The Health Initiative, founded in 1996, originally began as an organization serving lesbians diagnosed with cancer, as well as their partners and caregivers. The organization provided lesbian friendly support groups and took on the Atlanta medical establishment, offering cultural education to the medical community and identifying lesbian-friendly healthcare providers for referrals.

The Health Initiative eventually expanded to focus on education and programs that supported overall wellness and disease prevention through healthier lifestyle choices. The establishment of the Health Fund, which provided access to care for uninsured or under insured lesbians, and the development of formal trainings for providers opened The Health Initiative up to address the health concerns of all LGBTQ Georgians.

In 2011, the scope and mission formally changed to address the growing body of evidence that access to care is a significant risk factor—one that disproportionately affects the entire LGBTQ community. To better represent this broader scope of work, Health Initiative resources, including the Health Fund, became available to LGBTQ community members throughout the state.

The Health Initiative & Providers

The Health Initiative provides trainings for, and referrals to, Georgia healthcare providers.

The Health Initiative has a multifaceted approach to health and wellness that engages LGBTQ individuals with programming and messaging that encourages prevention, while also educating and preparing healthcare providers to ensure culturally competent care for our community.

The Health Initiative maintains long-term relationships with providers.

After healthcare providers complete cultural competency training, The Health Initiative becomes a resource for future consult and referrals. Our goal is help to facilities stay current in regards to:

- LGBTQ health risks and disparities
- Best practices and policies to better serve LGBTQ patients
- Community resources & support available for their LGBTQ patients
- Joint Commission & CMS regulations

When The Health Initiative makes referrals, the community is in good hands.

OUR MISSION

The Health Initiative is dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of Georgia’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer community through education, support, access to care and advocacy.

OUR HISTORY

The Health Initiative, founded in 1996, originated as an organization serving lesbians diagnosed with cancer, as well as their partners and caregivers. The organization provided lesbian friendly support groups and took on the Atlanta medical establishment, offering cultural education to the medical community and identifying lesbian-friendly healthcare providers for referrals.

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Training Options:
Effective training at all levels creates a quality care environment for LGBTQ patients and their families.

Cultural Competency Trainings provide an overview of obstacles LGBTQ individuals face in regards to healthcare, personal health risk factors within the demographic, and best practices that create a quality care environment for LGBTQ patients.

The Health Initiative offers two trainings that share similar messaging, but are designed to deliver information in a way that is applicable to staff positions of the audience. Healthcare professionals who have completed training become part of The Health Initiative Provider Directory and are eligible for referrals from the organization.

Utilizing both of these trainings means that whether you are a policy maker or handling patient intake, you will be prepared to deliver culturally competent care to LGBTQ patients.

Management Level Training:
Administration, Human Resource personnel, and others that may impact policy making and enforcement.

Staff Level Training:
Front end staff, doctors, nurses, case management personnel, and others that may have direct, regular interaction with patients.

Fees:
$250 per hour
- Covers up to 50 people
- Trainings are typically 2 hours long
- Low or No Cost Providers may qualify for free training sessions

Request Training:
Register online
http://tiny.cc/trainings

While The Health Initiative can tailor trainings to best meet the needs of your practice, the program basics include:

- Legal, financial, policy, benefits, & insurance challenges for LGBTQ patients
- Delay and avoidance of care by LGBTQ patients
- Challenges for LGBTQ patients in provider interactions
- Health disparities and risks for LGBTQ individuals as a group
- LGBTQ subpopulations facing particular challenges
- Best practices for clinicians & institutions treating LGBTQ patients
- Strategies for ongoing training of facility employees
- Key resources for LGBTQ patient-centered care

Management Level Training also includes review of Joint Commission & CMS regulations for LGBTQ patient and family care.