



MODEL POLICY: Sexual Health Literacy for Youth in State Custody Settings

In order to appropriately address the sexual health needs and capacity of youth in the state's care, it shall be the policy of **[this agency/ jurisdiction]** to ensure that youth in foster care, detention, and other government operated- and -regulated youth facilities have access to programming and resources designed to increase their sexual health literacy. Sexual health literacy programming shall include:

- Access to basic, age- and culturally-appropriate information related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and HIV transmission and prevention, sexual violence, and discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, for all youth in custody for 24 hours or more;
- Access to information on topics including anatomy, sexuality and healthy relationships, contraception, reproductive choice, and drug use/ harm reduction skills that are planned proportionate to a youth's time in custody;
- Referrals and contact information for sexual and reproductive health care providers;
- Information and discussion on the nature and forms of sexual violence, abuse, and harassment on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and reporting procedures for young people who are targets of such violence;
- Learning environments and instructors that demonstrate nonjudgmental, inclusive attitudes and that create a comfortable space for youth of any sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression to learn about the spectrum of sexuality and gender, adopt safer sex practices, and develop the sexual health literacy necessary to improve and maintain sexual health and reduce the incidence and tolerance of sexual violence both immediately and in the long term.