



Priority Policy Recommendations from Stakeholders

California Department of Veterans Affairs
California LGBT Veterans Leadership Forum (Sept. 26-27, 2014)
Published on June 29, 2015

Policy Area	Recommendation	Federal	State	Local
General	Make it easier for veterans to upgrade discharge papers	√		
	Require LGBT cultural sensitivity training for all staff and contractors	√	√	√
Housing	Offer home modification assistance to trauma survivors	√	√	
	Create trauma-specific housing programs	√	√	
Employment	Create and/or strengthen LGBT non-discrimination protections	√	√	
	Encourage employers to count military experience as work experience	√	√	√
Health	Mandate training, certification, and identification of LGBT-friendly healthcare and service providers	√	√	√
	Provide funding for LGBT advocates	√	√	√
Education	Make GI Bill education benefits transferable to same-sex spouse	√		
	Provide resource centers on all college campuses for LGBT veterans	√	√	√
Legal	Create “one-stop shops” for veterans who need legal assistance	√	√	√
	Make deceased veterans benefits transferable to same-sex spouse	√	√	√

Additional Policy Recommendations from Stakeholders

California Department of Veterans Affairs
California LGBT Veterans Leadership Forum (Sept. 26-27, 2014)

Policy Area	Recommendation	Federal	State	Local
Housing	Broaden HUD-VASH voucher eligibility, increase number of vouchers, reduce landlord discrimination of veterans and LGBT veterans	√	√	
	Include veterans in Good Neighbor Next Door program	√		
	Broaden HIPAA protections in transitional housing to include military sexual trauma and transgender veterans	√		
	Update federal Status of Forces Agreements so that LGBT service members and their families have access to all military benefits when stationed overseas	√		
	Increase veterans housing eligibility in National Guard and Reserve, convert vacant armories to housing for homeless	√	√	√
	Monitor implementation and encourage participation for land donation and other services in Proposition 41		√	√
Employment	Congressionally charter private Veterans Service Organizations for LGBT and implement hiring authorities	√		
	Include LGBT in Transition Assistance Program	√		
	Encourage employers to count military experience as work experience	√	√	√
	Encourage colleges to grant credit for military experience	√	√	√

Policy Area	Recommendation	Federal	State	Local
Employment	Offer tax breaks to companies that hire LGBT veterans	√	√	√
	Create Rainbow Chambers of Commerce	√	√	√
	Establish mentorship programs for LGBT veterans	√	√	√
	Create and/or strengthen LGBT non-discrimination protections	√	√	
	Request Governor issue a proclamation to encourage hiring of LGBT veterans		√	
	Expand California Employment Development Department (EDD) outreach to LGBT communities and LGBT veterans resource centers		√	
	Request EDD to hire more veterans		√	
	Expand Fair Employment and Housing Act to protect LGBT veterans		√	
Health	Better enforce HIPAA protections and address violations	√		
	Legislate expansion of services to include non-combat veterans	√		
	Mandate training, certification and identification of LGBT-friendly providers	√	√	√
	Provide funding for LGBT advocates	√	√	√
	Expand care to align with national and global standards	√	√	√
	Increase access to mental health care	√	√	√
	Replicate successful healthcare programs that already exist in Los Angeles, Palo Alto and Boston	√	√	√

Policy Area	Recommendation	Federal	State	Local
Education	Make GI Bill education benefits transferable to same sex spouse	√		
	Make school eligibility for GI Bill funds contingent on having a resource center	√		
	Provide resource centers on all college campuses for LGBT veterans	√	√	√
	Stop for-profit institutions from targeting LGBT veterans, monitor implementation of AB2099	√	√	√
	Exempt veterans from non-resident tuition and fees	√	√	√
	Fund summer housing for enrolled veterans	√	√	√
Legal	Create “one-stop shops” for veterans who need legal assistance	√	√	√
	Make deceased veterans benefits transferable to same-sex spouse	√	√	√
	Standardize and adjudicate transgender healthcare	√	√	√
	Connect military institutions with California State Bar and schools of law	√	√	√
	Create required courses for lawyers on LGBT issues	√	√	√
	Increase collaboration between service providers, police and fire agencies	√	√	√
	Establish transgender as a protected class	√		√