THE NEED

Six in ten LGBTQ students report feeling unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation.

Four in ten LGBTQ students report feeling unsafe at school because of their gender expression.

LGBTQ youth are often over-policed at school and are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. Of LGBTQ and gender non-conforming youth in juvenile justice facilities, 85% are youth of color.

On the state level, only 14 states have laws that explicitly protect students from discrimination in schools based on sexual orientation and gender identity. One additional state has a law protecting students on the basis of their gender nonconforming status.

LGBTQ youth make up 7-9% of youth nationwide yet account for 20% of all youth in juvenile justice facilities.

The majority of foundation funding for LGBTQ education and safe schools was for organizations or programs operating at the national level.

FUNDING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

Between 2016-2017 funding for criminalization and criminal justice reform focusing on LGBTQ youth totaled $3,975,171, just 0.003 percent of all philanthropic dollars. A campaign of LGBTQ grassroots organizations driven and led by youth was successful in passing a state law that focuses on the school-to-prison pipeline, including BREADED, BRIGHT, TransYouth and Student Movement (TYSM), and TGP.

SCHOOLS, BY STRATEGY FUNDING (2016-2017)

Funding for LGBTQ education & safe schools has fluctuated over the past five years, never exceeding $9 million in a given year.

As such, for every $100 that foundations in the United States invest in LGBTQ education, only 15 cents were devoted funding for LGBTQ education and safe schools.

Advocacy received the largest share of funding for LGBTQ education and safe schools, followed by philanthropy and fundraising (largely for scholarships).

FUNDING FOR LGBTQ EDUCATION & SAFE SCHOOLS, BY GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS (2016-2017)

The top 10 funders of LGBTQ education & safe schools accounted for nearly three-quarters of all funding.

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This list includes funds awarded for nearly three-quarters of all funding. *This statement is based on foundation funding data from The Foundation Center for 2012, the most recent year for which data are available.

STRENGTHEN GSA'S AND OTHER VEHICLES FOR YOUTH-LED ORGANIZING

GSAs are documented to have a positive effect on student engagement and also play a key role in the position of leadership development in LGBTQ communities. Other youth-led organizations provide drivers and leg to youth and also help to address important social and lurking issues in empowering young leaders and funding movements.

Support strategic communications to raise awareness around LGBTQ students

Students have an opportunity to foster a more positive narrative around LGBTQ students. These efforts may involve storytelling, sharing stories of LGBTQ youth, especially trans students and LGBTQ students of color, building the criminal justice reform movements of LGBTQ organizations, and supporting research, messaging, and media campaigns to empower effective responses to anti-LGBTQ transgender, students of color, and immigrant students.

FACTOR CROSS SSilOS FOR INCREASED IMPACT

Across federal, state, and local levels, LGBTQ and allied organizations need resources to respond to anti-LGBTQ policies and to advance progressive policies that foster a more supportive school climate for youth. Funders have an opportunity to foster increased funding and collaboration for general support and capacity building to develop strong organizations at all levels.

SUPPORT FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL ADVOCACY

At the federal, state, and local levels, LGBTQ and allied organizations need resources to respond to anti-LGBTQ policies and to advance progressive policies that foster a more supportive school climate for youth. Funders have an opportunity to foster increased funding and collaboration for general support and capacity building to develop strong organizations at all levels.

FUNDERS FOR LGBTQ ISSUES 2019

45 WEST 36TH STREET | 8TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018 PHONE: 212-475-2930 info@lgbtfunders.org | www.lgbtfunders.org facebook.com/lgbtfunders | @GBTFUNDERS


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TOP FUNDERS FOR LGBTQ EDUCATION & SAFE SCHOOLS (2016-2017)*

Racial justice funders and those supporting boys and girls of color, criminal justice funders concerned about the school-to-prison pipeline, and health funders concerned with school climate for LGBTQ students. There is potential for increased funding and collaboration to address the discrimination faced by LGBTQ students, as well as for the pooling and leveraging of resources across silos as well as for the pooling and leveraging of resources across silos.