

Did You Know?

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth are often overrepresented in the population of youth served by the child welfare system.

Children and youth who are in foster care are at a particularly vulnerable and unstable time in their lives. While young people who are LGBTQ have many of the same needs as other young people who are in foster care, they also may have specialized needs that relate specifically to their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Caseworkers can help:

- By being particularly attuned to placing youth who identify as LGBTQ with foster families who are committed to providing a safe, supportive and affirming environment for the young person while in care
- By being a link to support and safety
- Having the understanding and willingness to support the child's social and emotional development while in foster care
- Assessing and serving the needs of each child without bias and to ensure the safety of all children in foster care
- Support the families of youth to ensure that the parents or guardians develop the capacity to address the young person's needs in a healthy, understanding manner when the family is reunified
- Getting more information at links such as this
<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/>

(John C. Gonsiorek & James D. Weinrich, The Definition and Scope of Sexual Orientation, in Homosexuality: Research Implications for Public Policy, at 3-4 (John C. Gonsiorek & James D. Weinrich eds.), 1991.)

"Did You Know?" is brought to you weekly from the Coordinating Services for Children Workgroup.
If you would like more information, please contact the OOHC Branch by calling (502)-564-2147

