

# LGBT Seniors & Housing

Houston's fast-paced growth is resulting in scores of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults being **priced out of LGBT-friendly neighborhoods** and **cut off from their communities**.

## Urban growth is no boon for seniors.

Average rents have increased 70% in Houston since 2009<sup>1</sup>, forcing many fixed/low-income seniors to leave the inner city where the vast majority of LGBT-affirming businesses, churches, clinics and other organizations exist.

## Community means everything.

Because LGBT seniors are more likely to live alone and less likely to have the support of family, social networks and "families of choice" often fill the void. **9 out of 10 LGBT seniors** say that being part of a community and living alongside other LGBT people is important.<sup>2</sup>

## LGBT seniors face additional barriers.

A recent study showed that LGBT seniors seeking housing encounter higher rental rates, fewer or less attractive choices, higher application fees, additional paperwork and burdensome eligibility requirements designed to deter application.<sup>3</sup>

## Abuse remains a problem.

Mistreatment, harassment and intimidation toward LGBT persons persists in residential facilities and can even happen in their own homes. Many LGBT seniors **fear reporting abuse** and feel that they have little recourse or legal protection.<sup>4</sup>

## Transgender seniors face the most barriers.

Transgender older adults experience more discrimination, abuse, harassment and homelessness than the non-transgender LGB population.<sup>5</sup>

1. Rainmaker Insights. Houston rent trend data as of April 2015.  
<http://www.rentjungle.com/>

2-5. National Resource Center on LGBT Aging.  
<http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources>