



LGBTQ+ Community Center of Darke County

Request for Proposal: LGBTQ+ Youth Group

Summary: The LGBTQ+ Community Center of Darke County is seeking to contract with an individual or agency credentialed to work with youth in the State of Ohio - including passing all required background checks and having obtained mandatory State Licensing and Training - to provide facilitation services for an LGBTQ+ Youth Group in Darke County serving youth ages 12-17 with parental consent.

Background: The LGBTQ+ Community Center of Darke County opened in May of 2024 in line with the Ohio Suicide Prevention Plan to address the rising cases of suicide, mental health crises and addictions in Darke County resulting from a variety of environmental factors, including lack of safe spaces and lack of support from government officials and community agencies. The Center uses cultural validation techniques and best practices in whole person centered health and wellness. In order to ensure best practices and sustainability, the Center started with adult programming with the intention to prepare to provide youth services in the first year. The Center's adult programming focuses on advocacy that provides education to create a safe, welcoming and inclusive Darke County; community groups that build and nurture relationships and a sense of community; health and wellness resources that address whole person physical, mental and emotional wellbeing; and leadership development opportunities. The Center aims to provide a youth group focused on peer-to-peer community building that incorporates those same programming elements.

Details: In October/November 2024 an advisory committee came together to outline a youth program based on the needs and input of youth in the community as reported to parents and local providers. The results of this Advisory Committee included two primary recommendations: 1) Host an LGBTQ+ Families Group that brings together parents, LGBTQ+ youth, and LGBTQ+ parents to build a sense of community and provide peer support; and 2) Establish a formal professionally facilitated peer-to-peer group serving LGBTQ+ youth ages 12-17 with parental consent. The LGBTQ+ Families Group started in January 2025, and this request for proposal is to facilitate the LGBTQ+ youth group.

Key Deliverables: The Center is seeking a credentialed individual or agency to provide:

- A weekly or biweekly professionally facilitated peer to peer social/support group for LGBTQA+ youth ages 12-17 utilizing best practices in age-appropriate youth development, suicide prevention and cultural competency for LGBTQA+ youth and families;
- Coordination of weekly, biweekly, or monthly guest speakers, such as doctors, mental health professionals, community leaders, career advocates and others requested by the youth group focusing on leadership development, self-advocacy, and age-appropriate health and wellness;
- Coordination of a monthly, quarterly or periodic opportunity to for youth to participate in an advocacy and/or leadership development opportunity, such as a Facebook Live “State of the Youth” address developed and prepared by youth, or other activities that introduce youth to important life skills;
- Coordination of an annual event, such as LGBTQ+ Prom or Career Day that brings together LGBTQ+ youth with their peers in Darke County and/or across Ohio.

Budget and Program Format: The Key Deliverables were developed by input from the advisory committee and best practices in youth empowerment programming. However, respondents may have other considerations or models which the Center is open to exploring with advice and consideration from the advisory committee. In terms of budget, the Center is open to a variety of models:

- A) A partnership with an agency already dedicated to addressing the needs of disparately impacted populations who would like to implement their own program model using their own funding sources at the Center and with input on cultural validation from the Center’s youth advisory committee;
- B) A joint funding partnership with the Center and individual or agency both providing funds to support the projects; or
- C) A contract model in which the Center raises and secures funds to pay a set rate for the deliverables provided.

Submission and Proposal: While the Center has programs primarily serving adults 18+ and all-ages activities from time to time, parents, local providers and youth have identified an urgent and increasing need for youth-specific programming. We are open to immediate proposals and hope to have a contract or partnership secured in May 2025. Proposals should include the following in 1-3 pages, not including Cover Letters and Resumes:

- A) Name of Independent Provider or Agency, including names of staff or team members who would provide services;
- B) Qualifications and Credentials to serve youth in the State of Ohio, including date of last background check of individual or individuals in an agency who would provide such services;

- C) Program Model that would address Key Deliverables as proposed and/or Program Model that would include a different approach;
- D) Funding Model Desired, including a cost proposal if selecting a model in which the Center pays all or a portion of the cost. A sample cost proposal might appear as:
- Weekly group facilitation at 1.5 hours each week, including coordination of at least one monthly guest speaker @ 30.00/hr per each facilitator and two facilitators at each session = \$4680.00 per year
 - Coordination of quarterly youth leadership/advocacy opportunity at 10 hours per quarter @ 30.00 hour x 2 facilitators = \$2400.00 per year
 - Coordination of 1 annual event at 60 hours per year @ \$30.00/hour x 2 facilitators = \$3600.00
 - **Total: \$10,680.00**
- E) Qualifications of Individual or Agency Team, including Cover Letters and Resumes for each.
- F) Other Information, if not addressed in the Cover Letters, that you feel would be helpful for your proposal that demonstrates how you or your agency align with the Center's mission, vision, values, core beliefs, and guiding principles which can be found at <https://darkecountypride.org/about-us> and meet the minimum qualifications for this partnership:
- Commitment and alignment with the Center's mission, vision, core beliefs, values and guiding principles;
 - 1-3 years in a professional role serving youth ages 12-17, such as mental health, social work, direct youth programming, or other similar services;
 - Demonstrated ability to work with and empower diverse youth, including LGBTQA+ youth using best practices in youth development;
 - Demonstrated ability to effectively work with parents/guardians or teachers and school professionals to help them understand and support LGBTQA+ youth;
 - Credentials and licensure to provide youth services in the State of Ohio, including recent background check; and
 - Ability to work independently and within team cultures that promote and celebrate team work, consensus building, self-care and health and wellbeing for all.
- G) Please Address Proposals to: Board of Directors, LGBTQ+ Community Center of Darke County at info@darkecountypride.org.

If you have any questions, please email Ryan Acker, Board Chair, at ryan.acker@darkecountypride.org.