



*Greater Lansing Guide to
Aging Services
for the LGBTQI Community*

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The authors wish to thank Kristen Admiraal, Janet Boyer, and Melissa Crosby for their assistance in developing this guide.

Disclaimer: The names of providers are intended as referrals only. Neither LAHR nor the MSU School of Social Work licenses, endorses, or recommends any provider.

Introduction

This guide is intended to serve aging LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Intersex) individuals, their caregivers, and family members by providing information about aging services in the Lansing, MI, area. It is intended to be an educational resource for the community as they consider the scope of aging services. Aging often encompasses changes physically, emotionally, and socially. It is essential to access supports as the needs of aging increase. Aging services have historically been hostile to the aging LGBTQI community, resulting in fear and avoidance of aging services. LGBTQI seniors face more barriers due to the lack of provider knowledge and training, inequitable policies, and lack of resources. Thus, it is important for LGBTQI seniors, their caregivers, and families to be aware of available resources as well as specific issues to consider when seeking resources. It is our hope that this guide will assist you in becoming an educated consumer of aging services.

The resource guide is organized by service categories. Each section is introduced by information that will be of particular importance for LGBTQI seniors. Each section then includes national, state, and local resources (when available) that may be useful.

As you consider various aging services, you may want to think about:

- ◆ Legal documents you can have in place to ensure that your wishes are respected as you age;
- ◆ Hospital and long-term care visitation policies;
- ◆ Benefit eligibility requirements (Social Security & Medicaid); and
- ◆ Long-term care needs.

It is our hope that this guide will help you identify needed services. It is meant as a starting point and lists organizations that may be most useful. We have highlighted issues that are specifically important for LGBTQI individuals and families to consider when making choices about care options.

The guide does not endorse any particular service; we encourage you to use the resources listed to make decisions that work for you and your family. Every effort has been made to provide accurate information; we apologize in advance for any errors in the guide.

Best wishes,

Anne K. Hughes, PhD

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Advocacy

LGBTQI older adults have many unique financial, health, and social needs. Many organizations provide advocacy services to address these needs and assist agencies in providing more inclusive and appropriate services. Below are organizations that provide advocacy to LGBTQI older adults.

State and National Resources

THE NATIONAL CONSUMER VOICE FOR QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE

www.theconsumervoice.org

Services: Advocates for public policies that support quality care; empowers and educates consumers and families; trains and supports individuals and groups to advocate for and empower consumers; and promotes the critical role of direct care workers and best practices in quality care delivery.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS (NCLR)

870 Market Street, Suite 370
San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 392-6257

www.nclrights.org

Services: Provides information on elder law, publications on legal issues, and an online legal information helpline. NCLR also provides help to attorneys who are representing LGBT clients.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU)

211 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02110

(617) 482-3170

www.aclu.org

Services: Works to defend and preserve individual rights and liberties, including First Amendment rights, equal protection, due process, privacy rights, and the rights of society's most vulnerable.

SERVICES & ADVOCACY FOR GLBT ELDERS (SAGE)

305 7th Avenue, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10001

(212) 741-2247

<http://www.sageusa.org/index.cfm>

Services: Nonprofit agency dedicated to serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender older people. Provides programs and services for the aging LGBT community, technical assistance and training to expand opportunities for LGBT older people across the country, and a national voice on LGBT aging issues.

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN (HRC)

1640 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036-3278

(202) 628-4160

www.hrc.org

Services: Civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender equality.

Local Resources

LANSING ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (LAHR)

PO Box 6565

East Lansing, MI 48826

E-mail: contactlahr@lahronline.org

<http://lahronline.org>

Services: The Lansing Association for Human Rights strives to build strong lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities in the Lansing area by:

- Addressing and assisting with the needs and concerns of individuals, families, and friends; and
- Bringing together people of all ages, races, and backgrounds to celebrate our lives together.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU) OF MICHIGAN

2966 Woodward Avenue

Detroit, MI 48201

(313) 578-6800

E-mail: aclu@aclumich.org

www.aclumich.org

Services: The ACLU of Michigan has advocated on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people for over 70 years and in 1986 founded the LGBT & AIDS Project. The LGBT Project fights discrimination and moves public opinion on LGBT rights through the courts, legislatures, and public education. The mission of the Project is to foster a society in which LGBT people and people with HIV/AIDS enjoy the basic rights of equality, privacy, and personal autonomy, and freedom of expression and association.

LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Michigan Office of Services to the Aging

(866) 485-9393

[http://www.michigan.gov/](http://www.michigan.gov/miseniors/0,1607,7-234-43230_46224---,00.html)

[miseniors/0,1607,7-234-43230_46224---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/miseniors/0,1607,7-234-43230_46224---,00.html)

Services: The Long Term Care Ombudsman program was created to help address the quality of care and quality of life experienced by residents who reside in licensed long-term care facilities such as nursing homes, homes for the aged, and adult foster care facilities. The Long Term Care Ombudsman program investigates complaints, suggests remedies, and assists with resident rights, payments, issues, guardianship, and nursing home placement.

Health & Health Care

Protecting Your Visitation & Decision-Making Rights

A regulation published November 17, 2010, by the federal Department of Health and Human Services requires any hospital that receives federal Medicare and Medicaid funding to allow patients the right to decide who visits them. The regulation also prohibits discrimination against visitors based on their gender identity or sexual orientation (along with other protected classes). Hospitals must also now inform all patients of their right to select visitors.

Patients in Michigan, who have had the freedom to choose visitors guaranteed since the early 1990s, can now rest assured that right is theirs no matter where in the country they travel. However, the policy does not automatically protect partners and family members when a patient is incapacitated and unable to communicate his or her wishes.

In times of emergency, you may be unable to make medical decisions or state whom you want to visit you. In these situations, hospitals may restrict visitation rights to a narrow interpretation of family that excludes those not legally or biologically related to the patient. Similarly, state laws around medical decision-making often limit these rights to a patient's biological family members when no documentation designates a surrogate decision maker.

It is especially important for the LGBT community to take steps to ensure that their wishes regarding visitation and health care decision making are clear.

Be sure to follow these steps to protect yourself:

- 1. Complete advance health care directives and visitation authorization forms.**
- 2. Talk with your primary care physician about your preferred visitors and advance health care directives.**
- 3. Work with your local hospitals to get these completed forms on file.**
- 4. Carry information related to your advance health care directives and visitation authorization forms in your wallet or other readily accessible area for emergencies.**

Sources: Human Rights Campaign (2010). Protecting your visitation and decision-making rights. <http://www.hrc.org/issues/protect-your-visitation-and-decision-making-rights.htm>

Proxmire, C. A. (2010, December 9). New national rules for hospital visitation rights affect LGBT patients. *Between the Lines*. Retrieved from <http://pridesource.com/article.html?article=44554>

Health Care Proxy

Health care proxies, or durable powers of attorney, used in combination with living wills (see Legal Issues section), are referred to as "Advanced Directives."

A health care proxy, or durable power of attorney for health care, allows you to designate another person as your agent to make health care decisions on your behalf. If a situation arises in which you are incapacitated and cannot make medical decisions for yourself, a health care proxy instructs doctors, nurses, and others involved with your care that the person you appointed as your agent is the person who you want making care decisions on your behalf.

For example, a health care proxy can allow you to give your agent the power to:

- Be given first priority to visit you in the hospital;
- Receive your personal property recovered by any hospital or police agency at the time of your incapacitation;
- Authorize medical treatment and surgical procedures.

A health care proxy, does not automatically go into effect but, rather, comes into effect as specified in the document. This condition varies from state to state, but most often, the document states that the proxy will come into effect only when and if your doctor declares that you are incapacitated.

It is especially critical for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people to know that if you do not create a health care proxy naming your partner or a friend as your agent, the hospitals and courts will look to your closest biological family member to make health care decisions for you, and your partner or friend will have no legal right to make such decisions. Also note that a health care proxy becomes ineffective at your death, and it is, therefore, critical that you also have a will.

Because each state regulates the requirements for a valid health care proxy in different ways, it is important to know the requirements in your state; consult a competent family or estate planning attorney who is familiar with these issues.

Source: Human Rights Campaign (2010). Health care proxy. <http://www.hrc.org/issues/2725.htm>

State and National Resources

GAY AND LESBIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (GLMA)

459 Fulton Street, Suite 107
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 255-4547

www.glma.org

Services: Includes a “find a provider” tool as well as top 10 health issues LGBT individuals should discuss with their medical provider. GLMA addresses transgender health issues, including an online referral directory and tips for talking to your health care provider.

MEDICARE

(800) MEDICARE

www.medicare.gov

Services: Medicare is health insurance for people over the age of 65, people under 65 with certain disabilities, and people of any age with end-stage renal disease. There are four parts to Medicare: Medicare Part A (hospital insurance), Medicare Part B (medical insurance), Medicare Part C (Medicare advantage

plans), and Medicare Part D (Medicare prescription drug coverage). There are several resources on the Medicare website, including eligibility tools and resource locators.

MEDICAID

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services:

<https://www.cms.gov/home/medicaid.asp>

Michigan Medicaid State Plan:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2943_4860---,00.html

Services: Medicaid is a health insurance program that pays for medical care for eligible low-income individuals. In Michigan, Medicaid is given to eligible individuals through the Michigan Medicaid State Plan.

MICHIGAN HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2943_4860---,00.html

Services: The Michigan Department of Community Health offers several health care programs to eligible older adults, including Supplemental Security Income, MIChoice Waiver, Adult Benefits Waiver, and the Medicare Savings Program. Additional benefits may be available to family caregivers and for disabled adult children.

MICHIGAN MEDICARE MEDICAID ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(800) 803-7174

<http://www.tcoa.org/mmap>

Services: The Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) is a free program for Medicare beneficiaries and their families when they need help understanding Medicare and Medicaid eligibility, enrollment and coverage, medical bills, Medicare supplemental and long-term care insurance. MMAP counselors provide information about benefits and help people solve problems with health benefit programs and related insurance products.

Local Resources

Hospice Services

Hospice services provide end-of-life care to individuals and families in a variety of settings, including personal homes, residential facilities, or in a hospice facility. Services are provided both to the dying individual and their loved ones. Services typically include: pain management, emotional support, and bereavement groups both before and after death. When you contact a particular provider, you may want to ask if non-relatives are eligible for emotional support and bereavement services.

HOSPICE ADVANTAGE

801 Waverly Road, Suite 304

Lansing, MI 48917

(517) 866-8470 or (877) 889-8470

www.hospiceadvantage.net

HOSPICE OF LANSING

4052 Legacy Parkway, Suite 200

Lansing, MI 48911

(517) 882-4500

www.hospiceoflansing.org

HOSPICE OF LANSING, STONELEIGH RESIDENCE

3411 Stoneleigh Drive

Lansing, MI 48910

(517) 882-1620

www.hospiceoflansing.org

McLAREN HOSPICE AND VISITING NURSE

2316 S. Cedar Street

Lansing MI 48910

(866) 323-5974

www.mclarenathome.org/body.cfm

SPARROW HOSPICE SERVICES

1210 Saginaw Street

Lansing, MI 48915

(517) 364-7200

<http://www.sparrow.org/hospice/>

Healthcare Equality Index

The Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) is an annual survey of healthcare facilities in the United States. The index surveys healthcare facilities about policies and practices relevant to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons and their families. The 2010 HEI describes 178 health care facilities, 22 of these facilities are located in Michigan.

Facilities were rated in four major areas: Patients' Bill of Rights and non-discrimination policies, visitation policies, cultural competency training, and equal employment opportunity policies. The specific rating criteria are as follows:

- ◆ Patients' Bill of Rights and/or non-discrimination policy includes "sexual orientation"
- ◆ Patients' Bill of Rights and/or non-discrimination policy includes "gender identity or expression" or "gender identity"
- ◆ Visitation policies grant same-sex couples the same visitation access as different-sex couples and next of kin
- ◆ Visitation policies grant same-sex parents the same visitation access as different-sex parents for their minor children
- ◆ Provide cultural competency training addressing healthcare issues relevant to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community
- ◆ Equal employment opportunity policy includes "sexual orientation"
- ◆ Equal employment opportunity policy includes "gender identity or expression" or "gender identity"

Three hospitals in the greater Lansing area were evaluated against the above criteria: Sparrow Hospital, Sparrow Specialty Hospital, and St. Lawrence Hospital. All three indicated that their Patients' Bill of Rights and/or non-discrimination policies include "sexual orientation." They provide cultural competency trainings addressing health care issues relevant to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, and their equal employment opportunity policies include "sexual orientation."

Human Rights Campaign Foundation. (2010). *Healthcare Equality Index 2010*. Retrieved October 19, 2010, from <http://www.hrc.org/documents/HRC-Healthcare-Equality-Index-2010.pdf>

Long-term Care

There are numerous types of facility-based programs that provide a range of long-term care services. Some facilities provide only housing and related housekeeping, but many also include help managing medications, assistance with personal care, supervision, and special programs for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease, or 24-hour nursing care. The services available in each facility are often regulated by the state in which the facility operates (for example, some states do not allow some types of facilities to include residents who are wheelchair bound or who cannot exit the facility on their own in an emergency), and many have a centralized intake process. Facility-based care is known by a wide variety of names, including board and care, assisted living, adult foster care, Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs), and nursing homes.

Facility-based service providers include:

premises. State licensure and the terminology used for this type of facility vary greatly.

Assisted Living

Assisted living is designed for people who want to live in a community setting and who need or expect to need help functioning, but who do not need as much care as they would receive at a nursing home. Some assisted living facilities are quite small—with as few as 25 residents—while some can accommodate 120 or more units. Residents often live in their own apartments or rooms, but enjoy the support services that a community setting makes possible, such as:

- Up to three meals a day;
- Assistance with personal care;
- Help with medications, housekeeping, and laundry;
- 24-hour security and onsite staff for emergencies; and
- Social programs.

The cost of assisted living varies widely, depending in part upon the services needed by the resident and the amenities provided by the facility. Assisted living is regulated in all states; however, the requirements vary.

Adult Foster Care

Adult foster care can be provided for individuals or for small groups of adults who need help functioning or who cannot live safely on their own. The foster family provides room and board, 24-hour availability, help managing medications, and assistance with Activities of Daily Living. Licensure requirements and the terminology used for this type of facility vary greatly from state to state.

Board & Care Homes

Board and care homes, also called residential care facilities or group homes, are smaller private facilities, usually with 20 or fewer residents. Most board and care homes accept six or fewer residents. Rooms may be private or residents may share rooms. Residents receive meals, and personal care and have staff available 24 hours a day. Nursing and medical attention are usually not provided on the

Continuing Care Retirement Communities

Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) are also called life care communities. They offer several levels of care in one location. For example, many offer independent housing for people who need little or no care, but also have assisted living housing and a nursing facility, all on one campus, for

those who need greater levels of care or supervision. In a Continuing Care Retirement Community, if you become unable to live independently, you can move to the assisted living area, or sometimes you can receive home care in your independent living unit. If necessary, you can enter the onsite or affiliated nursing home. The fee arrangements for CCRCs vary by the type of community. In addition to a monthly fee, many CCRCs also charge a one-time “entrance fee” that may be partially or completely refundable (often on the sale of the unit).

Nursing Homes

Nursing homes, also called Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) or convalescent care facilities, provide a wide range of services, including nursing care, 24-hour supervision, assistance with activities of daily living, and rehabilitation services such as physical, occupational, and speech therapy. Some people need nursing home services for a short period of time for recovery or rehabilitation after a serious illness or operation, while others need longer stays because of chronic physical, health, or cognitive conditions that require constant care or supervision.

http://www.longtermcare.gov/LTC/Main_Site/Understanding_Long_Term_Care/Services/Services.aspx#FBCS

Source: Administration on Aging. (2010). Understanding long-term care services.

State and National Resources

NURSING HOME COMPARE, CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES www.medicare.gov/NHCompare

Services: This site allows consumers to compare Medicare and Medicaid certified nursing homes throughout the country. Each nursing home facility is given an overall rating, along with ratings for health inspections, staffing, and quality of care. Individual nursing homes can be selected to outline detailed information, including specific health violations and quality of care indicators.

THE NATIONAL CONSUMER VOICE FOR QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE

www.theconsumervoic.org

Services: Advocates for public policies that support quality care; empowers and educates consumers and families; trains and supports individuals and groups to advocate for and empower consumers; and promotes the critical role of direct care workers and best practices in quality care delivery.

MI-CHOICE WAIVER/PROJECT CHOICES

(517) 887-1440 or (800) 405-9141

<http://www.tcoa.org/pc>

Services: Project Choices is a local name for a statewide care management program that gives individuals who are likely candidates for a nursing home the opportunity to make the “choice” to stay at home. Staffing is provided by nursing and social worker care management teams that specialize in working with individuals who need ongoing assistance to remain in their homes. Contact the Tri-County Office on Aging and ask for Project Choices. The Intake Coordinator, as part of an initial screening, will then ask several questions, such as your (or the person whom you are calling about) ability to prepare meals, do housework and bathe. Not everyone will be eligible for Project Choices. If an individual does not qualify, other services will be suggested.

Local Resources

LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Michigan Office of Services to the Aging

(866) 485-9393

[http://www.michigan.gov/](http://www.michigan.gov/miseniors/0,1607,7-234-43230_46224---,00.html)

[miseniors/0,1607,7-234-43230_46224---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/miseniors/0,1607,7-234-43230_46224---,00.html)

Services: The Long Term Care Ombudsman program was created to help address the quality of care and quality of life experienced by residents who reside in licensed long-term care facilities such as nursing homes, homes for the aged, and adult foster care facilities. The Long Term Care Ombudsman program investigates complaints, suggests remedies, and assists with resident rights, payments, issues, guardianship, and nursing home placement.

Transgender Issues

Transgender seniors face additional challenges that are important to consider when seeking services for themselves or seeking services for loved ones who are transgender. Health challenges remain one of the biggest concerns for many transgender individuals. Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Administration, and private health insurance generally do not cover transgender health services such as hormones and surgery. Without insurance coverage, the out-of-pocket cost of transgender surgery is unaffordable for many. Others do not have surgery because of opposition by family members, fear of surgery, other health complications, or belief that surgery is just not necessary to live life in the proper gender. This means that it is quite likely that a transgender woman will still have the anatomical features of a male, and transgender men may still have certain anatomical features of a female. It is important to know that just because an individual is transgender, that does not disqualify them from typical services (i.e., preventive health visits, screenings, hospitalization days).

The health care system is generally unprepared to deal with the realities that transgender seniors face. Transgender seniors may deal with chronic health conditions from being refused help because of their transgender or gender non-conforming status, harassment in medical encounters, or medical providers simply not understanding how to treat transgender seniors. While this lack of understanding can be frustrating and discouraging, it is important to

note that individuals can advocate for themselves or help educate the medical providers.

While health concerns are often the biggest hurdle for transgender seniors, discrimination can occur in other areas of life. That is why it is crucial to ask questions when determining where to live, where to receive medical attention, and accessing other services to ensure that either you or your loved one is being cared for in the best way possible.

National Resources

TRANSGENDER AGING NETWORK

6990 N. Rockledge Avenue
Glendale, WI 53209

(414) 540-6456 (phone)

(414) 540-6489 (fax)

www.forge-forward.org/tan

SERVICES AND ADVOCACY FOR GLBT ELDERS (SAGE)

305 7th Avenue, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10001

(212) 741-2247

<http://www.sageusa.org/index.cfm>

Services: Nonprofit agency dedicated to serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender older people. Provides programs and services for the aging LGBT community, technical assistance and training to expand opportunities for LGBT older people across the country, and a national voice on LGBT aging issues.

Financial & Legal Issues

In order to ensure that your rights are preserved, it is important to put your wishes in writing. These documents are particularly important to protect the rights for those who are LGBTQI. Some medical and financial documents that you should consider formalizing include a living will, domestic partnership agreement, a durable power of attorney for finances, and a last will and testament. While financial planning is important for all aging people, this is especially so for LGBTQI couples and families who do not benefit from protections granted by marriage. It is important to establish your relationship as an “insurable interest” so that a partner can benefit from insurance; an attorney or financial specialist can assist you in this documentation.

Living Will

Living wills, used in combination with health care proxies (see Health & Health Care section), are referred to as “Advanced Directives.”

A living will (or medical directive) is a document that instructs your doctor or care provider about your preferences for life-saving procedures in the event that you have a terminal condition or are incapacitated. For example, you can decide whether you want your doctor to initiate life-sustaining procedures such as CPR, administer artificial nutrition and hydration, or keep you as comfortable and free of pain as possible if you have a terminal condition or are in a persistent vegetative state.

A living will is an important legal document because it communicates your wishes and gives your loved ones guidance in making a very difficult decision. It also is especially critical for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people to know that if you do not create a living will expressing your wishes regarding life-sustaining measures, it will be much more difficult for these measures to be withheld or withdrawn, and the hospital and the courts will look to your closest

biological family members to assist in making these decisions.

A living will is different from the durable power of attorney for health care because you are not appointing someone to make life-sustaining decisions for you, but rather leaving instructions for your doctor or care provider. Although a durable power of attorney for health care appoints someone else to make health care decisions for you when you are incapacitated, a hospital or court may still require specific, written directions from you regarding the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining measures. For this reason a living will and a health care power of attorney should always be completed.

Because each state regulates living wills differently, it is important to know what the requirements for a living will are in your state; consult a competent family or estate planning attorney who is familiar with these issues.

Source: Human Rights Campaign (2010). Living will. <http://www.hrc.org/issues/2726.htm>

Domestic Partnership Agreement

A domestic partnership agreement is a document that explains the contractual legal rights and responsibilities of each partner when a couple decides to form a long-term committed relationship. For example, in your domestic partnership agreement, you and your partner can determine:

- Whether a particular piece of real or personal property is owned jointly or belongs solely to one partner and how one or both parties took title to that property;
- Whether a gift or inheritance made to one partner is held jointly or individually;
- Who is responsible for household duties and chores; and
- How to share your income.

In the event of potential disputes or misunderstandings, a domestic partnership agreement can help clarify ownership of property, provide guidance for dividing property in the event of a separation, and specify a dispute resolution mechanism such as arbitration. Because some states do not recognize the validity of domestic partnership agreements, it is recommended that you consult an attorney in your area.

Source: Human Rights Campaign (2010). Domestic partnership agreement. <http://www.hrc.org/issues/2724.htm>

Durable Power of Attorney for Finances

A durable power of attorney for finances allows you to appoint another person as your agent and grant him or her access to your money and other assets and the authority to make financial decisions on your behalf if you become incapacitated. Some examples of the powers you can give your agent are the powers to:

- Authorize payment of bills;
- Run your business;
- File your taxes;
- Withdraw money from your checking or savings account;
- Control your investments;
- Sell your home; and
- Apply for insurance benefits on your behalf.

It is important to carefully choose a person you trust to be named as your agent due to the enormity of financial control you will give them. However, it should be noted that you can limit the power given to your agent by detailing the specific powers you are giving her/him in the durable power of attorney for finances document.

It is critical for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people to know that if you do not create a durable power of attorney for finances naming

your partner or a friend as agent, no one will be able to manage your finances unless a guardianship proceeding is filed in court, and know that your closest biological family members will have priority of appointment.

Source: Human Rights Campaign (2010). Durable power of attorney for finances. <http://www.hrc.org/issues/2719.htm>

Last Will & Testament

A will is a document that details the distribution of your money, belongings and property after your death. In the document, you also name a “personal representative” (commonly known as an “executor”) to distribute your property in accordance with your wishes. A will is a complex legal document, and the requirements vary from state to state. In many states, even a minor technical mistake can invalidate your will. Therefore, it is essential that you contact an attorney in your area for advice on drafting a will that respects your wishes.

It also is important to know that the way your assets are titled, and whether or not they are subject to beneficiary or statutory designations, can completely alter the plan established in your will. For this reason, too, it is important to have an attorney review your situation and help you with your will. The attorney can also advise you about any taxes that might be due on your death, and whether they can be avoided by planning ahead.

It is especially critical for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people to have a valid will that expresses their wishes. If a person dies without a valid will, a complex set of state laws, known as intestacy laws, automatically direct who will inherit your property beginning with your biological family. Most state intestacy laws do not recognize domestic partner relationships. This means that if you do not have a legally valid will, your partner could end up with nothing or, worse yet, could lose property he or she paid for due to an inability to demonstrate ownership.

Many states also have laws that require a person's spouse to receive a portion of the spouse's estate automatically.

Source: Human Rights Campaign (2010). Last will and testament. <http://www.hrc.org/issues/2718.htm>

State and National Resources

LAMBDA LEGAL

11 East Adams, Suite 1008

Chicago, IL 60603-6303

(312) 663-4413 or (866) 542-8336

www.lambdalegal.org

Services: Lambda's Legal Help Desk staff members respond directly to members of our communities who are seeking legal information and assistance with discrimination related to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and HIV status. To the extent that their resources and priorities allow, Lambda Legal takes on legal representation of callers whose situations present impact litigation issues; for many others, Lambda Legal provides leads to other organizations and practical information that might help them address their problems. They also provide a list of suggested questions to ask a prospective attorney.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS (NCLR)

870 Market Street, Suite 370

San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 392-6257

www.nclrights.org

Services: Provides information on elder law, publications on legal issues, and an online legal information helpline. NCLR also provides help to attorneys who are representing LGBT clients.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU)

211 Congress Street

Boston, MA 02110

(617) 482-3170

www.aclu.org

Services: Works to defend and preserve individual rights and liberties, including First Amendment rights, equal protection, due process, privacy rights, and the rights of society's most vulnerable.

Local Resources

SIXTY PLUS, INC., ELDERLAW CLINIC

Cooley Center, 6th Floor

300 S. Capitol Avenue

Lansing, MI 48933

(517) 334-5760

www.cooley.edu/60plus

Services: Cooley Law School students provide legal help to seniors over the age of 60. Most services are for civil cases, credit card disputes, divorce, and estate planning. They do not help with bankruptcy cases. There are no fees for the student services. The client is responsible for court and filing fees.

Eligibility: Must be age 60+; for a single client, assets cannot exceed \$150,000 excluding primary residence, and for married clients, assets cannot exceed \$250,000 excluding primary residence. Clinic primarily serves Ingham, Clinton, and Eaton counties but may make some exceptions (primarily for estate planning).

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MICHIGAN

2966 Woodward Avenue

Detroit, MI 48201

(313) 578-6800

E-mail: aclu@aclumich.org

www.aclumich.org

LGBT LEGAL PROJECT

Contact: Jay Kaplan

(313) 578-6812

E-mail: Kaplan@aclumich.org

Services: The ACLU has advocated on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people for over 70 years and in 1986 founded the LGBT & AIDS Project. The LGBT Project fights discrimination and moves public opinion on LGBT rights through the courts, legislatures, and public education. The mission of the Project is to foster a society in which LGBT people and people with HIV/AIDS enjoy the basic rights of equality, privacy and personal autonomy, and freedom of expression and association. The LGBT Legal Project was established in 2001 and serves the needs of all LGBT people in Michigan, including seniors.

STONEWALL BAR ASSOCIATION

Contact: Jay Kaplan

E-mail: Kaplan@aclumich.org

Services: The Stonewall Bar Association is an attorney referral listserv of LGBT attorneys, as well as LGBT-friendly attorneys. Contact them directly for legal referrals.

ANNETTE E. SKINNER, JD

2800 E. Grand River Drive, Suite B

Lansing, MI 48912

(517) 346-4900

E-mail: skinnerlaw@comcast.net

Specializations: Wills, Bankruptcy, Social Security Appeals, Powers of Attorney, and Probate Issues (Guardianships and Conservatorships).

PAMELA SISSON, JD

321 W. Lake Lansing Road

East Lansing, MI 48823

(517) 481-2913

http://pamssison.com

Specializations: Trusts, Probate of Estates, Litigation, Real Estate Sales, Aged and Aging, Elder Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Mediation, Family Law, Alimony, Cohabitation Agreements, Divorce, Divorce Mediation, Domestic Partnerships, Gay and Lesbian Family Law, Living Wills.

LISA C. WARD, JD

2164 University Park Drive, Suite 260F

Okemos, MI 48864

(517) 347-8100

Specializations: Employment Discrimination and Civil Rights (e.g., Housing, Health Care).

KIMBERLY SAVAGE, JD

Savage Wolfe

1745 Hamilton Road, Suite 320

Okemos, MI 48864

(517) 515-5000

E-mail: ksavage@savagewolfelaw.com

www.savagewolfelaw.com

Specializations: Wills and Estate Planning for Non-traditional Families, Personal Bankruptcy, Real Estate, Landlord/Tenant Law, Criminal/DUI Defense.

Community Senior Services

Community social services provide information, advocacy, and social services to individuals. These services help individuals to determine their eligibility for benefits and assist with applying for benefits. In addition, many of these organizations provide social opportunities such as meals, exercise classes, and educational programs.

State and National Resources

BENEFITS CHECKUP

www.benefitscheckup.org

Services: This website, sponsored by the National Council on Aging, helps individuals identify and apply for federal, state, local, and private benefits for which they qualify.

AFFIRMATIONS

290 W. 9 Mile Road
Ferndale, MI 48220

(248) 398-7105

Toll-free Helpline: 1-800-398-GAYS (4297)

www.goaffirmations.org

Services: Affirmations is the largest LGBT organization in Michigan and one of the ten largest in the United States. Programs include the Health Services program, discussion and support groups, and social and recreational activities. Resources at the center include our toll-free Helpline, the Pittmann-Puckett Art Gallery, Game Room, General Motors Foundation Media Center, and Bayard Rustin Library, and our Volunteer and Leadership Development program.

Local Resources

TRI-COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING (TCOA)

5303 S. Cedar Street, Suite 1
Lansing, MI 48911-3800

(517) 887-1440

www.tcoa.org

Services: Serving Michigan's Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties and the cities of Lansing and East Lansing, TCOA is a state-designated Area Agency on Aging. Senior citizens, family members, hospital staff, home health agencies, and neighbors depend on TCOA for direction, referrals, and services for our community's aged and persons with disabilities. Services include tax assistance, Medicare and Medicaid assistance, as well as crisis intervention.

ALLEN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

1619 E. Kalamazoo
Lansing, MI 48912

(517) 367-2468

www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org

Hours: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Monday–Friday.

Services: Offers first-time home buyer education and counseling classes (our program qualifies participants for MSHDA Links home buyer's assistance); foreclosure prevention counseling; financial management and economic literacy counseling; credit repair counseling. We can provide information and connect you with other community programs. Recurring events include Wednesday Morning Senior Coffee (and other interested neighbors) drop-in program 10:00–12:00, which features a short program on a topic of interest followed by coffee and muffins; Breadbasket: free bread distribution every Tuesday at 1:00; Youth Service Corps: Tues./Thurs. from 3:30–5:30; monthly free over-the-counter medicines available from 1:00–4:30, for 48912 residents only. Host of Quit Tobacco & Kinship Care Support groups. Publisher of *The Eastside Neighbor* newsletter.

Eligibility: Seniors or others interested. Call if you need a ride or can give one.

Cost: None.

SENIOR CENTERS

Senior centers offer a wide variety of programming, including health and wellness classes, recreational activities, congregate meals, and volunteer opportunities. In addition, many senior centers offer information and referral to resources in the community. There are sometimes nominal membership fees (\$10–\$25 per year) and suggested meal donations (\$2.50 per meal).

EAST LANSING PRIME TIME

Hannah Community Building
819 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 337-1113
www.ELPrimetime.com

CRISTO REY SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAM

Cristo Rey Community Center
1717 N. High Street
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 372-4700
Services: Provides a variety of services to seniors, including those who only speak Spanish.

MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER

4000 N. Okemos Road
Okemos, MI 48864
(517) 349-2209, ext. 288

BATH CHARTER TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER

14480 Webster Road
Bath, MI 48808
(517) 641-6619

CLINTON COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

201 E. Walker Street
St. Johns, MI 48879
(989) 224-4257
<http://comnet.org/clintoncoseniorcenter/>

EATON AREA SENIOR CENTER

804 S. Cochran
PO Box 644
Charlotte, MI 48813
(517) 541-2934

EATON RAPIDS SENIOR CENTER

Rocking Chair Deserters
201 Grand Street
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
(517) 663-2335

HOLT SENIOR CENTER

Sam Corey Building
2108 N. Cedar Street
Holt, MI 48842
(517) 268-0096

LEDGES YOUNG AT HEART

525 E. River Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 627-4866

WILLIAMSTON AREA SENIOR CENTER

Community Education Center
201 School Street
Williamston, MI 48895
(517) 655-5173 or (517) 655-4636

Nutrition

Many nutrition programs are available to ensure that older adults have access to healthy and low-cost meals. These programs range from providing cash assistance to purchase food, to low-cost food options, to dining at senior meal sites, to receiving meals at home.

State and National Resources

MICHIGAN'S COORDINATED ACCESS TO FOOD FOR THE ELDERLY (MiCAFE) **(877) 664-2233**

<http://www.elderlawofmi.org/micafe>

Services: Michigan's Coordinated Access to Food for the Elderly (MiCAFE) assists older adults (60 and older) to make ends meet by applying for help to pay their bills. The MiCAFE program gets older people of modest means the things they need most—money to buy food, money to cover medical expenses, and money to pay bills. The Bridge Card, the Medicare Savings Program, utility assistance, and in-home services are key services to aid older adults in covering their basic needs and living independently at home.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

PO Box 128, Good Hope, GA 30641

(877) 366-3646

www.angelfoodministries.com

Services: Angel Food Ministries supplies boxes of fresh and frozen food for individuals and families at low costs. The food is the same quality as what is found at the grocery store, and each month's menu is different. The program accepts food stamps. There are six participating community organizations in the Lansing area. Registration is required and photo ID is required to pick up your food order.

Local Resources

SENIOR DINING SITES

303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, MI 48911-3800

(517) 887-1440

www.tcoa.org

Services: Adults who are 60 years of age and older are invited to attend one of the Senior Dining Sites located throughout Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties. Meal guests enjoy good company and wholesome food, as well as a variety of educational and entertainment programs. There is no charge for these meals, but donations are welcome.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS

The Meals-On-Wheels program delivers nutritious meals to adults 60 years of age and older who are unable to leave their home for a variety of reasons. The program provides a hot noontime meal and is also able to provide sack lunches for the evening and frozen meals for the weekend. To determine if you qualify for Meals-On-Wheels, contact your local program.

GREATER LANSING AREA MEALS-ON-WHEELS

5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, MI 48911-3800

(517) 887-1460

www.tcoa.org

Service area: Lansing, East Lansing, Haslett, and Okemos

RURAL INGHAM MEALS-ON-WHEELS

415 E. Maple Street, Mason, MI 48854

(517) 676-2775

www.tcoa.org

Service area: Holt, Mason, Williamston, Webberville, Stockbridge, Leslie, Dansville, and Onondaga

CLINTON COUNTY MEALS-ON-WHEELS

201 E. Walker Street, St. Johns, MI 48879

(989) 224-3600 or (888) 224-3030

EATON COUNTY MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Lawrence Avenue Methodist Church

210 E. Lawrence Avenue, Charlotte, MI

Mailing address: PO Box 242, Charlotte, MI 48813

(517) 541-2330

Social Services

Social service programs work to meet the financial, social, and psychological needs of individuals. People who are LGBT should be aware of what benefits they are eligible for as well as the barriers they encounter due to their sexual orientation. When accessing services, it is helpful to identify providers who will understand the unique needs of those who are LGBT. This section provides important information about benefits, advocacy services, and organizations that may help identify sensitive providers in your area.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security spousal benefits allow an elder receiving retirement benefits to claim a larger payment based on the qualifications of the elder's spouse if the spouse has a higher income history. If you were previously in a heterosexual marriage, these benefits may be available to you if the marriage lasted at least 10 years (and you have not remarried). No matter how long they have been partnered, same-sex couples are denied this support. Spousal disability benefits and veteran's benefits also are not available to same-sex partners. Transgender spouses may or may not receive benefits, depending on the legal status of their marriages.

Source: Grant, J.M. (2010). Outing age 2010: Public policy issues affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender elders. National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/outingage_final.pdf

State and National Resources

BENEFITS CHECKUP

www.benefitscheckup.org

Services: This website, sponsored by the National Council on Aging, helps individuals identify and apply for federal, state, local, and private benefits for which they qualify.

ASSOCIATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN PSYCHIATRISTS (AGLP)

4514 Chester Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143

(215) 222-2800

www.aglp.org

Services: Educates and advocates on LGBT mental health issues and provides referrals to LGBT-friendly providers.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY ON AGING'S LGBT AGING ISSUES NETWORK

833 Market Street, Suite 511
San Francisco, CA 94103

(415) 974-9600

http://www.asaging.org/constituent_groups/lain/

Services: Works to raise awareness about the concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) elders and about the unique barriers they encounter in gaining access to housing, health care, long-term care, and other needed services.

SERVICES & ADVOCACY FOR GLBT ELDERS (SAGE)

305 7th Avenue, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10001

(212) 741-2247

<http://www.sageusa.org/index.cfm>

Services: Nonprofit agency dedicated to serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender older people. Provides programs and services for the aging LGBT community, technical assistance and training to expand opportunities for LGBT older people across the country, and a national voice on LGBT aging issues.

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN (HRC)

1640 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036-3278

(202) 628-4160

www.hrc.org

Services: Civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender equality.

Local Resources

For mental health emergencies, call **Community Mental Health at (517) 346-8460, the Listening Ear at (517) 337-1717, or 911 for assistance.**

MSU COUPLE & FAMILY THERAPY CENTER

Suite A-233, Clinical Center
East Lansing, MI 48824-1313

(517) 432-2272

<http://hdfs.msu.edu/clinic>

Services: The Clinic serves clients from all over the Lansing area, as well as the MSU community. We provide services on a sliding fee scale (\$10-\$50 per session, depending on family income and size). Services are provided by graduate students under the supervision of faculty in the MSU Marriage and Family Therapy program. The Couple and Family Therapy Clinic provides services in several areas for families, couples, individuals, children and parents, and groups, including: relationship building and rebuilding, concerns with extended family, coping with life transitions, couple communication, family communication, adult traumatic experiences, sexual concerns, loss and grief, and anxiety and depression.

CLINTON-INGHAM-EATON COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH OLDER ADULT TREATMENT

Older Adult Community Outreach Program
812 E. Jolly Road, Suite 112
Lansing, MI 48911

(517) 346-8380

Services: The primary focus of the Older Adult Community Outreach Program is to provide case management and counseling services to older adults who experience a serious and/or persistent mental illness in order to assist them in maintaining and improving their functioning in their homes and in the community. Case management candidates must be 55 years of age or older, live in the greater Lansing area and have a diagnosis of a serious or persistent mental illness.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

SPARROW HEALTH SYSTEM SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM

1210 W. Saginaw
Lansing, MI 48915

(517) 364-7740

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA)

Services: Provides information about AA and Alanon services and meetings.

LANSING AA CENTRAL OFFICE

1915 E. Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48912

(517) 377-1444

24-hour hotline: (517) 377-1444

<http://www.aalansingmi.org/index.html>

Abuse Prevention & Assistance

Adult Protective Services is responsible for investigating and determining whether the person “suspected of being abused, neglected, exploited or endangered is an adult in need of protective services.” The Department utilizes the least restrictive procedures to provide these services, including social and legal intervention. Financial exploitation of older adults is considered a form of abuse and is investigated by Adult Protective Services.

State and National Resources

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Department of Human Services
Michigan 24-hour abuse hotline: (800) 996-6228

Local Resources

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

CLINTON COUNTY

201 W. Railroad
St. Johns, MI 48879
(989) 224-5500
After hours: (989) 224-7684

EATON COUNTY

1050 Independence Boulevard
Charlotte, MI 48813
(517) 543-0860
After hours: (517) 543-0863

INGHAM COUNTY

5303 S. Cedar Street
Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 887-9650

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES

COUNCIL AGAINST DOMESTIC ASSAULT (CADA)

PO Box 14149
Lansing, MI 48901
Crisis Line: (517) 372-5572
Office: (517) 372-5976

EVE INC.

PO Box 14149
Lansing, MI 48901
Crisis Line: (517) 372-5572
Toll Free Line: (888) 796-5222
www.eveinc.org

THE LISTENING EAR

1017 E. Grand River Avenue
East Lansing, MI 48823
Office: 517-337-1728
Crisis Line: 517-337-1717
<http://www.theear.org/SAC/>

Caregiver Needs

For LGBTQI persons of any age—and especially for older adults—certain legal and financial issues become increasingly important. These determine who has the responsibility to provide care, the power to make medical decisions, and the legal authority to utilize financial resources on someone’s behalf if he or she is incapacitated. As a caregiver to a partner, friend, or family member, it is essential to discuss with the care recipient what legal protections are available and become familiar with the limitations of these protections.

Since most states do not recognize LGBT committed relationships, referred to here as same-sex relationships or domestic partnerships, LGBT couples need to complete certain legal documents prior to incapacity.

Some members of the LGBT community rely on their “family of choice,” a group of trusted and valued friends who provide care and support during an illness. However, without legal protections in place, these relationships might not be legally recognized and could easily be questioned or contested by a biological family member. It is imperative that LGBT caregivers and care recipients understand relevant local, state, and federal laws and act to secure legal protections.

http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=436. *Source:* Family Caregiver Alliance (2010). Legal Issues for LGBT Caregivers

State and National Resources

LGBT CARING COMMUNITY ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP

through the Family Caregiver Alliance

http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=347

Services: Offers a place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender caregivers of adults with chronic health problems to discuss the unique issues of caring for their loved ones.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL GERIATRIC CARE MANAGERS

3275 W. Ina Road, Suite 130

Tucson, AZ 85741

(520) 881-8008

www.caremanager.org

Services: A Geriatric Care Manager is a health and human services specialist who helps families who are caring for older relatives. The Geriatric Care Manager is trained and experienced in any of several fields related to care management, including, but not limited to: nursing, gerontology, social work, or psychology, with a specialized focus on issues related to aging and elder care. The Geriatric Care Manager assists older adults and persons with disabilities in attaining their maximum functional potential. In addition, the Geriatric Care Manager is an experienced guide and resource for families of older adults and others with chronic needs, including helping those suffering from Alzheimer’s Disease or Parkinson’s, or exhibiting symptoms of dementia.

Spirituality

People of all sexual orientations and gender identities often confront hatred and ignorance in their communities of faith. Below are resources to assist people who are LGBT to identify welcoming and nurturing spiritual and religious communities.

State and National Resources

THE INSTITUTE FOR WELCOMING RESOURCES

A Program of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
122 Franklin Avenue West, Suite 210
Minneapolis, MN 55404

(612) 821-IFWR (4397)

www.welcomingresources.org

Services: This is an extensive website that provides many ways to search for a church near you, get news, links, events, and other information involving the LGBT community, religion, and spirituality. The Institute provides several resources, including:

- Find a Church—a listing of all of the welcoming and affirming congregations in the United States;
- Resources—an extensive bibliography on a wide variety of issues from coming out to theological and Biblical resources on sexuality and gender identity; and
- Calendar of events related to the Welcoming Church Movement

GAYS IN FAITH TOGETHER (GIFT)

207 E. Fulton Street
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

(616) 774-0446

www.gaysinfaithtogether.org

Services: GIFT provides a number of programs and services to fulfill their mission and vision, including: sponsoring programs for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) people of all ages who are just beginning to “come out” or further

along on their life journeys; provide personal support for LGBTQ individuals, families, and couples; promote justice and understanding through education and advocacy in the wider community; and provide referrals to counselors, churches, and other faith-based organizations.

THE NATIONAL JEWISH CENTER FOR SEXUAL AND GENDER DIVERSITY

www.jewishmosaic.org

Services: Jewish Mosaic partners with Jewish organizations, communities, and individuals of every denomination to create a world where all Jews are fully included in communal life, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Founded in the summer of 2003 and based in Denver, CO, Jewish Mosaic is the first national organization dedicated to helping the Jewish world become more open, accessible, and welcoming to LGBT Jews and their families.

Local Resources

SHAAREY ZEDEK CONGREGATION (REFORM)

1924 Coolidge Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

(517) 351-3570

www.shaarezedek.com

KEHILLAT ISRAEL (RECONSTRUCTIONIST)

2014 Forest Road
Lansing, MI 48910-3711

(517) 882-0049

<http://kehillatisrael.net>

THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING

920 S. Harrison Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

(517) 351-4309

<http://lansingislam.com>

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1020 S. Harrison Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 332-2559
www.ulcel.org

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

800 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 351-7160
www.allsaints-el.org

RED CEDAR FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

1400 Turner Street
Lansing MI 48906
(517) 371-1047
<http://www.redcedarfriends.org/index.html>

LANSING CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN

3020 S. Washington Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910
(517) 882-0811
<http://www.cob-net.org/church/lansing/index.html>

REDEEMER CHURCH

2727 W. Holmes Road
Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 882-8000
www.redeemerlansing.com

HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH

1427 Haslett Road
Haslett, MI 48840
(517) 339-8383
www.haslettcommunitychurch.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

510 W. Ottawa Street
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 482-0668
<http://lansingfirstpres.org/index.php>

NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

102 W. Grand River Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 482-0336
<http://home.comcast.net/~northchurch/site/>

EDGEWOOD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

469 N. Hagadorn Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 332-8693
<http://www.edgewooducc.org/home>

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

125 S. Pennsylvania Avenue
Lansing, MI 48912
(517) 484-7434
<http://www.pilgrimucc.com/Home/tabid/27625/Default.aspx>

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKEMOS

2258 Bennett Road
Okemos, MI 48864
(517) 349-9536, ext. 11
www.okemospres.org

UNIVERSITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1120 S. Harrison Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 351-7030
<http://www.uumc-msu.org/index.html>

ST. KATHERINE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4650 N. Meridian Road
Williamston, MI 48895
(517) 349-4120
<http://stkatherines.org/index.html>

WILLIAMSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

211 S. Putnam Street
Williamston, MI 48895
(517) 655-2430
<http://wumc.web.officelive.com/default.aspx>

Positive Aging

State and National Resources

PRIDESOURCE YELLOW PAGES

<http://www.pridesource.com/directory.html>

Services: This directory provides listings of service providers throughout Michigan for a variety of needs, from automotive repair to veterinary services to theaters.

ELDERHOSTEL

11 Avenue De Lafayette
Boston, MA 02111

(800) 454-5768

www.roadscholar.org

Hours: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Monday–Friday, Eastern Time.

Eligibility: Intended for adults.

Cost: Varies depending on program.

Services: World's largest not-for-profit educational travel organization for adults. Elderhostel offers more than 8,000 learning adventures every year, in all 50 U.S. states and in over 90 countries around the world. More than 100,000 people enroll in its programs every year.

AFFIRMATIONS

290 W. 9 Mile Road
Ferndale, MI 48220

(248) 398-7105 • Toll-free 1-800-398-GAYS (4297)

www.goaffirmations.org

Services: Affirmations is the largest LGBT organization in Michigan and one of the ten largest in the United States. Programs include a nationally renowned Youth Services program, Health Services program, discussion and support groups, and social and recreational activities. Resources at the center include our toll-free Helpline, the Pittmann-Puckett Art Gallery, Game Room, General Motors Foundation Media Center, and Bayard Rustin Library, and our Volunteer and Leadership Development program.

Local Resources

GREATER LANSING GAY MEN'S CHORUS

E-mail: info@glgmc.org

www.glgmc.org

Services: GLGMC is currently comprised of 32 members, with several having been with the chorus for over 15 years. Its music selection ranges from Broadway musicals to African processions. The chorus has seen a consistent increase in the musicianship of its members as it strives to provide not only entertaining performances, but ones that reflect high quality.

EAST LANSING PRIME TIME SENIORS PROGRAM

Hannah Community Center

819 Abbot Road

East Lansing, MI 48823

(517) 337-1113

www.ELPrimeTime.com

Hours: 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Monday–Friday.

Services: Annual health screening, chore service, transportation (E. Lansing residents only), information and assistance, intergenerational programs, mobile meal delivery, monthly foot clinics, bimonthly blood pressure checks, community dances, tax assistance, travel program, small appliance clinic, enrichment classes, recreational opportunities, and monthly newsletter.

Eligibility: Open to any interested persons.

Cost: Varies depending on class or activity. Cost of mailing monthly newsletter to residents outside of East Lansing is \$10 per year.

DELTA-WAVERLY 39ER'S CLUB

4538 Elizabeth
Lansing, MI 48917

(517) 484-5600

www.delta.mi.gov/parks

Hours: 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Monday–Friday.

Services: Senior dining site with meals available each week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12:00 noon. This program is open to all. The program provides day trips (10–12/year) plus 2–4 longer trips per year. It also includes two large senior golf leagues, which are on Tuesday and Thursday from April through September; a senior mixed bowling league; guest speakers; musical entertainment; daily (Monday–Friday) swim programs; a monthly book club; bingo; a walking program (Lansing Mall); card parties, including contract bridge, euchre, and pinochle; and exercise classes, including Stand and Sit to Get Fit, yoga, and Tai Chi. Transportation to medical and dental appointments provided to Waverly School District residents. Blood sugar and oxygen level testing once a month; blood pressures taken twice a month; monthly foot care; and annual flu clinic.

Eligibility: Open to any interested person 50 and over.

Cost: Varies by class or activity. Donation requested for lunch.

LANSING PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

50 Plus Centers–Senior Sages

(517) 483-4277

Services: The Lansing Parks and Recreation Department offers a 50 Plus program for Lansing area seniors. This program provides comprehensive and diverse services and activities at various sites throughout the city, available to adults 50 years of age and over. Programs and activities include such areas as recreational activities, advocacy issues, enrichment opportunities, health services, and other special events. Many of these programs and activities are offered in coordination with other community agencies. Meals are provided by the Tri-County Office on Aging's Meals-On-Wheels program. There is a calendar of events published quarterly and available at any of the 50 Plus centers.

LETTS CENTER

1220 W. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI 48915

(517) 483-4311

Fax: (517) 377-0073

Hours: 10:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Monday–Friday.

Meals: Monday–Friday.

Housing

Local Resources

MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MSHDA)

735 E. Michigan Avenue
PO Box 30044
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-9344
<http://www.michigan.gov/mshda>

Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) provides many different programs for persons with low income. One rental assistance program is the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV was formerly known as Section 8). The HCV program is where the person/family gets a voucher to take to an apartment complex or private owner to rent an apartment. An inspection is done of the apartment, and if it meets Housing Quality Standards, the landlord is willing to take the HCV voucher, and the tenant meets all other HCV eligibility criteria, then rent is calculated according to the tenant's ability to pay. Usually the tenant pays 30 percent of their income towards rent, and MSHDA pays the remaining portion.

You must apply for an HCV. The HCV program opens its county waiting lists when the waiting list is close to being clear. To be eligible to apply for an HCV, a person/family's income must be below 30 percent of the area median income. Also, the person cannot be on the Lifetime Registered Sex Offender List, they need to be a citizen of the USA and a resident of the county they are applying to live in. Interested persons can obtain information on how to apply to their county waiting list by contacting MSHDA at (517) 373-9344, by contacting the contracted housing agent designated through the MSHDA website at <http://mshdahousing.org/infomap/> or through local service agencies such as Offices on Aging or the Salvation Army.

There are also opportunities to rent units in Subsidized Housing developments within the City of Lansing and within Ingham and Eaton counties. Subsidized apartment complexes have income eligibility requirements in order to qualify for assistance. Generally, the tenant pays 30 percent of their income towards rent, and the rent subsidy pays the remaining portion. The rent subsidies are tied to specific units and cannot be moved to another unit.

Interested individuals should contact MSHDA (see left column), the Lansing Housing Commission at (517) 394-9789, the Ingham County Housing Commission at (517) 349-1643, or Housing Services for Eaton County at (517) 541-1180 for information on how to apply for these opportunities.

Senior Housing Facilities

***Affordable Senior Housing**—Income limits but a fixed monthly rent.

Non-Subsidized—No income limits and generally higher priced rents.

ABBOTT PARKSIDE

2700 Marfitt Road
East Lansing, MI 48233
(517) 337-1760

1777 HASLETT ROAD

1777 Haslett Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 332-1677

CEDAR PLACE

201 W. Jolly Road
Lansing, MI 48910-6650
(517) 882-0766

COLONIAL WOODS*

2001 W. Mt. Hope
Lansing, MI 48910-2496
(517) 484-1044 or 484-1058

COVINGTON WOODS*

1900 Redbud Lane
Lansing (Delta Twp.), MI 48917-7638
(517) 327-7700

DELHI STRATFORD PLACE*

2385 Cedar Park Drive
Holt, MI 48842
(517) 699-3701

HAWKS RIDGE

15292 Hawks Ridge Drive
Bath, MI 48808
(517) 641-5099

IVAN WOODS*

5303 Ivan Drive
Lansing (Delta Twp.), MI 48917
(517) 323-2800

KINGSTON PLACE

501 King Street
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
(517) 663-1900

THE MARQUETTE

5968 Park Lake Road
East Lansing
(517) 339-1532

MARSH POINTE*

5895 Marsh Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 339-0440

THE MEADOWS

126-128 Okemos Street
Mason, MI 48854
(517) 676-5868

MISTY COVE APARTMENTS*

184 East Street
Dimondale, MI 48821-8795
(517) 646-7992

TWIN OAKS MEADOWS*

3900 Burneway Drive
Lansing, MI 48911-2765
(517) 887-8200

STRATFORD PLACE*

2790 Sirhal Drive
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 333-2472

Assisted Living Facilities

Every assisted living community is unique. Make several visits at various times of the day to each community you are considering. Ask the community for written material, including copies of the residency agreement that outlines, at a minimum, services, fees, extra charges, move-in and move-out criteria, staffing, and house rules. As you begin your search for an assisted living community, assess your current needs and be prepared to ask each provider how it might accommodate any changes in your needs over time. Examine your finances and ask about costs. Monthly rates and fee structures vary.

Several checklists are available, including one from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). In addition to overall facility questions, this checklist asks questions about what happens when the resident runs out of money, under what circumstances a resident would need to leave the residence, how much notice would be given for those being asked to leave, access to visitors, and payment questions.

http://assets.aarp.org/external_sites/caregiving/checklists/checklist_assistedLiving.html

Source: Assisted Living Federation of America. (2010). Assisted living community evaluation checklist. http://www.alfa.org/alfa/Checklist_for_Evaluating_Communities.asp?SnID=800926429

❖ Indicates Alzheimer's care

WHISPERING PINES

3011 Turner Street
Lansing, MI 48906-8906
(517) 487-3320

MORGAN CARE HOME

120 W Dwight
Lansing, MI 48906-8906
(517) 484-5694

CBI/GIVING TREE HOME

3320 Westwood
Lansing, MI 48906-8906
(517) 886-5629

ROGER G. SMITH HOME

15817 N Turner
Lansing, MI 48906-8906
(517) 487-3643

WIELAND HOME

1520 Wieland
Lansing, MI 48906-8906
(517) 487-3643

BOICHOT ROAD HOME/HARRIS IV

14120 Boichot Road
Lansing, MI 48906-8906
(517) 374-6644

STOLL

3285 W. Stoll Road
Lansing, MI 48906-8906
(517) 886-3760

AIRPORT ROAD HOME

13768 Airport Road
Lansing, MI 48906-8906
(517) 669-3911

EVERGREEN PLACE ❖

706 Britten Street
Lansing, MI 48910-8910
(517) 482-4045

BLESSING MANOR

3416 Stabler Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910-8910
(517) 272-2475

AURELIUS ROAD HOME

4020 Aurelius Road
Lansing, MI 48910-8910
(517) 272-0860
Operated by CMHB of CEI Counties

BLESSED HOME

2300 Artisan Drive
Lansing, MI 48910-8910
(517) 887-1072

ELM COTTAGE ❖

CEDAR COTTAGE ❖

REDWOOD COTTAGE ❖

SPRUCE COTTAGE ❖

MAPLE COTTAGE ❖

POPLAR COTTAGE ❖

621 E. Jolly Road
Lansing, MI 48910-8910
(517) 393-5203

GRANDHAVEN LIVING CENTER 1

GRANDHAVEN LIVING CENTER 2 ❖

GRANDHAVEN LIVING CENTER 3

GRANDHAVEN LIVING CENTER 4

3135-3165 W. Mt. Hope Avenue
Lansing, MI 48911-8911
(517) 485-5966

SUNNY REST

3308 Maloney Street
Lansing, MI 48911-8911
(517) 882-3915

VICTOR STREET RESIDENTIAL CARE

2500 Victor
Lansing, MI 48911-8911
(517) 882-3544

SIMPLE ELEGANCE II

4327 Gladys
Lansing, MI 48911-8911
(517) 999-3519

BLESSING MANOR 3

3209 Rayborn Drive
Lansing, MI 48911-8911
(517) 272-7960

BLESSING MANOR 2

3127 Rayborn Drive
Lansing, MI 48911-8911
(517) 272-5867

FAITH MANOR

3214 Rayborn Drive
Lansing, MI 48911-8911
(517) 394-6646

JOSHUA STREET RESIDENTIAL CARE ❖

5809 Joshua
Lansing, MI 48911-8911
(517) 272-4094
Operated by Joshua Street Residential Care LLC

ORCHARD COURT

5725 Orchard Court
Lansing, MI 48911-8911
(517) 887-6747

WAVERLY ROAD HOME

2678 S. Waverly Road
Lansing, MI 48911-0000
(517) 882-1240

EVERGREEN PLACE II ❖

4048 Windward Drive
Lansing, MI 48911-8911
(517) 712-8585

COULSON COURT

6430 Coulson Court
Lansing, MI 48911-8911
(517) 882-3822

LORETTA HOUSE

6040 Loretta Street
Lansing, MI 48911-8911
(517) 882-5661

MOORE LIVING CONNECTIONS 1

MOORE LIVING CONNECTIONS 2
1401 & 1409 Georgetown Boulevard
Lansing, MI 48911-0000
(517) 887-0375

LYMAN DRIVE HOME

2125 Lyman Drive
Lansing, MI 48912-8912
(517) 372-6674

WHITE CRANE HOME

1507 Jerome Street
Lansing, MI 48912-8912
(517) 580-8906

BLESSED MANOR LLC

716 Wisconsin Avenue
Lansing, MI 48915-8915
(517) 267-0976

BLESSED MANOR LLC 2

911 W. Hillsdale
Lansing, MI 48915-8915
(517) 484-5576

MICHIGAN AVENUE RESIDENTIAL CARE

1204 W. Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48915-8915
(517) 367-8172

THOMAS L PARKWAY HOME

841 W. Thomas L Parkway
Lansing, MI 48917-8917
(517) 323-4758

NOVA VIDA, INC

4535 Bittersweet Lane
Lansing, MI 48917-8917
(517) 322-0659

GREEN MEADOWS

439 Green Meadows Drive
Lansing, MI 48917-8917
(517) 323-7218

INGHAM REGIONAL ASSISTED LIVING ❖

6429 Earlington Lane
Lansing, MI 48917-8917
(517) 321-3391

STERLING HOUSE OF DELTA

7323 Delta Commerce Drive
Lansing, MI 48917-1069
(517) 327-5566

WILLOW WOOD MANOR

6971 W. Willow Highway
Lansing, MI 48917-8917
(517) 580-3392
Operated by Audie P. Pickott

GREENFIELD HOME ❖

12450 Greenfield
Lansing, MI 48917-8917
(517) 627-8238
Operated by Valley Residential Services Inc.

DIVINE MANOR

540 Hagadorn
East Lansing, MI 48823-8823
(517) 333-4868

SHERWOOD HOME

1606 Greencrest
East Lansing, MI 48823-0000
(517) 351-0307

BURCHAM HILLS ❖

2700 Burcham Drive
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 351-8377

CEDARWOOD RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

2711 East Lansing Drive
East Lansing, MI 48823-8823
(517) 332-6932

HOPE NETWORK E LANSING DR

2775 East Lansing Drive
East Lansing, MI 48823-8823
(517) 332-1616

STATE ROAD HOME

7099 State Road
East Lansing, MI 48823-8823
(517) 339-2179

TIMBER RIDGE SENIOR ASSISTED LIVING ❖

16260 Park Lake Road
East Lansing, MI 48823-8823
(517) 339-2322

COLEMAN HOUSE

3255 E Coleman Road
East Lansing, MI 48823-8823
(517) 324-1999

GILCREST HOME

1410 Gilcrest
East Lansing, MI 48823-8823
(517) 337-8592

M.A.C. HOUSE

634 M.A.C.
East Lansing, MI 48823-8823
(517) 337-9340

IMY'S PAD ❖

2077 Haslett Road
Haslett, MI 48840-8840
(517) 339-3256

WYNWOOD OF MERIDIAN

5346 Marsh Road
Haslett, MI 48840-8632
(517) 381-8700

BLANCA'S SENIOR HOME

5859 Marsh Road
Haslett, MI 48840-8840
(517) 575-0398

HOME SWEET HOME ASSISTED LIVING ❖

5917 Edson
Haslett, MI 48840-8840
(517) 484-1653

GRANDMA'S PAD TOO ASSISTED LIVING ❖

5905 Edson Street
Haslett, MI 48840-8840
(517) 339-2981

GEHRS HOME

15380 Peacock Road
Haslett, MI 48840-8840
(517) 339-8964

Nursing Homes

When considering nursing home care, compare potential nursing homes, and find the right one for you or your loved one. One useful source is the Medicare Nursing Home Compare (www.medicare.gov/NHCompare/Home.asp). This site allows you to find nursing homes in your area ranked based on staffing, health inspections, and quality measures. There are also links to checklists that you can use when visiting nursing homes and information on rights of nursing home residents.

Issues that may be important to address include visiting policies, staff openness to LGBTQI elders, training of staff and administration on LGBTQI aging issues, and roommate policies.

THE PINES HEALTHCARE CENTER

707 Armstrong
Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 393-5680
www.pineshealthcarectr.com

EAST LANSING HEALTHCARE CENTER

2815 Northwind Drive
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 393-5680

WHITEHILLS HEALTHCARE CENTER

1843 N. Hagadorn Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 332-5061

BURCHAM HILLS

2700 Burcham Drive
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 351-8377

TENDERCARE WEST

731 Starkweather Drive
Lansing, MI 48917
(517) 323-9133
www.extendedcare.com

INGHAM COUNTY MEDICAL CARE FACILITY

3860 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
(517) 381-6100

State and National Resources

NURSING HOME COMPARE

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
www.medicare.gov/NHCompare

Description: This site allows consumers to compare Medicare and Medicaid certified nursing homes throughout the country. Each nursing home facility is given an overall rating, along with ratings for health inspections, staffing, and quality of care. Individual nursing homes can be selected to outline detailed information, including specific health violations and quality of care indicators.

THE NATIONAL CONSUMER VOICE FOR QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE

www.theconsumervoice.org

Description: Advocates for public policies that support quality care; empowers and educates consumers and families; trains and supports individuals and groups to advocate for and empower consumers; and promotes the critical role of direct care workers and best practices in quality care delivery.

MI-CHOICE WAIVER/PROJECT CHOICES

(517) 887-1440 or (800) 405-9141

<http://www.tcoa.org/pc>

Description: Project Choices is a local name for a statewide care management program that gives individuals who are likely candidates for a nursing home the opportunity to make the “choice” to stay at home. Staffing is provided by nursing and social worker care management teams that specialize in working with individuals who need ongoing assistance to remain in their homes. Call the Tri-County Office on Aging and ask for Project Choices. The Intake Coordinator, as part of an initial screening, will then ask several questions, such as your (or the person whom you are calling about) ability to prepare meals, do housework and bathe. Not everyone will be eligible for Project Choices. If an individual does not qualify, other services will be suggested.

Local Resources

LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Michigan Office of Services to the Aging

(866) 485-9393

[http://www.michigan.gov/](http://www.michigan.gov/miseniors/0,1607,7-234-43230_46224---,00.html)

[miseniors/0,1607,7-234-43230_46224---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/miseniors/0,1607,7-234-43230_46224---,00.html)

Description: The Long Term Care Ombudsman program was created to help address the quality of care and quality of life experienced by residents who reside in licensed long-term care facilities such as nursing homes, homes for the aged, and adult foster care facilities. The Long Term Care Ombudsman program investigates complaints, suggests remedies, and assists with resident rights, payments, issues, guardianship, and nursing home placement.

