

# MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &  
Community Services

DATE: June 2, 2025

TO: Human Services Commission members

FROM: Christy Stangland, Human Services Senior Planner  
Parks & Community Services Department

SUBJECT: LGBTQIA2S+ Panel Presentation

Panelist will be present on the work of their organizations to supporting/empowering the queer community. They will also discuss the current needs and gaps in services.

Representatives from the following organizations will be panelists for this presentation:

- Axton Burton (they/them), Executive Director at Pride Across the Bridge
- Angelica Gonzalez Graham (she/they), Healing Justice Organizer at Eastside For All
- Ken Shulman, MPA (he/him/his), Executive Director at The Lambert House LGBTQ Youth Center

## Background

LGBTQIA2S+ is an acronym that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning), intersex, asexual, and Two-Spirit. The "+" signifies the inclusion of other gender identities and sexual orientations not explicitly mentioned in the acronym, such as pansexual and non-binary.

An estimated 5.2% of people living in Washington (WA) state identify as LGBTQ+, or approximately 400,000 people. In addition, at least 32,850 transgender adults are estimated to live in WA state. There is no data on sexuality available for the City of Bellevue.

The 2021 Pride Survey found that LGBTQ+ people in WA experience high levels of poverty, food insecurity, and unstable housing. Although WA has some of the most robust sexual orientation and transgender anti-discrimination and insurance coverage laws in the US, we found that LGBTQ+ people in WA experience high levels of recent and lifetime discrimination and barriers to accessing health care.

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Public Health -Seattle King County's 2021 Pride Survey Report reported the following statistics:

- 20% of LGBTQ+ people in WA had annual incomes below \$15,000.
- Poverty was highest among transgender (30%) and Native American (28%) participants.
- 22% of LGBTQ+ people experienced food insecurity in the last year. Food insecurity was highest among trans women (30%), non-binary/genderqueer people (33%), trans men (38%), Black (33%), Hispanic/Latinx (41%), and Native American (42%) participants.
- 11% of Black LGBTQ+ participants were unstably housed.
- 58% of LGBTQ+ people had ever experienced discrimination due to their LGBTQ+ identity (32% experienced discrimination in the last year).
- 57% of LGBTQ+ people reported ever being hit, physically attacked, sexually assaulted, threatened with violence, verbally insulted/abused for any reason (11% in the last year)<sup>i</sup>

The 2023-24 Bellevue Human Services Needs Update stated that through focus groups and interviews a number of demographic groups, including the LGBTQIA2S+ community, reported experiences of hate, discrimination, or bias. Community members participating in the LGBTQIA2S+ focus group also noted frustration about the lack of access to services that meet their needs in the of the City of Bellevue and only able to find resources that meet their gender and sexuality needs in the City of Seattle.<sup>ii</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> [https://www.dianatordoff.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Pride-Survey-Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.dianatordoff.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Pride-Survey-Report_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> [https://bellevuewa.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf\\_document/2024/HS-Needs-Update-23-24.pdf](https://bellevuewa.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf_document/2024/HS-Needs-Update-23-24.pdf)