

RESOURCE CENTER SENIOR HOUSING



**Current design concept*

THE NEED

Society's view and acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) people is changing. However, for older adults, the fear and social stigma they have experienced has disrupted their lives, their connections with their families of origin, their lifetime earnings and their opportunities to save for retirement. Additionally, the added stress of dealing with decades of discrimination renders LGBTQ older adults at risk of physical and mental illness and other conditions, such as chronic diseases, depression, disability, poor nutrition, high premature mortality and social isolation. According to Dallas City Council's Comprehensive Housing Policy, Dallas faces a shortage of about 20,000 affordable housing units.

WHY NOW?

In the wake of COVID-19, the need to address health and economic disparities is even more urgent. According to a 2020 briefing issued by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the impact of coronavirus places LGBTQ adults at heightened risk of these complications due to their experiences with poverty and unique medical challenges. This rings especially true for those who are most marginalized, including older adults. Responses to COVID-19 must consider the specific problems faced by older LGBTQ adults, such as struggling to access care and satisfying basic needs in social isolation. With a global pandemic exacerbating the issues already faced by LGBTQ seniors, a safe and affordable housing project is needed now more than ever.

THE VISION

To meet the growing demand for care and services for the aging LGBTQ population in the Dallas community, Resource Center (the Center) has launched a \$4M capital campaign for the construction of an LGBTQ-friendly affordable senior housing facility. Through providing seniors with affirming opportunities for socialization, recreation, and emotional support, the Center's vision is to transform the way LGBTQ older adults live, access services, and develop community support for generations to come. In order to achieve this imperative goal, the Center has partnered with developer Matthews Southwest to construct an 84-unit building open to all. Located just north of Inwood Road in Dallas' Oak Lawn neighborhood, the 2 acre site has excellent access to services and transportation, including the Inwood Road DART Station. The powerful LGBTQ history of Oak Lawn offers the project an appropriate, significant, and beautiful location while honoring the contributions of LGBTQ seniors.

WHY RESOURCE CENTER?

As a trusted and pioneering leader in the LGBTQ community, the Center has offered senior-focused programming and services since 2007. In 2013, the Center resolved to increase the size and scope of THRIVE, the only LGBTQ community program for older adults. THRIVE'S programming is intended to combat issues facing LGBTQ seniors, such as social isolation and depression. Through community involvement and engagement, THRIVE actively creates a sense of belonging and camaraderie for participants. The Center's extensive experience in improving seniors' mental, physical, and emotional health positions it to provide this visionary LGBTQ-friendly affordable housing development.

CONTACT

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