How to Provide Equity and Efficacy of Social Services to Homeless LGBTQA+ High School-Grad Youth in a Community?

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Introduction
There is a need for enhanced and targeted services in Grand Forks and other areas for the LGBTQA+ community. It is important for youth to feel safe and supported so they can grow to be successful adults. I want homeless youth to have knowledge of services to them when they are not sure where to turn in their time of need. Not just a safe roof over their heads but also medical, counseling, and other services they may need.

I have been researching this topic for a few semesters and have studied issues for the youth of the LGBTQA+ community like:
- safe places to go/socialize/shop
- safe bathrooms in places like schools and libraries
- Issues in moving to a new state to go to college as an LGBTQA+ individual.

I am working on this research to get a better understanding of what issues there are in their heads but also medical, counseling, and other services they may need. I have been researching this topic for a few semesters and have studied issues for the youth of the LGBTQA+ community like:

Methods
I have conducted multiple literature reviews, qualitative data collection, data analysis, photos, and interviews; I am using the pyramid model (global, continental, national, regional).

National Context
Anti-LGBTQ+ laws are rolling in in historic numbers, like Florida’s highly publicized ‘Don’t Say Gay’ bill. There are many states that are known to not be LGBTQA+ friendly and are now trying to pass anti-LGBTQ+ laws. These laws are tied to many important issues, like hate crimes, rights at school, work, marriage, adoption, etc.

Discrimination and violence toward the LGBTQA+ community is high. Statistically it is reported that 61% more rape and violence occurs to LGBTQA+ individuals than to heterosexual women. These problems need addressing.

My current research has been focused on LGBTQA+ homeless youth in the greater Grand Forks area, but these problems are a microcosm of the larger issues in America as a whole. Using the Pyramid Model, we can extrapolate the problems of the GF Region to the wider country and world.

Case Study Location
Grand Forks is the major metropolitan center for northeastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. It is the regional focus of LGBTQA+ individuals.

Conclusions
When a youth has no place to go it a struggle for them to find help (safe places, medical, counseling, support, and other services?)

How can I and others help get involved? These are the questions I will continue to research in order to determine what the issues are to be addressed. In the end of my research I plan to gather all the information and put it in a pamphlet to hopefully be of use that I will give to school and agencies. After all, the LGBTQA+ homeless youths are our future.

Bibliography
https://ncadv.org/blog/posts/domestic-violence-and-the-lgbtq-community (1)
https://www.campusprideindex.org (2)

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