



# Bridging the Gap to Affirming Care: Addressing the Needs of LGBTQ+ Patients in Philadelphia

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## COMMUNITY PARTNER

[Einstein's Pride Program](#) in Philadelphia offers the LGBTQ+ community a professional, safe, and caring home for their healthcare needs. The Pride Program offers a wide variety of services for patients, including primary care, OB/GYN care, free letter of support for gender affirming surgeries, and much, much more. The Pride Program also strives to remove barriers to care through advocating for patients' needs across Einstein's Healthcare network by working to interrupt systemic and institutionalized oppression, racism, homophobia, and transphobia in the field of healthcare.



## BACKGROUND

In Pennsylvania, among those who responded to the 2022 LGBTQ+ Health Needs Assessment:

- Nearly 1/3 of LGBTQ+ individuals experienced a negative reaction from a health care provider when they learned they are LGBTQ+
- Nearly 1/2 of the respondents fear seeking healthcare due to previous negative experience/reactions from a health care provider
- Nearly 1/3 of respondents do not believe their providers are culturally competent at treating LGBTQ+ patients

**The Pride Program aims to combat this by providing access to safe, inclusive, and affirming care to LGBTQ+ patients.**

Source: [2022 Pennsylvania LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment](#)

## TEAM'S EXPERIENCE

The Bridging the Gap student intern worked closely with the Pride Program team to help meet the needs of patients within the program. The intern worked with patients to schedule them with primary care physicians, OB/GYN providers, and mental health professionals. The intern also connected patients to social support, such as housing support, and assisted patients with gathering resources for gender-affirming surgeries. Additionally, the intern had the opportunity to help update consent forms for pediatric patients beginning gender affirming hormone therapies.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND JOYS

- Helped over 30 patients this summer get connected to community resources, affirming providers, and more.
- Connected with physicians, social workers, and other health workers to learn more about the work they do for LGBTQ+ patients.
- Further expanded my own knowledge on the health inequities of LGBTQ+ patients here in Philadelphia.

## REFLECTION

“Working at the Pride Program this summer has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had thus far. I witnessed the experiences of LGBTQ+ patients in Philadelphia, and how many providers in the area are not affirming or inclusive of patients who fall outside of the binary. Importantly, too, it felt really gratifying knowing that I was helping connect patients to providers who would be affirming and inclusive of their identities. After working at the Einstein Pride Program, I know that I want to integrate gender affirming care into my future career and will advocate and ensure that all patients are provided the safe, inclusive medical care they deserve. I hope to also use this experience to help educate my fellow peers and colleagues on the experiences of trans- and gender-diverse patients, and how they can make their future medical practice more responsive of this population.”