

# The Pride Justice Resource Center Newsletter



Welcome to the second newsletter of the Pride Justice Resource Center, the brand new National Resource Center on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) Youth funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and presented by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Each quarter we will be sharing guidance related to pressing topics in the field. This month we will be focusing on tips and strategies for working with families.

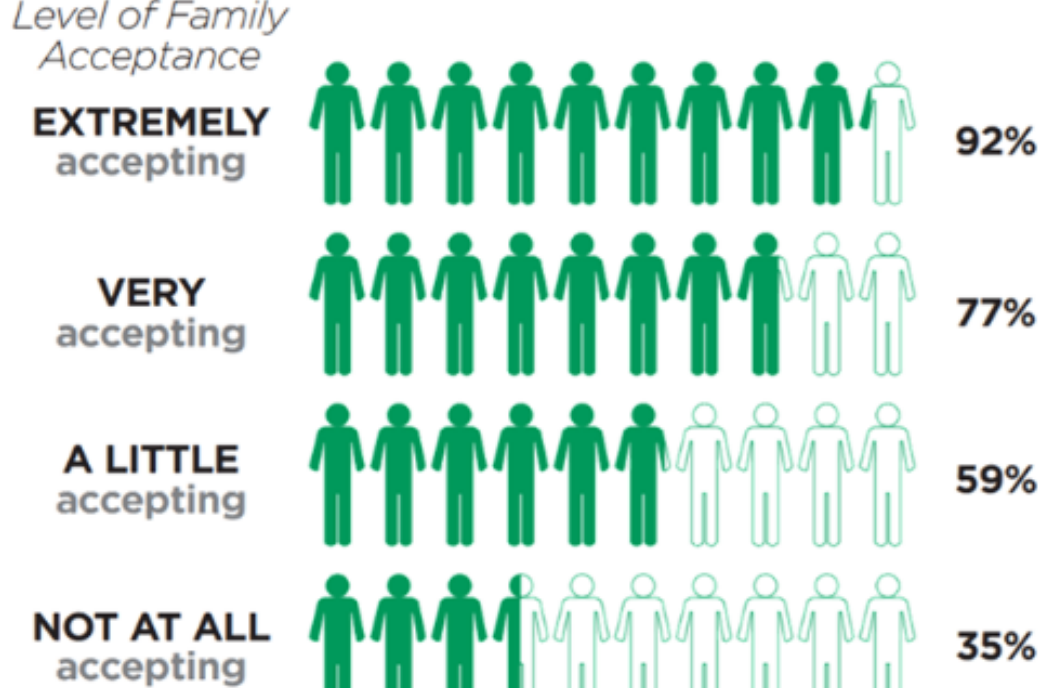
June is a time when our communities celebrate LGBTQ2S+ Pride. Pride is about more than the events and rainbow-themed decorations. Pride is about the affirmation, dignity, and equality of LGBTQ2S+ people. One in five young people in the juvenile justice system identifies as LGBTQ2S+,<sup>i</sup> but often their unique needs are not met by our systems. As we seek to ensure LGBTQ2S+ youth receive equal justice under the law, we must remember to engage and empower families. While 45% of LGBTQ2S+ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in 2022,<sup>ii</sup> research shows that LGBTQ2S+ youth whose families affirm their gender identity and sexual orientation are almost 93% less likely to attempt suicide than LGBTQ2S+ youth whose families are unsupportive.<sup>iii,iv</sup>

Working with families to provide supportive and affirming homes to LGBTQ2S+ youth can help promote youth well-being and reduce the risk of youth homelessness and substance misuse. The following are four quick tips to working with families. To learn more about these strategies, join us for "[There's No Place Like Home – Working with Families of LGBTQ2S+ Youth in Systems](#)", a webinar presented by Family Builders' clinical director, Vida Khavar, on June 28th, at 10 a.m. PDT / 1 p.m. EDT.

- 1. Every family is its own expert.** Your first step in working with families is to learn more about the family and its values. Once you understand what is important to the family, you can build from the shared values that will wrap the young person in care and support.
- 2. Honor the parents' process.** Parents of LGBTQ2S+ kids go through their own coming out process and we must create space and support for them to have their emotions. Many parents experience grief, fear, and guilt upon learning that their child is LGBTQ2S+. Building opportunities for parents and family members to process their emotions and navigate their initial reactions will allow them to be better prepared to focus on affirming, supporting, and loving LGBTQ2S+ family members.
- 3. Cultural humility.** Cultural humility, at its core, is a dedication to ongoing curiosity and genuine interest in understanding the complex and shifting nature of another person's identity. Every family is unique, and every family's shared identity will evolve and change. Learn about the unique cultural experiences of each family you are working with. Never make assumptions about families you work with; let them guide you. Families that are provided resources and services in a manner conducive to their culture will be better able to translate those resources into meaningful support for their child.
- 4. Familial involvement in legal systems.** A family's past experiences with the legal system will impact not only how each member views a young person who is involved in the system, but also how they view you. When working with a family, take time to learn about each member's perceptions of the legal system and the different court actors they will encounter. Having an understanding of how families perceive the legal system will allow you to connect them to appropriate supports and resources. Families that receive support and resources from trusted sources are more likely to provide the care that LGBTQ2S+ youth need.

Families that are supported and connected to resources that are appropriate for their needs will be better equipped to provide the supportive, affirming, and safe homes that young people need to thrive. For LGBTQ2S+ youth in the juvenile justice system, having affirming family members is integral to successful outcomes. Furthermore, familial support can be a lifesaving protective factor. Systems professionals should prioritize helping family members to be more supportive of the LGBTQ2S+ youth in their lives. To learn more about how to implement these strategies in your work, join us at [There's No Place Like Home – Working with Families of LGBTQ2S+ Youth in Systems on June 28th](#).

## Youth Believe They Can Be A Happy LGBT Adult



Ryan, Family Acceptance Project, 2009

If you missed our Introduction to LGBTQ2S+ Youth in the Juvenile Justice System, you can watch the recording [here](#).

In the introduction we highlight the recommendations in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in the Juvenile Justice System: a Guide to Juvenile Detention Reform](#) and the NCJFCJ's [Access to Juvenile Justice Irrespective of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression](#) Bench Card.

## Upcoming Events

Webinar:

### ***There's No Place Like Home – Working with Families of LGBTQ2S+ Youth in Systems***

June 28, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (PDT)

[Register Here](#)

## Resources on Working with Families of LGBTQ2S+ Youth

[SOGIE Center- Youth Acceptance Project](#)

An [#AsYouAre](#) Project: [Support for LGBTQ Youth Starts at Home: An #AsYouAre Project](#)

SUPPORT FOR LGBTQ YOUTH STARTS AT HOME:  
AN #ASYOURE PROJECT

## Sources

i. <https://digitalcommons.wcl.american.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1679&context=jgspl>.

ii. <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/article/facts-about-lgbtq-youth-suicide/>.

iii. Travers, R, Bauer, G, Pyne, J, Bradley, K, Gale, L, Papdimitriou, M. Impacts of Strong Parental Support on Trans Youth: A report prepared for Children's Aid Society of Toronto and Delisle Youth Services. TransPULSE. October 2, 2012.

iv. [https://familyproject.sfsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/FAP\\_English%20Booklet\\_pst.pdf](https://familyproject.sfsu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/FAP_English%20Booklet_pst.pdf).



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