



For Immediate Release

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LGBTI Residents of Northeast Florida Needed for New Study

One of the first community-wide surveys of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex adults in Northeast Florida

JACKSONVILLE – The LGBT Community Fund for Northeast Florida is looking for LGBTI adults to participate in a brief and anonymous survey. The data collected will help service organizations and policymakers better serve the needs of this diverse community.

The LGBT Community Fund, with support from an advisory board of community members, recently launched the *Jacksonville-Area Community Assessment Project*, a survey that aims to help the Fund learn more about the local LGBTI community. The survey is part of a research study approved by the Institutional Review Board at UCLA. “Obtaining a comprehensive look at the LGBTI community in Jacksonville is a critical part of figuring out how we can make our community better and more welcoming, and fills a big gap as these data have not been collected before,” said Michael Meyers, president of the LGBT Community Fund.

The project is seeking participation throughout the LGBTI community. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex adults, 18 and older, who work, pray, play or use services in Jacksonville and live in Northeast Florida are eligible to participate. Adults who don’t identify as LGBTI but who have same-gender partners or who have a different gender identity from their assigned sex at birth are also invited to participate.

Researchers are particularly eager to make sure that subsets of the LGBTI community are appropriately accounted for in the survey.

“Ensuring we have representation from the African American community, from the transgender community, and from other populations is one of our top priorities,” said community-outreach

assistant Ian Cleary. “We are committed to recruiting a diverse group of participants, so we can talk about the many different parts of our community.”

Hundreds of LGBTI residents have already participated in the survey, which is available online at neflcommunity.com, a secure website for research studies, hosted at the University of California, Los Angeles. Paper copies of the survey are available at the offices of JASMYN (923 Peninsular Pl, Jacksonville, FL) and ElderSource (10688 Old St. Augustine Rd, Jacksonville, FL). Copies of the paper surveys should be returned by mail in the pre-addressed, stamped envelope provided with the survey.

Robust data on the identity and experiences of LGBTI people in Northeast Florida do not exist currently. Data collected in the survey will provide information on a number of issues, including participants’

- Experiences of discrimination
- Health
- Socioeconomic status
- Views of the local community
- Identity as an LGBTI person

Nat Glover, president of Edward Waters College, said that he supports the survey and that the results can be central to determining progress for the Jacksonville community going forward. He reiterated the importance of having robust participation from the entire community, including the African American LGBTI community, to ensure a diversity of experiences and views is reflected in the data.

“Even with the meaningful work that local service organizations, like JASMYN, are already doing, this kind of data will be fundamental to efforts to further improve the lives of LGBTI people in our community,” said Dan Merkan, Director of Policy at JASMYN.

Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, underscored the timeliness of this study.

“I’m so pleased that the LGBT Community Fund’s leadership has pursued this,” she said. “This information is even more important today, with the recent adoption of the Human Rights Ordinance in Jacksonville.”

Contact Susan Edelman, VP of Strategic Communications at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida at sedelman@jaxcf.org, for referrals to the research team, interviews or copies of the recruitment materials, including digital advertisements.

A team of local outreach assistants are available for interview and comment.

- Ian Cleary, Outreach Assistant for the Transgender Community



- Carol Meyer, Outreach Assistant for the Elder Community
- Reginald Caldwell, Outreach Assistant for the African American Community

About The LGBT Community Fund for Northeast Florida

The LGBT Community Fund for Northeast Florida, a giving circle of The Community Foundation of Northeast Florida, was founded in 2014 and pools the collective resources of its members to benefit the LGBT community in Northeast Florida. A steering committee representing members works to develop the grantmaking strategy and guides the work of the Fund. Any member making an annual gift of \$2500 or more can serve on the Steering Committee. To become a member or donate to the Fund, or for more information, visit www.lgbtnefl.org.

About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida (www.jaxcf.org), Florida's oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Now in its 53rd year, the Foundation has assets of \$343 million and has made grants of \$410 million since 1964.

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