Champion Group for Youth Identifying as Members of LGBTQ+ Communities

**Input**
- Extension Capacity Funds
- National 4-H Council
- Extension personnel across the nation
- Federal Agencies, including USDA/NIFA
- University Partners
- Individuals (youth and adults) with Expertise in Issues Impacting LGBTQ+ Communities
- Volunteers
- Community-based organizations

**Activities:**
- Identify best practices.
- Review policies to identify barriers.
- Increase awareness of issues impacting LGBTQ+ communities.
- Strengthen capacity of states and other youth-serving organizations to deliver affirming programs.
- Professional development for faculty and staff.
- Highlight efforts successfully engaging youth.

**Outputs:**
- Training tools
- Pool of resource materials developed and housed at a national website
- Journal articles
- Publications: factsheets, etc.
- Case studies and video testimonials
- Train-the-Train resources

**Outcomes – Impact**

**Short Term:**
- Increased awareness of issues impacting LGBTQ+ communities.
- Increased awareness and knowledge of how to help youth in distress.
- Increased awareness of best practices for including and affirming LGBTQ+ individuals

**Mid Term:**
- Affirming youth development programs
- Youth development professionals are connecting youth to needed resources
- Increased preventative factors for youth

**Long Term:**
- Lower rates of suicide
- Lower rates of homelessness
- Lower rates of drug and alcohol use
- Increase in youth resilience
- Higher quality of life

**Assumptions**
- Education can decrease heteronormativity.
- Most youth development professionals will care about the need to serve youth in LGBTQ+ communities after understanding issues that impact these communities.
- There will be administrative support for outreach and programming to serve youth in LGBTQ+ communities after understanding issues that impact these communities.
- Reducing barriers will increase LGBTQ+ individual’s participation in affirming youth programs protective factors.
- Participation in affirming youth programs will increase individuals protective factors and decrease their adverse childhood experiences.

**Possible External Factors**
- Heteronormativity
- Availability of funding
- Willingness of youth development professionals to participate in programming
- Willingness of community members to enroll and participate in programs