



FACT SHEET

State ID Card Policies for LGBTQ Youths Experiencing Homelessness

By Shabab Ahmed Mirza, Steven Soto, and Caitlin Rooney | September 28, 2016

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer, or LGBTQ, youths are significantly overrepresented among young people experiencing homelessness in the United States.¹ Bullying and harassment in schools; discrimination on the job and in rental markets; and histories of physical and sexual violence place these young people at a higher risk of housing instability.² One barrier these youths face in securing a better future is obtaining state-issued photo identification, or ID, cards—which may be required for job applications, opening financial accounts, and even accessing public libraries.³ Yet, without any reduced-cost options or fee waivers, the cost of obtaining an ID card remains prohibitively high in many states. In addition, states may require parental approval to issue an ID card to a minor, which may not be an option for many LGBTQ youths who are experiencing homelessness because of family rejection.⁴

State-issued identification empowers young people to take control of their lives and overcome homelessness, and states should adopt clear policies improving access to ID cards for LGBTQ youths experiencing homelessness. The table below updates information about ID card fees and policies reviewed in an earlier Center for American Progress report for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.⁵

Endnotes

1 Andrew Cray, Katie Miller, and Laura E. Durso, “Seeking Shelter: The Experiences and Unmet Needs of LGBT Homeless Youth” (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2013), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/report/2013/09/26/75746/seeking-shelter-the-experiences-and-unmet-needs-of-lgbt-homeless-youth/>; Soon Kyu Choi and others, “Serving Our Youth 2015: The Needs and Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth Experiencing Homelessness” (New York; Los Angeles: True Colors Fund; The Williams Institute, 2015), available at <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/safe-schools-and-youth/serving-our-youth-2015-the-needs-and-experiences-of-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-and-questioning-youth-experiencing-homelessness/>.

2 Andrew Cray, “3 Barriers that Stand Between LGBT Youth and Healthier Futures,” Center for American Progress, May 29, 2013, available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/news/2013/05/29/64583/3-barriers-that-stand-between-lgbt-youth-and-healthier-futures/>; Crosby Burns and Jeff Krehely, “Gay and Transgender

People Face High Rates of Workplace Discrimination and Harassment,” Center for American Progress, June 2, 2011, available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/news/2011/06/02/9872/gay-and-transgender-people-face-high-rates-of-workplace-discrimination-and-harassment/>; Sharita Gruberg, “We the People: LGBT Americans and Housing” (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2015), available at <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/NonDisc-Housing-4.10.pdf>; Cray, Miller and Durso, “Seeking Shelter.”

3 Hannah Hussey, “Expanding ID Card Access for LGBT Homeless Youth” (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2015), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/report/2015/10/01/122044/expanding-id-card-access-for-lgbt-homeless-youth/>.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

TABLE 1
State-by-state review of ID policies for LGBTQ young people experiencing homelessness

State	Fee ¹	No fee waiver or reduced fee ²	Parental consent required ³	No system to address lack of residence ⁴	Burdensome policy for gender marker ⁵
Alabama	\$36.25	●			●
Alaska	\$15.00	●		●	
Arizona	\$12.00	●	●		
Arkansas	\$5.00	●	●		●
California	\$29.00		●		
Colorado	\$11.50	●	●		
Connecticut	\$22.50				
Delaware	\$20.00	●	●		
District of Columbia	\$20.00				
Florida	\$25.00				
Georgia	\$32.00		●		●
Hawaii	\$40.00	●	●		
Idaho	\$10.00	●			
Illinois	\$10.00				
Indiana	\$11.50	●			
Iowa	\$8.00	●	●		●
Kansas	\$22.00	●	●		
Kentucky	\$12.00		●		●
Louisiana	\$25.50	●	●		●
Maine	\$5.00	●	●		
Maryland	\$15.00	●	●		●
Massachusetts	\$25.00	●	●	●	
Michigan	\$10.00	●			●
Minnesota	\$19.25	●		●	
Mississippi	\$17.00	●		●	●
Missouri	\$11.00	●			●
Montana	\$8.00	●			●
Nebraska	\$26.50	●		●	
Nevada	\$10.25	●			
New Hampshire	\$10.00	●			
New Jersey	\$24.00	●		●	
New Mexico	\$10.00	●			
New York	\$10.00	●	●		
North Carolina	\$13.00				●
North Dakota	\$8.00		●	●	●
Ohio	\$8.50	●	●		

State	Fee ¹	No fee waiver or reduced fee ²	Parental consent required ³	No system to address lack of residence ⁴	Burdensome policy for gender marker ⁵
Oklahoma	\$20.00	●	●	●	●
Oregon	\$44.50	●			
Pennsylvania	\$29.50	●	●		
Rhode Island	\$26.50				
South Carolina	\$0.00		●		●
South Dakota	\$28.00	●	●		●
Tennessee	\$5.00	●	●		●
Texas	\$16.00	●			●
Utah	\$18.00	●	●		
Vermont	\$24.00	●	●		
Virginia	\$10.00	●	●	●	
Washington	\$54.00	●	●	●	
West Virginia	\$10.00	●	●	●	
Wisconsin	\$28.00	●			
Wyoming	\$10.00	●	●	●	●

¹ Fee required for a 17-year-old who is not eligible or registered to vote.

² No fee waiver or reduced fee is issued for a homeless or low-income young person not receiving public assistance and not eligible to vote.

³ Parental consent is required for some or all minors ages 13 or older; exceptions may apply in limited circumstances.

⁴ States with systems available include wide variations in quality—ranging from states with specific forms for unaccompanied homeless youth to states that have few or no designated resources for homeless individuals but do permit some unstably housed individuals to access an ID through certain processes, such as applying at the ID agency accompanied by a person with whom they are residing.

⁵ The policy still requires proof of transition-related surgery, a court order, or an amended birth certificate to change gender markers, or the policy is unknown or unclear.

Source: Research was conducted on state ID agency websites, including the District of Columbia, between July and September 2016. Calculations assume that the ID applicant is not eligible to vote. Where information was unclear or unavailable, attempts were made to verify by phone or with other state, nonprofit, or media sources.