



At PFLAG Denver, we stand with the thousands of individuals and families affected by the onslaught of anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation proposed and passed by state legislatures across the country. While we and so many others will continue fighting for you, we recognize that your needs may now be immediate. This informational sheet was created as a quick and high level resource for those considering Denver and its surrounding areas when relocating fleeing from states hostile to their human rights.

Colorado offers extensive anti-discrimination laws that explicitly protect our community and uphold our rights to comprehensive healthcare. Our LGBTQIA+ children have their rights guaranteed in all public school systems, including the right to use bathrooms and play in sports according to their gender identity. While some locations in the state are more forthcoming with their compliance than others, these are our court-issued rights and the state of Colorado stands by us. Decisions when moving here, therefore, become more about individual preferences and family needs rather than gross access to fundamental rights - As it should be.

We hope this sheet helps orient you in this time of great emotional and logistical upheaval. At the very least, we hope that it demonstrates the solid web of community support that you may find beyond the place that you now call home. There are so many people and organizations who are ready to SEE you, SUPPORT you, and CELEBRATE the contributions that you bring to your community.

With love and solidarity,
PFLAG Denver

General Relocation References

[Know Before You Go, a Guidebook for Action](#) - HRC

[Emergency Funds for Relocating Families](#) - HRC

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Revised: August 31, 2023



Location. Location. Location.

Denver Neighborhoods

[Map of Denver's neighborhoods](#)

- The **Cheesman Park** area is Denver's premier gay neighborhood. There are single family homes as well as high-rise and mid-rise condo living. Cheesman Park is 80 acres and offers lots of sunshine and the most amazing city and mountain views, with the gayest coffee shops just steps away!
- The **Highlands** is another nice, gay friendly neighborhood. Just West of downtown, the area has lots of great shopping and eating opportunities. Brick bungalows nestle within the businesses to create a very diverse, beautiful neighborhood.
- **Stapleton/Central Park** Central Park, previously known as Stapleton, is one of the more suburban areas of Denver. The houses here are large, with plenty of outdoor space, and you will enjoy the suburban-style living here. There are also lots of restaurants, and shopping, while the Stanley Marketplace is only a few minutes away.
- **Lowry**: Denver is home to numerous neighborhoods that are LGBTQ-friendly and embrace everyone's individuality. Lowry is one such area, and one of the draws is how close it sits to Cherry Creek Shopping District. Lowry's scene is quieter and more suburban, different from the nearby Stapleton. This serene locale provides people with over 800 acres of outdoor space.

Surrounding Suburbs

- **Arvada**: Arvada is known for its sizable arts community for a mid-western town with agricultural and cattle wrangling roots. It has a commission that appoints festivals and arts projects. The Arvada Center for the Arts and the Humanities supports and showcases art in public places as well as holds year-round performances in art and dance. The facility, which also has a small ad hoc arts college with courses in dance, writing, acting, art and ceramics, attracts over 350,000 visitors from surrounding communities every year.

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Denver Neighborhoods (continued)

- **Aurora:** Situated perfectly between the stunning Rocky Mountains and the rolling American prairie, Aurora, the third biggest city in Colorado and, as the state’s most diverse area, offers the perfect blend of culture and adventure. If you enjoy outdoor recreation, live music, and an excellent food and nightlife scene, you’ll find it here. Aurora has an active, thriving, and welcoming LGBTQ community, annually hosting its own PRIDE festival. While it does not have a primary “gayborhood” within its boundaries, popular sub-areas include Park East, Pheasant Run, and Pride’s Crossing.
- **Lakewood:** Lakewood is a beautiful and scenic Colorado city located near Denver and in the foothills of the stunning Rocky Mountains. Although it is close enough to Denver to offer residents the opportunity to enjoy all that the big city has to offer, it is also very much a unique city in its own right that offers a friendly and welcoming feel and much to see and do. Even better, it is a city with a smaller, but thriving LGBT community where all can feel welcome and at home. If you’re thinking of finding your next home in Lakewood, chances are, you’ll find plenty about it to love!
- **Golden:** a picturesque town located in the Rocky Mountains, about an hour west of Denver. The town is home to a vibrant community of artists, musicians, and outdoor enthusiasts, and has a reputation for being a welcoming and inclusive place. Despite its small size, Golden has a number of LGBTQ-friendly businesses and organizations, including a gay-friendly church, a queer-friendly coffee shop, and a LGBTQ-inclusive health center.

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Educational Considerations

Overview

Like all of its citizens, Colorado students are protected by a [comprehensive set of anti-discrimination laws](#) that ensure their rights regardless of “disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, or ancestry” in all places of public accommodation. Across the state, students are [guaranteed the right](#) to the proper use of gender-segregated facilities that are consistent with their gender identity (i.e. bathrooms). Additionally, in 2022 the State School Board of Education [approved K-12 social studies standards](#) that teach an expansive view of the American story and who has a place in it, including the lived experiences and contributions of LGBTQIA+ people.

While our LGBTQIA+ students have the same rights guaranteed to them regardless of where they are enrolled, you may find subtle differences in the local policies and support resources offered by each school district.

District Policies & Programs

- [Adams 12 School District](#)
- [Aurora Public School District](#)
- [Boulder Valley School District](#)
- [Denver Public School District](#)
- [Jeffco Public School District](#)

Additional Resources & Reference

- [Best High Schools in Colorado \(academic\) - US News & World Report](#)
- [Colorado Schools Anti Bullying Report \(2017\) - ONE Colorado](#)
- [Open Letter to Schools About Student Privacy - ACLU](#)

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Community Resources

Queer- and Trans-competent Health Care *(not exhaustive)*

- **Denver Health LGBTQ+ Health Services:** Denver Health's LGBTQ+ Health Services is committed to a decentralized model of healthcare for LGBTQ+ people across Colorado – meaning that any LGBTQ+ person should be met with open, excellent, affirming care. Within the decentralized model, LGBTQ+ Health Services provides LGBTQ+ patients with patient navigation services for primary care needs and gender affirming surgery.
- **TRUE Center** The only comprehensive care center in the Rocky Mountain region specifically set up for gender-diverse children, adolescents and young adults.

LGBTQIA+ Focused Organizations *(not exhaustive)*

- **PFLAG Denver:** PFLAG Denver is one of nearly 500 local chapters in the U.S. that serve the mission of PFLAG National. PFLAG Denver provides expansive services across the Denver metro area, including support and educational services, youth programming, scholarships, and events for community connection.
- **The Center on Colfax:** The Center on Colfax is the most prominent LGBTQ+ center in the region. Its mission is to give a voice to the state's LGBTQ community. The organization plays a vital role in statewide initiatives to reduce discrimination and harassment. The Center tries to fulfill its mission by ensuring that each community member can access the resources and programs they need to live healthy, productive, and happy lives. The Center has programs for different age groups, including [Rainbow Alley](#) for youth and [SAGA](#) for young adults.
- **ONE Colorado:** One Colorado is Colorado's advocacy organization whose mission is to advance equality for LGBTQ residents of the state and their families. The organization seeks to advocate by lobbying local governments, the executive branch, and General Assembly on issues such as transgender equality, relationship recognition, safe schools, and LGBTQ health services.

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LGBTQIA+ Focused Organizations *(continued)*

- **Envision : YOU** You seeks to close gaps in behavioral health outcomes for LGBTQ+ individuals through co-created community programming, advocacy engagement, public awareness campaigns, and evidence-based training.
- **Fortaleza Familiar:** Fortaleza Familiar is dedicated to the wellness of Indigenous Chicana Latinx Lesbian Gay Bi Queer Trans Two-Spirit young people and their families in Colorado. Provides education, support, social networking, and advocacy.
- **Out Boulder County** facilitates connection, advocacy, education, research and programs to ensure LGBTQ+ people and communities thrive in Boulder County and beyond. They tirelessly advocate for legislation and policies supportive of the LGBTQIA+ community, and offer extensive social programs for youth and families.
- **Youth Seen** Connects, uplifts, and empowers youth with an urgent and sustained focus on the needs of young BIPoC + LGBTQIA+ community members in the Denver Metro area. Produces special events including BlackPride and CampSeen.
- **Transgender Center of the Rockies** provides holistic mental health and social services for members of Colorado's transgender and gender expansive community.
- **Queer Asterisk** empowers and nurtures the diverse ways of being that queer people embody by providing accessible counseling, education and community programs that uplift queer, trans and gender expansive lives.

Additional Resources & Reference

- **Colorado Name Change Project** Provides information and forms on how to update your name and gender marker in the State of Colorado.

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