



empowering LGBTQ youth

# IMPACT REPORT JANUARY-MARCH 2022

## Youth Housing Program

**40%** OF YOUTH EXPERIENCING  
HOMELESSNESS IN DC IDENTIFY  
AS LGBTQ

SMYAL IS THE **LARGEST LGBTQ  
YOUTH HOUSING PROVIDER** IN  
THE REGION

“

There's this amazing reassurance with just knowing that I'm in housing that's for LGBTQ people. Now I'm somewhere safe, now I'm somewhere where I'm validated, now I'm somewhere where I feel supported and empowered.

”

## THIS QUARTER, SMYAL LAUNCHES **2** NEW HOUSING PROGRAMS

### Rapid Rehousing

Designed for youth who are ready to take that next step towards independence, Rapid Rehousing helps youth sign their own name to a lease on an apartment with SMYAL there to provide financial subsidies and case management support.

### Healthcare and Housing

This transitional housing program ties healthcare and housing together to reduce negative health outcomes and decrease homelessness. Data collected by the Department of Health will be used to help shape housing policy across the country.

THIS LATEST EXPANSION ALMOST **DOUBLES** THE SIZE OF SMYAL'S  
HOUSING PROGRAM, ALLOWING US TO SERVE **MORE YOUTH** WITH A  
**BROADER RANGE** OF SERVICES

## SHELTER ALONE DOES NOT END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS












SMYAL's program is coordinated through these five key areas of support:

1. Case Management
2. Supportive Services
3. Skills Development
4. Social Support
5. After-Care

## THERE IS NO SINGULAR PATH INTO HOMELESSNESS AND NO 'ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL' PATH OUT

SMYAL's **5 housing facilities** and **4 programmatic models** allows us to meet the unique needs of LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness while tailoring services to the individual needs of each resident.

## SMYAL's YOUTH HOUSING THROUGH THE YEARS

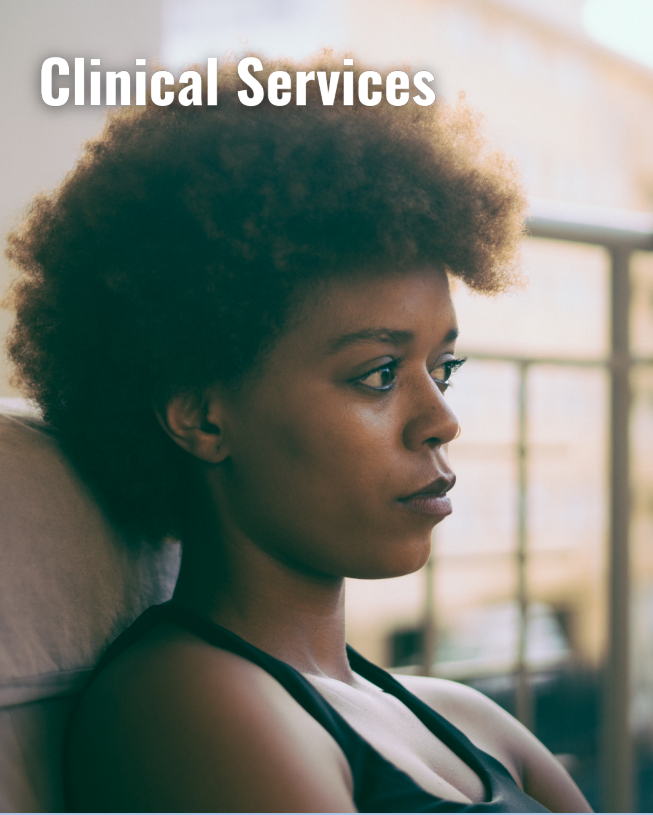
| YEAR | EXPANSION  | TOTAL # OF PROGRAMS  | TOTAL # OF BEDS |
|------|--|--|-----------------|
| 2017 | SMYAL's First Transitional Housing Program Opens                                 |   | 12              |
| 2019 | A Second Transitional Housing Program is Opened                                  |    | 26              |
| 2021 | 'Roman's House', an Extended Transitional Housing Program, Opens                 |     | 38              |
| 2022 | SMYAL Launches a New Rapid Rehousing Program and Housing Partnership with DC DOH |      | 60+             |

"A resident in our Extended Transitional Housing is being considered for SMYAL's new Rapid Rehousing program, which means that they have been able to increase their independence so much that they are going from our highest-needs program to our most independent program in just a few months."

-Elly Bludworth, Director of Youth Housing



## Clinical Services



**70%** OF LGBTQ YOUTH STATED THAT THEIR MENTAL HEALTH WAS "POOR" MOST OF THE TIME OR ALWAYS DURING COVID-19

**48%** OF LGBTQ YOUTH REPORTED THEY WANTED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING BUT WERE UNABLE TO RECEIVE IT IN THE PAST YEAR

SMYAL IS CLOSING THESE GAPS BY PROVIDING **AFFIRMING, ACCESSIBLE, AND EMPOWERING** MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING FOR QUEER & TRANS YOUTH

**25** YOUTH ACCESS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES THROUGH SMYAL THAT NUMBER GROWS EVERY DAY

"We have been working with a mom whose child has been experiencing extreme depression and anxiety surrounding their identity but struggled to find an affirming therapist. Therapists were either completely full or were unable to truly provide a safe space for her child. After only a few weeks of being connected to SMYAL, she saw a difference in her child's mental stability where they were able to express their feelings in a space that did not make them feel shameful or guilty for being who they are."

**-Brittni Dash, MSW, LICSW, New\* Director of Clinical Services**

\*SMYAL welcomed Brittni to the team at the beginning of January 2022





# Youth Development & Community Engagement

SMYAL WORKS TO ENSURE LGBTQ YOUTH HAVE AFFIRMING SPACES **NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE, WORK, AND LEARN**

This quarter, SMYAL led over **10 trainings and workshops** designed to aid youth-serving professionals, community partners, and corporate sponsors in supporting the LGBTQ youth in their lives.



## SMYAL's LGBTQ SERVICES NAVIGATOR IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND HAS LED WORKSHOPS ON:

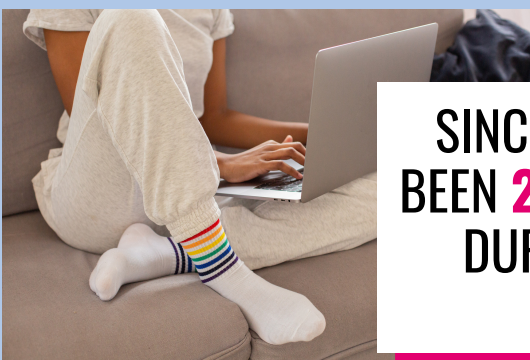
- Creating Affirming Spaces
- Cultural Humility and Competency
- Supporting LGBTQ Youth for Parents
- Trauma Informed Care

## ALSO THIS QUARTER:



**80** FAMILIES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE SIGNED UP FOR LITTLE SMYALs

**9** LITTLE SMYALs FAMILIES ATTENDED PRIDE NIGHT AT THE WASHINGTON WIZRDS



SINCE JANUARY, THERE HAVE BEEN **290** YOUTH INTERACTIONS DURING VIRTUAL DROP-IN PROGRAMS

Thank you to JusticeAid, who selected SMYAL as their 2022 Annual Grantee in January. We look forward to working with you throughout the next year!



## SMYAL's Q1 Sponsors and Partners

Duplex Diner  
Dupont Social Club  
KPMG  
The Kyle Duarte Company  
Monumental Sports & Entertainment Foundation  
Red Bear Brewery  
Rogue Cornhole  
Rogue Darts  
Stonewall Bocce

## SMYAL's Annual Corporate Partners

Amazon  
CareFirst  
RJ Whyte Event Production  
PNC Bank  
Wells Fargo



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