

Prairie Pride Coalition

LGBT Needs in McLean County

Executive Summary

The resounding theme throughout the assessment was a desire for a sense of community among LGBT individuals. Presented here are the main highlights for the LGBT community as a whole. Subsequent sections will highlight results found for each of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Other and Ally/Straight segments individually. Responses for Ally/Straight individuals are included in the summary because they are often advocates, supporters, friends and family of the LGBT community as well as a potential volunteer force.

Top areas of importance for the LGBT community

1. Marriage Equality (66%)
2. Support for LGBT Youth (62%)
3. Social Events (60%)

Perceived level of support for areas of importance

1. Social Events (67% some support)
2. Marriage Equality (60% some support)
3. Support for LGBT Youth (58 % some support)

Volunteer Engagement

Data indicates that the majority of respondents desire to be at a higher level of volunteer engagement with the LGBT community than what they currently are. 47% of LGBT individuals surveyed are currently not engaged in volunteering but only 6% of those individuals do not desire to be engaged. 39% of individuals would prefer to be very engaged.

	Very engaged	Somewhat engaged	Not engaged	Responses
Currently I am ...	12% 21	41% 71	47% 83	175
I would like to be...	39% 66	55% 94	6% 11	171

Volunteer Interest Areas

Support for LGBT youth, social events and coming out support are areas a majority of respondents are interested in volunteering their time. This held true across all ages groups as broken out in the table below.

Age Category (# of LGBT respondents)	18-24 (45)		25-33 (36)		34-51 (54)		52-68 (37)		69+ (5)		TOTAL (177)	
Support for LGBT youth	32	71%	28	78%	27	50%	11	30%	4	80%	102	58%
Coming out support	32	71%	22	61%	30	56%	9	24%	1	20%	94	53%
Social events for LGBT	33	73%	18	50%	29	54%	13	35%	1	20%	94	53%
LGBT community center	31	73%	23	64%	24	44%	12	32%	2	40%	92	52%
Counseling/emotional/mental health support	27	60%	17	47%	24	44%	10	27%	1	20%	79	45%
Marriage equality	26	58%	21	58%	21	39%	9	24%	2	40%	79	45%
LGBT focused entertainment	25	55%	14	39%	21	39%	10	27%	1	20%	71	40%
Aging LGBT population	8	18%	8	22%	21	39%	18	49%	4	80%	59	33%

Volunteering Frequency

The 18-24 age group is interested in volunteering most often, at 2-4 times per month. The 69+ age group has the lowest numbers of volunteer interest.

What is your age?	2-4 times per month	Once a month	A few times a year	None	# Interested in Volunteering
18-24	30	15	10	1	55
25-33	8	22	20	2	50
34-51	18	20	32	9	70
52-68	10	11	18	9	39
69+	2	2	1	1	5
TOTAL	68	70	81	22	219

Are you familiar with the Prairie Pride Coalition?

Lower percentages of individuals in the 18-51 age range are familiar with PPC. A higher percentage of individuals 52+ are familiar with the organization.

What is your age?	Yes	No	Yes%
18-24	19	37	34%
25-33	24	28	46%
34-51	38	44	46%
52-68	36	18	67%
69+	6	1	86%
TOTAL	123	128	49%

Would you like to learn more about Prairie Pride Coalition and its community involvement?

A majority of individuals across all age demographics would like to learn more about PPC and how they can help the organization.

What is your age?	Yes	No
18-24	26	10
25-33	22	6
34-51	33	11
52-68	12	5
69+	1	0
TOTAL	94	32

The Lesbian Persona

Summary of those self-identified as Lesbian

Top 5 most important topics to this group (in rank order):

1. Marriage Equality (75.4%)
2. Support for LGBT Youth (61.5%)
3. Social events for LGBT (58.5%)
4. Aging LGBT population (49.2%)
5. Hate crimes and violence (47.7%)

Lesbian individuals perceived low levels of support for two of their most important topics: support for LGBT youth and social events for LGBT. The open-ended survey responses point heavily to youth activities and social events specifically centered around entertainment and education. Activities and events identified include concerts, films, cultural events, workshops, discussions, lectures, book clubs and restaurants with LGBT supportive environments.

Volunteer Interest Areas

Community Center
Support for LGBT Youth
Coming Out Support
Social Events for LGBT
Marriage Equality
LGBT Focused Entertainment

This group wants to be communicated with by email and Facebook.

Demographics of the respondents were primarily white females with Bachelor's level education and above, and between the ages of 34-68.

The Gay Persona

Summary those self-identified as Gay

Top 5 most important topics to this group (in rank order):

1. Marriage Equality (63%)
2. Social Events (64%)
3. Hate Crimes and Violence (62%)
4. Support for LGBT Youth (60%)
5. LGBT Focused Entertainment (55%)

The strong consensus in the written responses was the desire for a sense of community and opportunities to socialize with other gay men and LGBT individuals outside of college groups and the local bar scene. Respondents also noted a need for more visibility of the LGBT community with increased awareness of services and opportunities to connect with others.

Volunteer Interest Areas

- Social Events
- Aging LGBT
- Coming Out Support
- LGBT Community Center
- LGBT Focused Entertainment
- Counseling/Emotional/Mental Health Support

This group prefers to be communicated with by email and Facebook.

Demographics of the respondents were primarily white males with a post-graduate level education, and between the ages of 34-51.

The Bisexual Persona

Summary of those self-identified as Bisexual

Top 5 most important topics to this group (in rank order):

1. Support for LGBT Youth (76%)
2. Marriage Equality (65%)
3. Hate Crimes & Violence (57%)
4. Social Events for LGBT (57%)
5. Employment Discrimination (54%)

Volunteer Interest Areas

- Support for LGBT Youth
- Coming Out Support
- Social Events for LGBT
- LGBT Community Center
- LGBT Focused Entertainment

The open-ended bisexual responses included slight themes of a desire for interaction and community and visibility for the LGBT community. Primarily their responses revolved around being people and existing as bisexuals and not issues. Over 80% of the bisexual respondents identified as female. 75 % of bisexual individuals identified as being a part of the LGBT community.

This group wants to be communicated with by email and Facebook.

Demographics of the respondents were primarily white females with some college education with a fairly even distribution of ages between 18-51.

The Trans*/Queer/Questioning Persona

Summary those self-identified as Queer, Questioning or Other

Top 5 most important topics to this group (in rank order):

1. Counseling/emotional/mental health support (74%)
2. Gender Identity Support (63%)
3. Personal Safety (59%)
4. Support for LGBT Youth (55%)
5. LGBT Community Center/Focused Entertainment (52%)

The Trans*/Queer/Questioning respondents are seeking additional opportunities to connect with others in the LGBT community. They don't want to be silenced and are concerned they don't have a voice. The strong consensus in the written responses was a need for inclusion and ensuring access to the support they need. The Trans* - Queer – Questioning community doesn't want to be left out and doesn't like the feeling of being a minority within a minority. A majority of the responses were affiliated with Illinois Wesleyan University.

The comments really supported the following:

- Community Center – A safe place to engage and connect with others
- Social events other than the bar scene
- Connection opportunities for the people who are not in school or work for State Farm
- Spiritual
- Community meetings to raise awareness
- Meet and greets

Volunteer Interest Areas

- LGBT Community Center
- Support for LGBT Youth
- Social Events for LGBT
- Gender Identity Support
- Counseling/Coming Out Support

This group wants to be communicated with by email and Facebook.

Demographics of the respondents were primarily white females between the ages of 18-24 with some college or a bachelor's level education.

The Ally/Straight Persona

Summary of those self-identified as Ally and Straight

The majority (63%) of those completing our assessment identifying as Straight also identified themselves as an Ally for the LGBT community. There were some differences in their views from those that identified as LGBT. They were far less concerned with community and more concerned with support and equality for LGBT individuals.

Top 5 most important topics to this group (in rank order):

1. Counseling/emotional/mental health support (79%)
2. Support for LGBT Youth (79%)
3. Hate crimes and violence (74%)
4. Marriage Equality (73%)
5. Personal safety (71%)

The open ended survey questions show that allies and straight respondents identify a need for additional counseling/emotional/mental health support for LGBT individuals. Most participants were not aware of the PPC, but are interested in learning about its community involvement. The comments indicate a lack of information available about LGBT support or organizations. They mention wishing they had a place to congregate with like families. They also mention wishing they would have had something like the PPC.

Volunteer Interest Areas

- Counseling/emotional/mental health support
- Support for LGBT Youth
- Gender identity Support
- General health Support

This group wants to be communicated with by email and Facebook.

Demographics of the respondents were mostly white females with bachelor's level and above education and between the ages of 34-51.