

# LGBTQ+ & Allies Engagement Group



*The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's LGBTQ+ & Allies Engagement Group advocates for an environment of inclusion, equity, and involvement of the LGBTQ+ community in ACS CAN's initiatives and campaigns. Together, we are working toward ensuring everyone has a fair and just opportunity to prevent, find, treat, and survive cancer.*

## About the Group

The volunteer-led LGBTQ+ & Allies Engagement Group provides a learning, strategy, and idea exchange for people that are working to increase awareness and advance policies that address the unique challenges and cancer disparities LGBTQ+ communities face and provide access to safe, quality, comprehensive, and inclusive care without the fear of discrimination.

The Engagement Group advises ACS CAN on initiatives that impact LGBTQ+ communities through supporting volunteer outreach and engagement strategies, increasing awareness, and providing information and resources for specific communities, volunteers, and partners.

*Note: The plus sign represents diverse sexualities, gender identities, and gender expressions which may not be explicitly included in the LGBTQ acronym.*

## Engagement Group Goals

The LGBTQ+ & Allies Engagement Group is involved in meaningful advocacy and policy work federally and locally. Engagement Group members give voice to the unequal and unjust burden of cancer and lift up LGBTQ+ communities in the following ways:

- Shaping ACS CAN's participation in Pride and similar events throughout the country.
- Sharing their unique stories in the media, at listening sessions, and through social media.
- Facilitating trainings and workshops on strategies for inclusive outreach efforts.
- Providing strategic direction for ACS CAN's year-round engagement efforts that center the voices and lived experiences of LGBTQ+ communities.
- Recommending public policies that reduce health disparities in LGBTQ+ communities.

## Engagement Group in Action in 2022

- Provided guidance for ACS CAN's engagement in Pride events in 2022.
  - 50+ events
  - 1,000+ signatures
  - Afterparty for new volunteers
- Presented verbal comments at the FDA's listening session on proposed regulations to ban menthol in cigarettes and flavors in cigars.
- With members of the Black Volunteer Caucus (BVC), co-facilitated Inclusive Volunteer Culture breakout sessions at Leadership Summit & Lobby Day.
- Attended and hosted an exhibit booth for NCCN's Patient Advocacy Summit: *Best Practices & Policies for Addressing the Health Needs of LGBTQ+ Cancer Patients & Survivors*.
- Participated in Volunteers Spotlights, Cancer Votes, and other ACS CAN initiatives to center and amplify LGBTQ+ representation.
- Two Members received volunteer leadership awards.
- Helped shape social media messaging for LGBTQ+ community days of significance.
- Provided strategic guidance on policies that will reduce barriers to care for LGBTQ+ cancer patients.

## Engagement Group Plans for 2023

- Provide guidance for ACS CAN's engagement in Pride events in 2023.
  - Facilitate a planning webinar for ACS CAN volunteers
  - Offer advice on allyship strategies given the current legislative landscape
- Explore partnerships with groups and organizations that represent LGBTQ+ communities.
- Review current ACS CAN priority policy initiatives for LGBTQ+ relevance and inclusion.
- Develop Engagement Group promotional materials including a video to share our mission, goals, and calls for action.
- Facilitate trainings and breakout sessions at ACS CAN national convenings.
- Advise on the development of ACS CAN's volunteer diversity training.
- Collaborate with ACS CAN's other affinity groups to address intersectionality cancer-related disparities and identify potential solutions.



Learn more about the LGBTQ+ & Allies Engagement Group, activities, and contact information

[fightcancer.org/lgbtqgroup](https://fightcancer.org/lgbtqgroup)