



# STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP ENSURE STATES RESPOND TO THE SEXUAL HEALTH NEEDS OF YOUTH IN THEIR CUSTODY

**LEARN** more about the issue on The Center for HIV Law and Policy's website, [www.hivlawandpolicy.org](http://www.hivlawandpolicy.org). It has links to our HIV Policy Resource Bank, with important overlapping issue areas such as Prevention and Sexual Health, Youth in State Custody, and LGBTQI issues.



**GET** media attention. The sexual health rights of youth in state custody remain unmet because the issue hasn't received the attention it deserves. You can help spread the word. Reach out to reporters, editors, producers and others in the media to help them understand this important issue and why it needs more attention.



**JOIN** your state advocacy group's efforts to meet the sexual health needs of youth in state custody. If your state doesn't have an advocacy group, you can be a founding member and join our national network. Connect with other state advocacy groups to receive regular updates, action alerts, new resources, and to participate in membership strategy calls. To join, email [programassociate@hivlawandpolicy.org](mailto:programassociate@hivlawandpolicy.org).



**HOST** a community educational event with resources and support from The Center for HIV Law and Policy. Help educate people about the sexual health care rights of young people under state care. If you would like to collaborate for a community event, email [programassociate@hivlawandpolicy.org](mailto:programassociate@hivlawandpolicy.org).



**ENGAGE** allies! Ensuring that all youth in state custody can access comprehensive, science based and affirming sexual health care affects individual adolescent and public health outcomes. Sexual health care is a matter of LGBTQ rights, reproductive justice, and racial justice. Collaborate with advocates from movements that share similar goals!



**BUILD** relationships with elected representatives and other policy makers. Your state's Public Health Department and child welfare agencies are often advocacy targets, but they can also be good allies. Remember, ensuring youth in state custody can access sexual health rights is not just a human rights and adolescent health issue; it's good public health policy!



**SHARE** resources. Our website features a number of resources that help explain why this is such an important problem that needs to be addressed immediately. It also features important related issues, such as LGBTQ rights and reproductive justice. Learn about these interconnected issues and share the resources with friends, fellow activists, and community members.



**TO GET INVOLVED OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CHLP.**



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