

Cincinnati Pride Hotline

University of Cincinnati College of Medicine | LC 15

4x

LGBTQ+ young people are **4 times more likely to attempt suicide** than their peers.

1/3

Only **1/3 LGBTQ+ adults receive mental health treatment**, despite over 2/3 reporting symptoms of chronic depression.

\$1 Billion

\$1 Billion was cut in 2025 from the 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

The Problem

Mental health remains a crisis in the LGBTQ+ community. More than 60% of LGBTQ+ adults experience chronic depression, and nearly half report poor overall mental health. Among youth ages 13–24, over 1.8 million seriously consider or attempt suicide each year in the U.S., a devastating reminder of the urgency for care. Yet only one-third of LGBTQ+ adults receive the mental health treatment they need, and access is shrinking as federal and state restrictions grow. Cuts from the 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which reduced funding for school mental health professionals, and the closure of the University of Cincinnati's LGBTQ Center under Ohio Senate Bill 1 have deepened these disparities. **Without renewed commitment to inclusive, accessible care, LGBTQ+ individuals, especially in places like Cincinnati, will continue to face worsening mental health outcomes.**

A Strategy



To help fill this care gap, we propose that the Cincinnati government **launch a local hotline aimed at servicing LGBTQ+ residents**. This hotline would be able to **offer immediate crisis support** and **connect users with affirming resources in the community**. This effort can be guided and sustained by support from the LGBTQ+ City Commission that was recently established in March 2025. Developing an LGBTQ+ hotline will give Cincinnati residents another tool to tackle mental health challenges as well as help to bridge the gap in healthcare access that the LGBTQ+ community faces.