

SafeZone

Description

The SafeZone Program is a visible network of individuals who are committed to creating a community of respect and dignity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer consumers, clients, students, staff, faculty, and others. SafeZone makes it possible to easily identify individuals who are dedicated to an environment in which all people are free to thrive academically, professionally and personally.

Objective

By attending a Safe Zone training, the participants are presented with information to increase their skill set in providing services to a marginalized population. Upon completion, the individual will be well-equipped to be a support to a member of the LGBTQ community. Others can acknowledge this by a visible marker that is displayed, showing that their workspace is a SafeZone. The aim of the program is to accomplish the following three objectives;

1. *Increase knowledge*
2. *Encourage personal reflection*
3. *Build ally skills*

Impact

Professionals will gain valuable information on the LGBTQ community, including; who the members of this population are; how this population is affected by various systems; appropriate terms and general cultural competency; and an understanding of the various problems they face and the strengths they use to face them.

Fact: 42% of people who are LGBT report living in an unwelcoming environment.

Participation in SafeZone training will not only encourage insight into personal experiences with the LGBT community, but also an exploration into potential pre-existing stereotypes and assumptions. By gaining a deeper awareness of personal ideas and biases related to LGBTQ community members, the individual can work to eliminate or compartmentalize these thought patterns and provide more quality services to their consumers.

Fact: 80% of gay and lesbian youth report severe social isolation.

Each individual will leave with a general understanding and skills to turn their work environment into a place that is safe and inclusive for the population at large. Additionally, professionals stand to gain an increased comfort level in addressing concepts and language regarding LGBTQ communities as well as the services and organizations that support them.

Fact: Up to 68% of LGBT individuals report experiencing employment discrimination.

Attendance will ensure that the participant is more capable to not only provide direct service to members of the LGBT community, but to act as an ally in their work environments and the communities that they exist in.

Fact: 92% of LGBT adults said they believe society has become more accepting of them in the past 10 years.