

Statement on Pride Month

Happy Pride Month!

Every June, we celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community and its continuing struggle for equity in all facets of society. San Francisco – and the Bay Area in general – has a long tradition of being a sanctuary for those who have faced persecution: political, religious, and social. Pride is more than the celebration of a community; pride is the renewal of our commitment to our core values: inclusion, empathy, and courage.

ECS seeks to lead by example. In a recent internal survey of ECS staff, one in four respondents identified as belonging to a gender or sexual minority. Among those we serve, 17% identify as LGBTQIA+.

Yet as we take this month to uplift the LGBTQIA+ community and celebrate all that we have accomplished, it is important that we recognize the ongoing challenges that many in this community continue to face. Not only are LGBTQ individuals – particularly transpersons of color – more likely to experience homelessness, the impact of homelessness on the autonomy and safety of LGBTQIA+ individuals can be especially dire. ECS maintains and encourages a culture of safety and inclusion where everyone in need of services is welcome.

ECS stands in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community in support of a more just and equitable society.

In community,

Beth Stokes
Executive Director