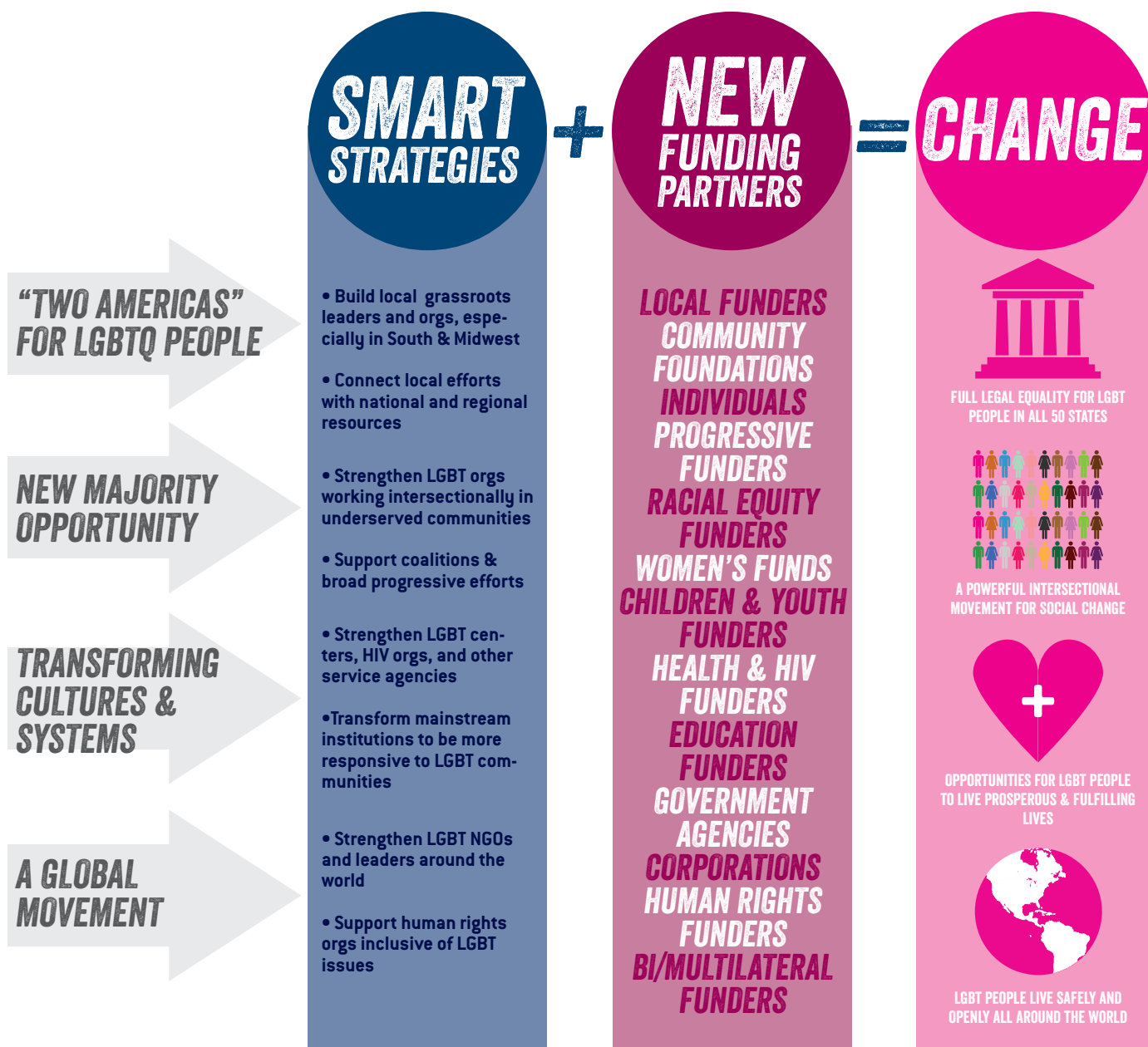
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TO OVERCOME THE RESISTANCE AND ACHIEVE  
**IMPACT** WE NEED...

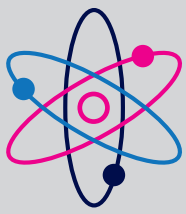
... TO BUILD THE CAPACITY OF THE LGBTQ CIVIC SECTOR IN THE U.S.  
AND AROUND THE WORLD.

... TO EXPLORE FUNDING PROGRESSIVE ALLIES AND MAINSTREAM  
SERVICE PROVIDERS.

... TO BE OPEN TO LEARNING AND GROWING AS WE WORK  
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WITH THE RIGHT STRATEGIES, FOUNDATION SUPPORT  
CAN GREATLY IMPROVE THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF LGBTQ PEOPLE



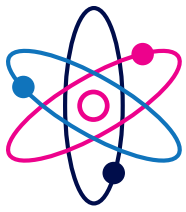
# INTRODUCTION

In the past decade, foundation funding for LGBTQ issues has risen at a staggering rate, recently reaching a new high of nearly \$125 million.<sup>1</sup> Yet this amount constitutes only a tiny fraction of the nearly \$50 billion in foundation grants awarded annually. With such modest resources, the LGBTQ movement has achieved one of the most significant and rapid cultural transformations of recent history. What could we accomplish if the philanthropic resources for LGBTQ communities were commensurate with the challenges and opportunities that we face?

Every year for nearly a decade, Funders for LGBTQ Issues has released an annual report seeking to quantify and examine the amount and character of foundation grantmaking for LGBTQ communities. This brief paper seeks to build on those annual tracking reports by taking a longer and wider view. The title references physics as the study of things that are in motion, of how things interact and relate to each other. This paper looks at the movement of LGBTQ funding over time and how LGBTQ grantmaking has interacted with other trends in the philanthropic world and beyond. Specifically, this report seeks to answer the following questions:

- **MOMENTUM:** What are the primary factors that have driven the exponential increase in LGBTQ funding, particularly in the past 10 years?
- **RESISTANCE:** Despite this rise, why do LGBTQ issues continue to be vastly under-funded by U.S. foundations?
- **IMPACT:** What needs confront LGBTQ communities in the next decade? What interventions are required to expand LGBTQ funding so that the resources for LGBTQ communities are commensurate with the challenges we face at this critical time for our movement?

To explore these questions, this report draws upon data from Funders for LGBTQ Issues' extensive research on LGBTQ funding, other LGBTQ movement research such as that of the Movement Advancement Project, and broader data on the nonprofit sector and LGBTQ communities, as well as the author's 14 years of experience working in philanthropy for underserved communities.



# I. MOMENTUM

BETWEEN 2003 AND 2011, **foundation funding for LGBTQ issues grew from \$32 million to \$123 million annually—eight times the rate of overall foundation funding growth.**

## RAPID GROWTH

Between 1973 and 2011, foundation funding for LGBTQ issues rose from \$16,000 to more than \$123 million. Growth was particularly rapid from 2003 to 2011, when LGBTQ funding nearly quadrupled from about \$32 million to its current level.<sup>2</sup> This is far more rapid than the growth of U.S. foundation funding overall, which grew from about \$30 billion in 2003 to about \$45 billion in 2011—a 50 percent increase. That means funding for LGBTQ issues grew at eight times the rate of foundation funding overall. During the same time period, funding for most population groups and subject areas grew

only modestly. Between 2003 and 2011, the only other areas that experienced such dramatic funding increases were public health and HIV/AIDS—both driven largely by the rapid expansion of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.<sup>3</sup>

## PHILANTHROPY BY AND FOR LGBTQ COMMUNITIES

Among the primary drivers of this exponential growth in LGBTQ funding were gay and lesbian donors themselves. Specifically, a large portion of LGBTQ grantmaking has come from private foundations established by gay men or lesbians, or from public foundations that raise their funds primarily from LGBTQ donors. Between 1973 and 2011, private foundations established by gay male and lesbian donors awarded more than \$288 million in grants for LGBTQ issues—making up nearly one-third of all LGBTQ funding and exceeding the \$268 million awarded by all other private foundations in the same time period.<sup>4</sup> For the same 39-year period, LGBTQ public foundations awarded \$93 million, or more than 10 percent of the \$894 million total awarded for LGBTQ issues.<sup>5</sup>

Together, gay and lesbian private foundations and LGBTQ public foundations accounted for approximately 43 percent of all grantmaking for LGBTQ issues over the past 40 years. Looking more closely at the last 10 years, funding from these LGBTQ foundations grew from about \$11 million in 2002 to nearly \$50 million in 2011—nearly a five-fold increase. LGBTQ foundations have provided anywhere from 34 percent to 51 percent of LGBTQ funding in any given year. Generally, these “queer dollars” have increased as a share of overall foundation funding for LGBTQ communities. In other words, LGBTQ foundation grantmaking has grown more rapidly than has mainstream foundation support for LGBTQ communities.

<sup>2</sup> Data on funding for LGBTQ issues have been taken from Funders for LGBTQ Issues' database of grants and prior reports, particularly *Forty Years of LGBTQ Philanthropy, 1970-2010* (2011) and our annual reports on *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer Grantmaking by U.S. Foundations* for calendar years 2002 through 2011. Data were collected directly from foundations and, in some cases, from publicly available tax returns (990s) filed by foundations."

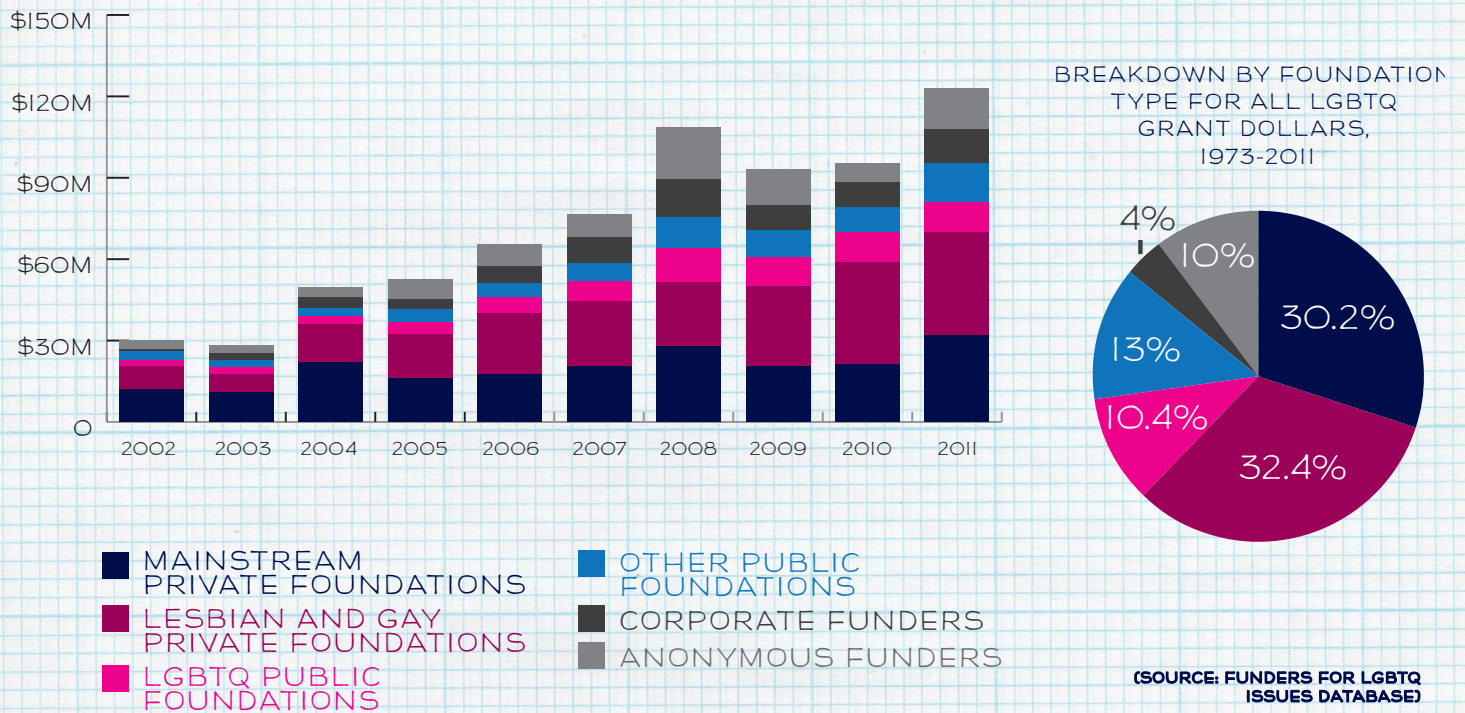
<sup>3</sup> *FC Stats*, Foundation Center, May 2013 < <http://foundationcenter.org/findfunders/statistics/> >

<sup>4</sup> "Gay and lesbian private foundations" here refers to 36 private foundations established by donors who identify as gay men or lesbians (mostly gay men). Several of these foundations give primarily for LGBTQ communities or include LGBTQ issues as one of their core priority areas. It is likely there are other foundations founded by LGBTQ donors who are not "out" or who are simply unknown to us. At the time of this writing, we know of no private foundations established by bisexual or transgender people, and so, for the sake of accuracy, we say "gay and lesbian private foundations" rather than "LGBTQ private foundations."

<sup>5</sup> LGBTQ public foundations refers to 26 community-based funders that primarily focus on LGBTQ issues and rely on LGBTQ donors as their primary source of support. These include community foundations such as the Horizons Foundation and Stonewall Community Foundation, as well as scholarship funds set up by nonprofit organizations such as COLAGE and PFLAG.



## SOURCES OF LGBTQ FUNDING BY FOUNDATION TYPE



This is a rare circumstance—that such a large portion of philanthropy for an under-served minority community comes from within the community itself. Of the top ten funders of LGBTQ issues, half are LGBTQ foundations. By comparison, none of the top 10 funders of Latino communities are Latino community funds or private foundations established by Hispanics.<sup>6</sup> There are a number of growing Latino community foundations, and several private foundations established by Latinos, such as the Castellano Family Foundation, but none of comparable size to the Arcus Foundation, the Gill Foundation, or the van Ameringen Foundation.

The unique robustness of LGBTQ philanthropy is, in part, related to the fact that LGBTQ people are distributed across the population and do not face the same history of intergenerational poverty as racial and ethnic minorities. Nevertheless, the strength of LGBTQ philanthropy by and for LGBTQ communities is testament to the philanthropic spirit of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. Moreover, it means that LGBTQ communities bring resources to philanthropy, offering unique opportunities for partnerships and leveraging of impact.

## GROWTH IN MAINSTREAM FUNDER SUPPORT FOR LGBTQ COMMUNITIES

The remainder of grant dollars for LGBTQ communities has been provided by a mix of mainstream private foundations, corporate foundations, community foundations, and anonymous funders. Of these, the largest by far is mainstream private foundations, which provided slightly more than one-quarter of LGBTQ funding in 2011. Mainstream private foundation funding for LGBTQ issues did not grow as quickly as gay and lesbian private foundation funding did in the past decade, but it still rose significantly, nearly tripling.

Corporate foundation support constitutes a relatively small portion of funding for LGBTQ issues (six percent as of 2011), but it's

<sup>6</sup> The Foundation Center and Hispanics in Philanthropy, *Foundation Funding for Hispanics/Latinos in the United States and for Latin America* (2012).

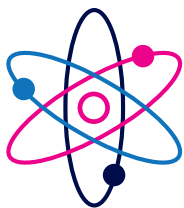
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**It is worth noting that funding for LGBTQ issues has generally been driven by large grant dollars from a small number of funders.**

As such, in each of the categories we've examined, the fluctuations of one or two funders have a tremendous impact on the overall funding picture. For example, in 2004, the relatively new Arcus Foundation increased its grantmaking by \$3.5 million, which accounted for nearly half of that year's growth in giving by gay and lesbian private foundations. In 2008, the Pride Foundation's grantmaking more than quadrupled to \$6.3 million due to a large bequest from one donor. This accounted for virtually the entire increase in giving by queer public foundations that year. More recently, in 2011, the Ford Foundation's support for LGBTQ issues increased from about \$8 million to more than

\$12 million, accounting for about 40 percent of the year's growth in mainstream private foundation funding of LGBTQ issues.



## II. RESISTANCE

Despite this impressive rise, funding for LGBTQ issues constitutes only a tiny sliver of foundation funding overall—barely a quarter of a percent as of 2011. By comparison, recent survey data from Gallup and the Williams Institute indicate that 3.4 percent of the adult population in the U.S. openly identify as LGBT, including 6.4 percent of young adults and 5.1 percent of low-income people.<sup>7</sup>

Moreover, as noted above, much of foundation funding for LGBTQ issues has come from funders rooted in LGBTQ communities, not from mainstream foundations and corporations. And the bulk of mainstream funding for LGBTQ communities may be attributed to a handful of mainstream funders that have shown exceptional leadership and support for LGBTQ issues.

Clearly, there is resistance from mainstream funders when it comes to funding LGBTQ issues. Why? What are the points of resistance that have kept funding for LGBTQ communities so low?

### HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA, AND AVERSION TO RISK

Some of the under-funding of LGBTQ communities is undoubtedly due to homophobia and transphobia. This does not necessarily mean that the staff or trustees of many mainstream foundations are motivated by malice or bigotry toward LGBTQ people. However, lack of knowledge of LGBTQ communities, stereotypes, and structural issues may prevent their institutions from taking the proactive steps required to support LGBTQ issues.

For example, the stereotype persists that LGBTQ people—especially gay men—are wealthier than their heterosexual counterparts, despite the data that show that LGBTQ people are actually more likely to be poor. A similar stereotype purports that LGBTQ people do not raise children, even though two million children are currently being raised by LGBTQ parents.<sup>8</sup> A program officer or trustee at a foundation focusing on the economically disadvantaged or on family strengthening could consciously or unconsciously be informed by such stereotypes, leading to the failure to develop an intentional strategy for reaching LGBTQ communities despite the best of intentions.

Foundations also tend to be risk averse, and sometimes foundations respond to the world reactively instead of proactively. Historically, LGBTQ rights were not supported by the general public. It wasn't until 2010 or 2011 that more Americans supported same-sex marriage than opposed it.<sup>9</sup> For public foundations, supporting LGBTQ issues might risk alienating donors; for corporate foundations, supporting LGBTQ issues might risk alienating clients. But in a relatively short period of time, more than 14 percent of Americans have changed their mind about same-sex marriage and come around to support it.<sup>10</sup> A similar trend of rapidly growing support is seen on other LGBTQ rights issues. As more and more Americans start embracing their LGBTQ brothers and sisters, it may actually become risky for such foundations to not fund LGBTQ issues. The question then becomes, how would LGBTQ issues fit into the mission and priorities of mainstream foundations?

<sup>7</sup> Gary J. Gates and Frank Newport, Gallup, *Special Report: 3.4% of U.S. Adults Identify as LGBT*, (2012).

<sup>8</sup> Movement Advancement Project, Family Equality Council, and Center for American Progress, *All Children Matter: How Legal and Social Inequities Hurt LGBT Families*, (2011).

<sup>9</sup> Nate Silver, FiveThirtyEight: Nate Silver's Political Calculus, *How Opinion on Same-Sex Marriage Is Changing, and What It Means*, (2013).

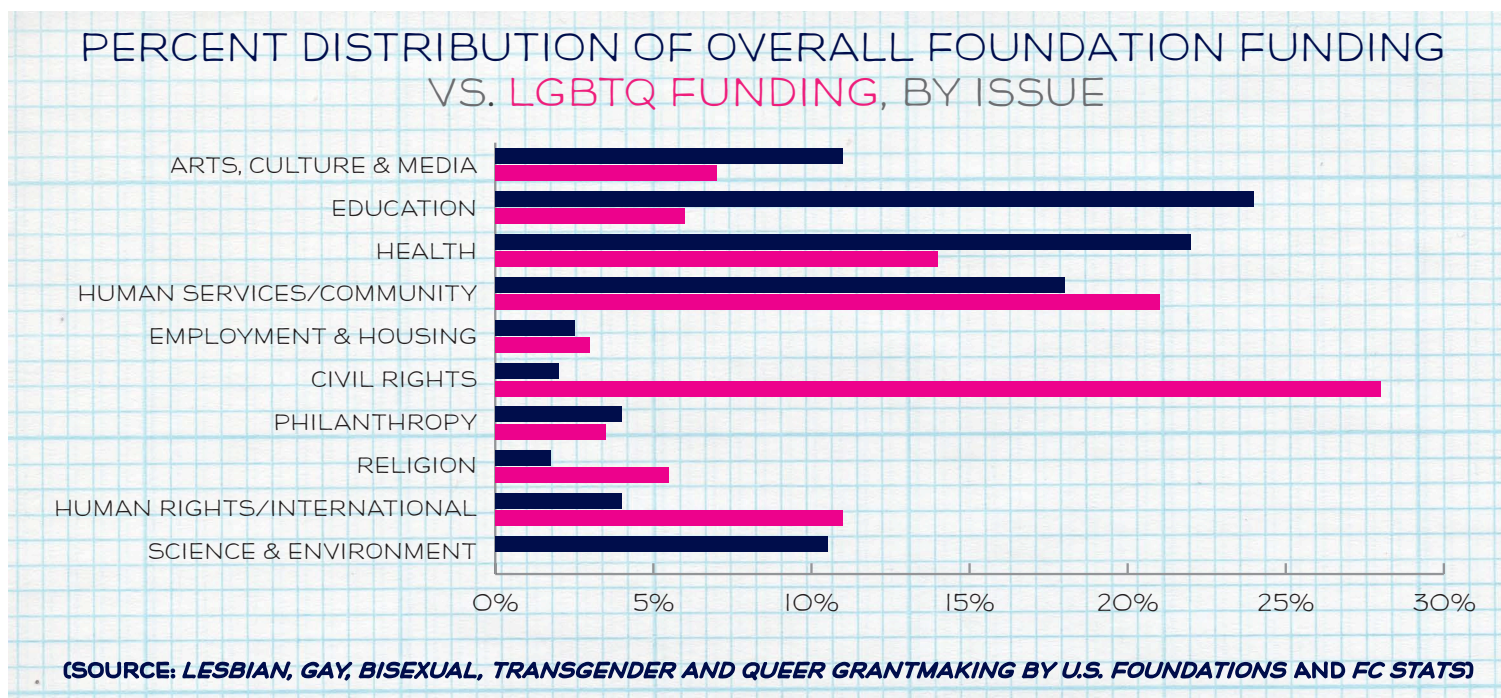
<sup>10</sup> Pew Research Center, *Support for Same Sex Marriage Grows as More Americans Change their Views*, (2013).



# THE MISMATCH BETWEEN MAINSTREAM AND LGBTQ PHILANTHROPIC PRIORITIES: “WE DON’T FUND ADVOCACY”

There are also real structural issues with the LGBTQ nonprofit sector that have contributed to the low level of LGBTQ funding.

As evident in the chart below, funding for LGBTQ issues looks very different from overall foundation funding when broken down by issue area. Most notably, more than one-quarter of LGBTQ funding has focused on civil rights (including marriage equality), while barely one percent of overall foundation funding is devoted to civil rights.<sup>11</sup> This is not surprising: LGBTQ people lack full legal equality in the United States, and so it would be expected—and hoped for—that LGBTQ funders would devote significant resources to advancing our civil rights. By contrast, many mainstream foundations, as noted above, tend to be risk-averse, and see civil rights advocacy as overly political—and some see it as venturing uncomfortably close to lobbying.



LGBTQ funders have also invested a greater portion of dollars in international human rights, which accounts for 15 percent of LGBTQ funding and only three percent of overall foundation funding. This again reflects LGBTQ funders’ strong understanding of the need for protecting basic legal rights, as well as the power of a shared global experience that transcends national boundaries.

Conversely, mainstream funders tend to invest a far greater share of their grant dollars in the arts, education, and health. Substantive LGBTQ funding has been provided in each of these areas, but not nearly at the same level as is seen in mainstream philanthropy overall.

Similarly, the LGBTQ nonprofit sector in the U.S. is much more heavily focused on advocacy than is the nonprofit sector overall. According to the Movement Advancement Project’s 2012 State of the Movement report, advocacy nonprofits accounted for 40 percent of all LGBTQ nonprofit expenses. For the larger nonprofit sector, only five percent of expenses are accounted for by “public & social benefit organizations,” a broad category that includes advocacy organizations.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> All comparisons between LGBTQ funding and overall foundation funding draw upon our 2011 tracking report, *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Grantmaking by U.S. Foundations*, and on the Foundation Center’s *FC Stats*, specifically its distribution of foundation grants by subject areas, Circa 2011.

<sup>12</sup> Katie L. Roeger, Amy Blackwood, and Sarah L. Pettijohn, the Urban Institute, *The Nonprofit Sector Brief: Public Charities, Giving and Volunteering*, [2011].

This is not to say that LGBTQ funders should decrease their investments in civil rights and advocacy, especially when so many LGBTQ people—particularly the most vulnerable—are subjected to outrageous violations of their most basic rights. However, this does explain, in part, why many mainstream funders have been reluctant to invest in LGBTQ-focused nonprofits. The largest and most developed part of the LGBTQ nonprofit sector is devoted to policy and advocacy, a strategy that many mainstream foundations completely exclude from funding regardless of the issue area or population focus.

If mainstream funding for the LGBTQ nonprofit sector is to grow on a massive scale, it will likely be in those areas of interest to a wider range of foundations: arts, education, health, and human services.

## THE SMALL SIZE OF THE LGBTQ NONPROFIT SECTOR

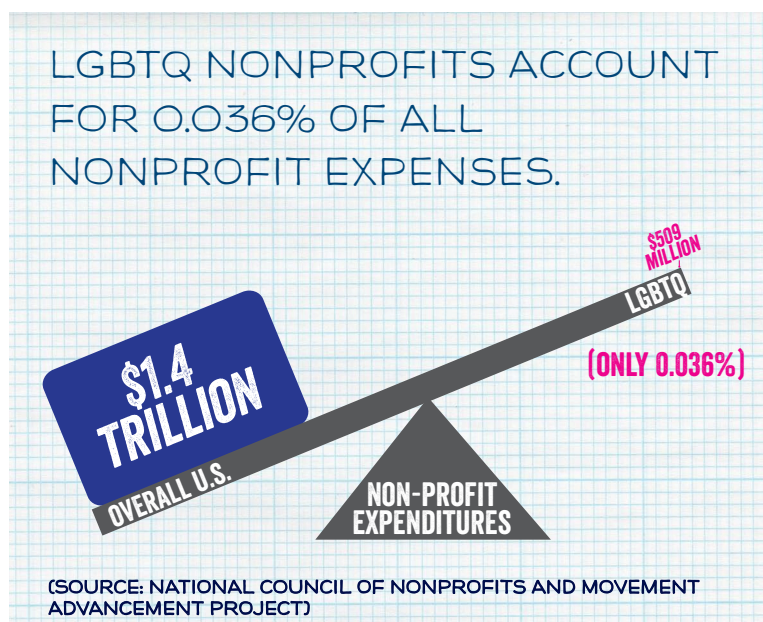
The final structural obstacle to expanding LGBTQ funding is the relatively small size of the LGBTQ nonprofit sector and its heavy reliance on foundation funding.

The Movement Advancement Project has identified 502 LGBTQ nonprofits with collective annual expenses of approximately \$509 million. There are more than one million registered 501(c)(3) organizations in the U.S., with combined expenses of \$1.4 trillion. That means that LGBTQ nonprofits account for 0.036% of all nonprofit expenses. Compared to that miniscule figure, the LGBTQ community's 0.25% share of foundation dollars could be construed as an over-investment.

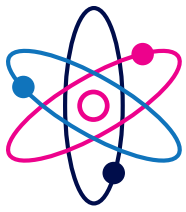
Indeed, LGBTQ nonprofits are generally more heavily reliant on foundation support than the average nonprofit. Foundation dollars currently provide approximately 20 percent of all LGBTQ nonprofit revenues, while foundation support makes up only three percent of revenues for the nonprofit sector as a whole. This creates yet another obstacle to expanding foundation funding of LGBTQ issues: most foundations don't like to see too large a portion of an organization's budget depend on foundation dollars.

As with the other obstacles noted above, this point of resistance is not insurmountable. However, it does mean that in order to expand foundation funding for LGBTQ issues responsibly and effectively, two approaches will be essential:

- (1) **Expand the LGBTQ nonprofit sector overall** so that it is equipped to receive a larger amount of foundation dollars, both by building the capacity of existing organizations and by seeding new efforts where appropriate; *and*
- (2) **Develop strategies for funding LGBTQ issues outside the traditional LGBTQ nonprofit sector** in the U.S., such as funding internationally and increasing the ability of allied organizations and mainstream service providers to be more responsive to LGBTQ communities.



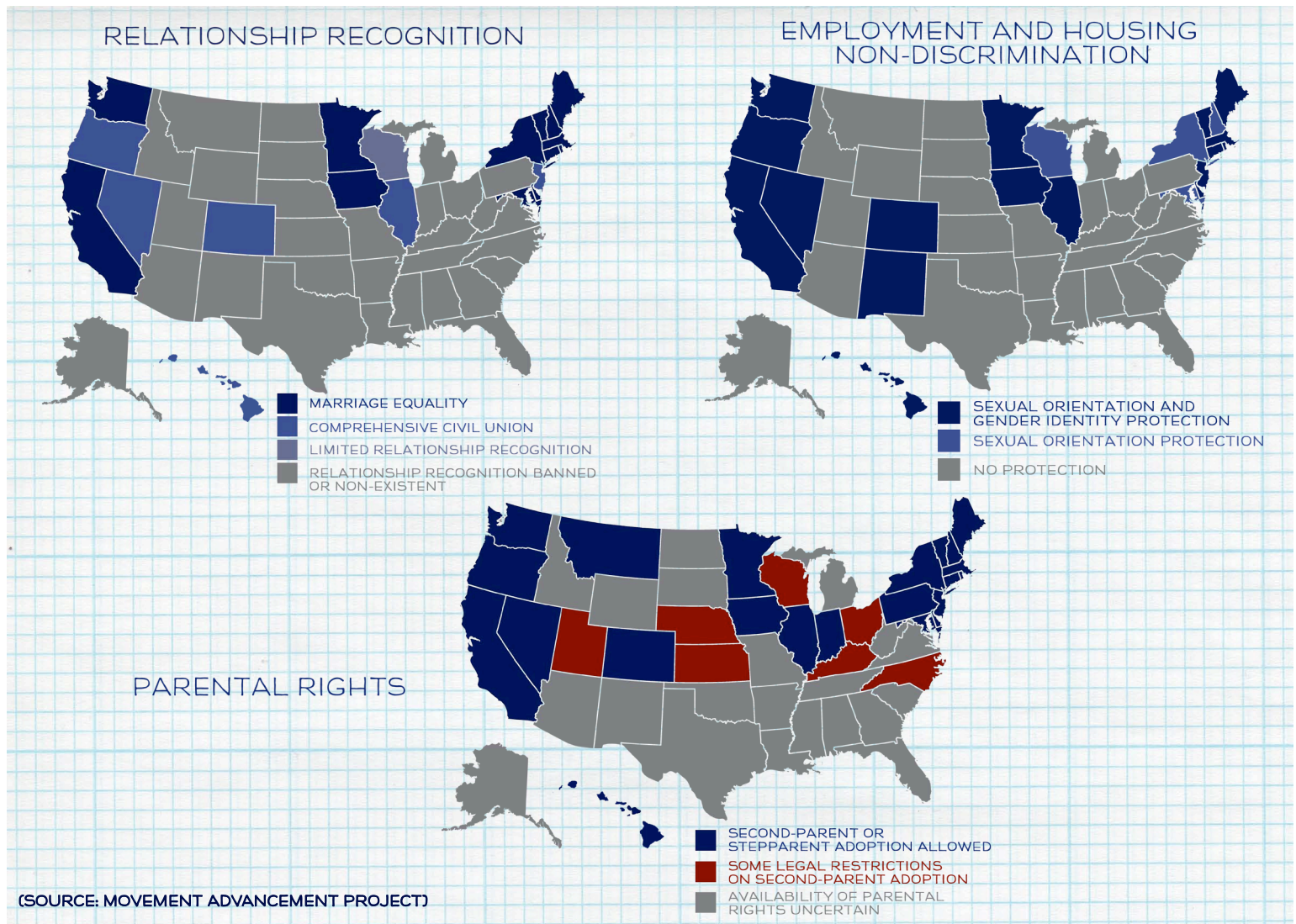




### III. IMPACT

This section outlines four major trends that face LGBTQ communities in the next decade. These trends present new and challenging obstacles, but they also present major opportunities for LGBTQ funders to engage new partners and to have a powerful and lasting impact on LGBTQ communities.

#### “TWO AMERICAS” FOR LGBTQ COMMUNITIES: WINNING FULL EQUALITY IN ALL 50 STATES



In 2013, for the first time, millions of LGBTQ Americans finally have the freedom to marry. Because of the Supreme Court’s rulings, the federal government now recognizes same-sex marriages, and with that recognition come immigration rights, health care and tax benefits, and more than 1,000 other rights that go with marriage. And it also provided something intangible but just as important: the knowledge that our lives and our love are honored and respected by our country.



Unfortunately, that respect is only given in 13 states and Washington, DC. We are facing a stark reality in which there are two Americas for LGBTQ people. There is the America that millions of gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans were welcome into this year, an America that fulfills its promise of freedom and liberty for all. And then there is another America, an America that doesn't yet live up to its great aspirations. Sadly, that's the America of 37 states and Puerto Rico where people still do not have the freedom to marry the person they love. That's the America of 29 states where people can still be fired simply because of their sexual orientation. That's the America of 34 states where transgender people do not have the clear protections from non-discrimination under state law.

Most of these states with weak LGBT protections are in parts of the country that are more conservative or moderate: the Southeast, the Mountain states, and the Midwest. LGBTQ nonprofits are fewer and smaller in these regions, partly due to under-funding. For example, all LGBTQ nonprofits based in 13 Southern states received a total of \$3.7 million in foundation grants in 2011—only three percent of LGBTQ funding for the year.

Despite this under-resourcing, regions like the South and the Midwest are home to significant assets, including strong LGBTQ leaders and grassroots efforts that are not always structured in an LGBTQ organization formally incorporated with nonprofit status. Some may be groups or programs operating under the umbrella of a larger “mainstream” or progressive nonprofit. Others may simply be groups of people passionate about a cause—rooted not in any formal structure but in the conversations that happen in people's kitchens and living rooms.

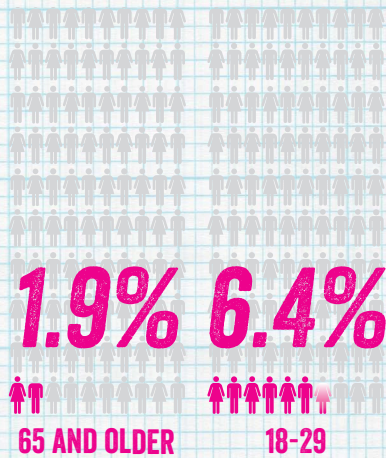
Funders now have the opportunity to build on the tremendous momentum for LGBTQ equality and to address these gaps by strengthening local LGBTQ leaders and grassroots efforts in the states where LGBTQ protections are weakest. This may include funding groups under the fiscal sponsorship of larger “non-LGBT” organizations and supporting alliances with a range of other movements and communities that will be essential to advancing LGBTQ rights in less progressive parts of the country.

Local funders will be invaluable partners in these efforts, especially community foundations and public funds, which often have strong local roots and deep knowledge of their communities. Building partnerships with these funders also offers an opportunity to build sustainable funding streams for LGBTQ organizations at the local level.

SMART FUNDING STRATEGIES	NEW FUNDING PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and strengthen local LGBTQ leaders and grassroots efforts in states where LGBTQ protections are weakest, especially in the Southeast, the Mountain states, and the Midwest.</li> <li>Support the advancement of LGBTQ rights at municipal and county levels as a means for providing some protections while raising public awareness.</li> <li>Strengthen alliances with a range of natural allies, from businesses and faith communities to other progressive movements.</li> <li>Support national LGBTQ and progressive organizations in investing more resources in collaborative partnerships with local leaders and grassroots efforts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community foundations</li> <li>Women's funds and other locally focused public funds</li> <li>Small family foundations with a regional focus</li> <li>Other local funders</li> <li>Social justice funders</li> <li>Individual donors</li> </ul>

# THE NEW MAJORITY OPPORTUNITY: BUILDING BROAD PROGRESSIVE COALITIONS

THE YOUNGEST GENERATION OF ADULTS **is more than three times as likely as the oldest generation to be LGBT-identified.**



'OUT' LGBTQ POPULATION

(SOURCE: GALLUP POLL)

It's well-known that communities of color are growing fast in the U.S., with people of color expected to outnumber whites by the year 2042.<sup>13</sup> Less known is that the LGBTQ community is an essential part of the rapidly changing demographics of the U.S. Among adults ages 65 and older, only 1.9 percent identify as LGBT, but among adults ages 18-29, 6.4 percent identify as LGBT. In other words, the youngest generation of adults is more than three times as likely as the oldest generation to be LGBT-identified. This most likely reflects the increasing societal acceptance of the LGBTQ community, making younger people more likely to openly identify. The trend will likely continue with the newest generation of youth, with 15 or 16 reported as the average coming out age for many gays, lesbians, and bisexuals, and with a growing number of transgender people coming out as children, sometimes with support from their parents.

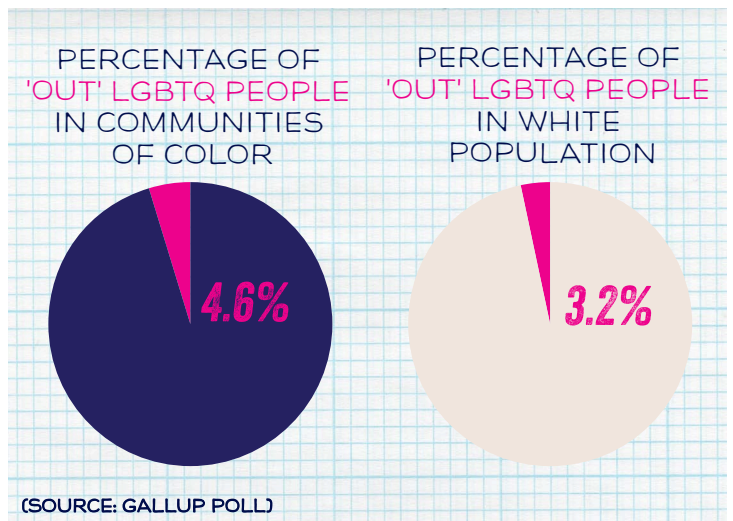
This means that the population of the U.S. is not only becoming "brownier," it's also becoming "queerer." Given these two intersecting trends, it's not surprising that LGBTQ communities of color are also growing. LGBTQ people make up four to 4.6 percent of communities of color, compared to only 3.2 percent of the white population.

Unfortunately, this young, brownier and queerer generation also tends to have lower incomes, which is one of the reasons that LGBTQ people face higher rates of poverty than the general population.

There are also more than 900,000 LGBT immigrants in the U.S., of whom about 30 percent are undocumented.<sup>14</sup> Many young queer and undocumented leaders have been at the forefront of the immigrant rights movement.

All of these demographics indicate that a growing proportion of the LGBTQ population faces complex challenges that range from economic hardship to immigration status. However, they also indicate an opportunity for the LGBTQ movement to work in coalitions with a range of marginalized communities that intersect with LGBTQ communities in both population and policy concerns.

Funders now have an opportunity to support coalitions of this growing "new majority" as well as inherently intersectional organizations and leaders. At the funder level, this area of work offers potential for collaboration with a broad range of social justice funders, as well as public funds and giving circles rooted in other under-served communities.



(SOURCE: GALLUP POLL)

<sup>13</sup> United States Census Bureau, *An Older and More Diverse Nation by Midcentury*, (2008).  
<sup>14</sup> Center for American Progress, *Living in Dual Shadows: LGBT Undocumented Immigrants*, (2013).

SMART FUNDING STRATEGIES	NEW FUNDING PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen coalitions &amp; broad progressive efforts that are inclusive of LGBTQ rights, on issues ranging from economic opportunity to immigrant rights.</li> <li>• Support inherently intersectional LGBTQ nonprofits and leaders rooted in communities of color, transgender communities, youth and young adults, women and girls, and immigrants.</li> <li>• Build the capacity of LGBTQ nonprofits to work intersectionally and in effective coalitions, particularly for policy and advocacy organizations working at the state and local levels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic engagement funders</li> <li>• Racial justice funders</li> <li>• People of color funds and giving circles</li> <li>• Women's funds and reproductive justice funders</li> <li>• Immigration funders</li> <li>• Other social justice funders</li> <li>• Individual donors</li> </ul>

## EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY: IMPROVING THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF LGBTQ FAMILIES

Beyond the legal inequalities faced by LGBTQ communities, many of our challenges and aspirations are similar to any other group of human beings: the desire for educational opportunities and expanded knowledge; the need to form meaningful connections through family, friendship, and community; the difficulties of illness, aging, and mortality; and the search for productive and fulfilling lives.

The realities of homophobia and transphobia create unique obstacles for LGBTQ people in nearly all of these aspects of our lived experience. Schools continue to be unsafe for many LGBTQ youth, with eight in ten reporting being harassed on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Grade point averages tend to be lower for LGBTQ students who experience frequent harassment, indicating that that an unsafe school environment negatively affects students' chances of academic success.<sup>15</sup>

In the area of health, a number of studies have found that LGBTQ people are at higher risk for depression and suicide, with particularly high risk among women, bisexuals, and transgender people. Some research also shows that lesbians may face a greater prevalence of tobacco use, obesity, and frequent alcohol use, all risk factors for cardiovascular disease, cancer, and other chronic diseases.<sup>16</sup> Gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men still make up about two-thirds of new cases of HIV, with particularly alarming high rates among Blacks, Latinos, and Native Americans.<sup>17</sup> HIV also has a high prevalence in the transgender community.

These health challenges are exacerbated by lower levels of access to care. LGBTQ people and their children are less likely to have health insurance than are straight people, in part because of the continued lack of relationship recognition by many states and employers. Many cases have been documented of LGBTQ people—especially transgender people – being refused care. The problem is especially concerning among LGBTQ elders: more than one in five LGBTQ people in long-term care facilities report feeling unable to be open about their identities.<sup>18</sup> The coming implementation of the Affordable Care Act presents new opportunities for increasing the health care access among LGBTQ communities.

<sup>15</sup> Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), *The 2011 National School Climate Survey*, [2012].

<sup>16</sup> Institute of Medicine, *The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding*, [2011].

<sup>17</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *HIV Surveillance Report 2011* Vol. 23, [2011].

<sup>18</sup> National Senior Citizens Law Center, Lambda Legal, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Center for Transgender Equality, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE), *LGBT Older Adults in Long-Term Care Facilities: Stories from the Field*, [2011].



A recent study from the Williams Institute analyzed numerous data sources and found poverty rates to be significantly higher in LGBTQ communities. Of adults aged 18 to 44, more than one in five gay men and lesbians and one in four bisexuals live in poverty, compared to 15 percent for the general population.<sup>19</sup> Vulnerability to poverty is exceptionally severe in LGBTQ communities of color: Black men and women in same-sex couples are twice as likely to be poor as Black heterosexual couples, and about six times more likely to be poor than are white men in same-sex couples.

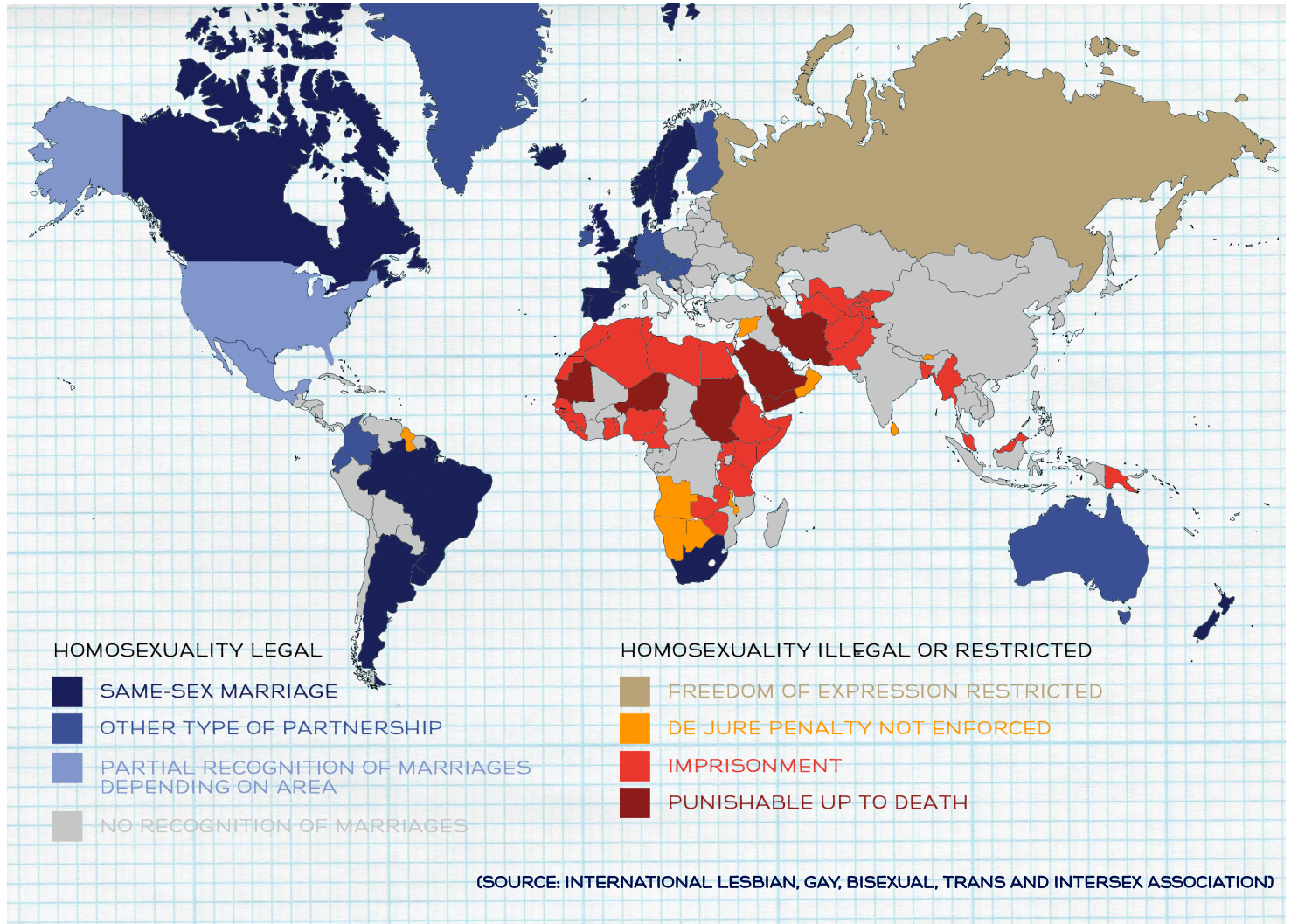
Despite these problems, the LGBTQ community has tremendous assets to build on in all of these areas. The LGBTQ community’s response to the AIDS crisis is a demonstration of our unparalleled capacity to come together, to advocate for ourselves, and to build lasting institutions for our communities. We have also collectively built more than 200 LGBTQ community centers, thousands of Gay-Straight Alliances, and a multitude of other formal and informal groups focused on everything from sports leagues and professional networks to addiction recovery and parenting.

Funders now have an opportunity to improve the lived experience of LGBTQ people by increasing opportunities for educational achievement, healthy living, and economic prosperity. This will require both strengthening the impressive array of existing LGBTQ resources and exploring creative ways to support the cultural transformation of mainstream institutions to be more responsive to our communities. Since the vast majority of philanthropic resources are devoted to education, health, and human services, this area offers the greatest potential for building partnerships with mainstream funders.

SMART FUNDING STRATEGIES	NEW FUNDING PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthen LGBTQ community centers, GSAs, and other groups, particularly in rural areas and other under-served regions.</li><li>• Support HIV/AIDS service providers to expand their work to address a broader range of health concerns, to develop more diverse revenue streams, and to be sustainable in a rapidly changing health policy environment.</li><li>• Explore approaches for increasing the cultural competence and inclusiveness of mainstream institutions, including schools, health care providers, senior housing and care facilities, sporting leagues, faith-based institutions, children’s welfare agencies, and workforce development programs.</li><li>• Support pilot models and demonstration projects for workforce development, entrepreneurship, housing, and economic development programs that target LGBTQ communities, especially transgender people, people of color, immigrants, and low-income communities.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Education funders</li><li>• Health funders</li><li>• HIV funders</li><li>• Children, youth, and family funders</li><li>• Economic opportunity funders</li><li>• Human services funders</li><li>• Federal agencies</li><li>• State and local government agencies</li><li>• Individual donors</li></ul>

19 M.V. Lee Badgett, Laura E. Durso, and Alyssa Schneebaum, The Williams Institute, *New Patterns of Poverty in the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Community*, (2013).

# LGBTI RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS: BUILDING A GLOBAL MOVEMENT



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTI) people are found in every nation and territory around the globe, and the movement for LGBTI rights is a global movement.<sup>20</sup> Unfortunately, homosexual acts remain illegal in 78 countries, and are punishable by death in seven countries.<sup>21</sup> Transgender people worldwide face social ostracism and physical violence, often with the support of the state. These homophobic and transphobic laws and institutions lead to persecution, imprisonment, and torture of LGBTI people around the world. LGBTI activists and leaders have taken brave stands in opposition to this oppression, but often face additional challenges of repressive political regimes and the curbing of basic freedoms of speech and assembly, making it difficult to form lasting organizations and movements.

In the face of such repressive environments, some LGBTI people have sought refuge or asylum beyond the borders of their home country. Unfortunately, they then meet further challenges; even some relatively progressive countries do not provide asylum on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, or apply strict tests to determine eligibility. They may also find that resettlement support centers and other service providers lack cultural competence and sensitivity for effectively working

<sup>20</sup> We use "LGBTI" rather than "LGBTQ" throughout this section, since that is the more commonly used term in global efforts around sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).

<sup>21</sup> Lucas Paoli Itaborahy, and Jingshu Zhu, International Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, *State Sponsored Homophobia: A world survey of laws: Criminalisation, protection and recognition of same-sex love*, 8th edition. [2013].

with LGBTI refugees, whether they are seeking refugee status as a result of homophobia, transphobia, or some form of persecution not directly related to their sexual orientation or gender identity.<sup>22</sup>

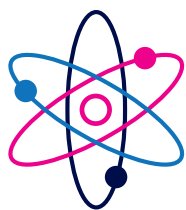
On the other hand, a number of nations have surpassed the U.S. in their recognition of the equality of LGBTQ people. Same-sex couples now have the freedom to marry in 15 countries. Fifty-two countries prohibit discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation. Contrary to stereotypes, these advances are happening not only in “the Global West and North,” but also in Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, South Africa, and Taiwan. Increasingly, human rights advocates around the world have begun to recognize that “LGBT rights are human rights.”

The greatest opportunity for expanding resources at the global level is through bilateral funders (government funding agencies) and multilateral funders (international entities such as the World Health Organization). The Global Philanthropy Project—a network of global LGBTI funders—have already made great strides in identifying and engaging new funding partners on the international stage.

SMART FUNDING STRATEGIES	NEW FUNDING PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Build the capacity of local LGBTI civil society organizations.</li><li>• Support broadly focused human rights organizations in fully integrating LGBTI issues into their research and educational activities.</li><li>• Build the capacity of mainstream providers serving refugees and displaced persons to be responsive to LGBTQ communities.</li><li>• Support the advancement of free speech and open societies in countries with oppressive political regimes, so as to create space for increased freedoms for all, including LGBTI people.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bilateral funders</li><li>• Multilateral funders</li><li>• Foundations supporting international human rights</li><li>• Local foundations and funding institutions rooted in their local countries and communities around the world</li><li>• Individual donors</li></ul>

22 Jennifer Rumbauch, “Towards Inclusive Resettlement for LGBTI Refugees,” *Forced Migration Review*, Vol. 42. [2013].





# CONCLUSION

This paper has intentionally highlighted challenges and opportunities across a wide range of areas. Various funders in the LGBTQ-focused and mainstream philanthropic communities may find resonance with one or several of these opportunities, depending on their particular missions and objectives. As a network, the unique role of Funders for LGBTQ Issues is to lift up all of these needs and approaches, to find new linkages across cohorts of funders, and to help coordinate all of our efforts so as to maximize our collective impact.

THE UNIQUE ROLE OF FUNDERS FOR LGBTQ ISSUES **is to lift up all of these needs and approaches, to find new linkages across cohorts of funders, and to help coordinate all of our efforts so as to maximize our collective impact.**

## **The current moment presents both a grave danger to and a grand opportunity for LGBTQ philanthropy.**

The danger is that, with support for LGBTQ equality advancing at such astonishing speed, our allies and supporters will come to believe that the “battle is won,” and that there is no longer any need for resources that target LGBTQ communities. This could lead to LGBTQ funding shrinking to even more miniscule amounts than the current level of 0.25 percent, at a time when our communities face tremendous challenges in the U.S. and around the world.

However, this moment also offers an unprecedented opportunity. With support from our allies growing everywhere, we have the potential to build collaborations and draw resources from a host unexpected but natural part-

ners. If we open ourselves up to the possibilities of new ways of thinking and new partnerships, we can seize the momentum of this moment and have a lasting impact in improving the lives of LGBTQ communities around the world.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Finally, many thanks to the amazing leaders who preceded me, to Katherine Acey, Michael Seltzer, Nancy Cunningham, Richard Burns, and Karen Zelmeyer, who have taken our work so far already and have made possible all the great things that are yet to come.

# MISSION

Funders for LGBTQ Issues works to mobilize the philanthropic resources that enhance the well-being of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities, promote equity and advance racial, economic and gender justice.

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