2.17 LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS

Policy: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) individuals experience challenges in accessing LGBT friendly care in their communities. Transgendered individuals, in particular, can experience discrimination and barriers to adequate health care services.

Title X clinics must provide access to confidential, culturally competent health care services, including care to LGBT individuals, which includes access to a broad range of contraceptive methods, breast and cervical cancer screenings, STI and HIV testing and referral, and other prevention services. *(42 CFR 59.5 (b)(10))*

Definitions
Lesbian: A woman whose emotional, romantic, and/or physical attraction is to other women. People who are lesbians need not have had any sexual experience; it is the attraction that helps determine orientation.

Gay: The adjective used to describe people whose emotional, romantic, and/or physical attraction is to people of the same sex. In contemporary contexts, "lesbian" is often a preferred term for women. People who are gay need not have had any sexual experience; it is the attraction that helps determine orientation.

Bisexual: An individual who is emotionally, romantically, and/or physically attracted to men and women. Sometimes stated as "bi," people who are bisexual need not have had equal sexual experience with both men and women and, in fact, need not have had any sexual experience at all; it is the attraction that helps determine orientation.

Transgender: A term describing the state of a person's gender identity which does not necessarily match their assigned sex at birth. Other terms commonly used are "female to male" (FTM), "male to female" (MTF), and "genderqueer." Transgender people may or may not decide to alter their bodies hormonally and/or surgically to match their gender identity (also referred to as "transsexual"). This word is also used as a broad umbrella term to describe those who transcend conventional expectations of gender identity or expression. Like any umbrella term, many different groups of people with different histories and experiences are often included within the greater transgender community—such groups include, but are not limited to, people who identify as transsexual, genderqueer, gender variant, gender diverse, and androgynous *(Source: Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), 2015).*

Procedure:
1. Women and men who identify as LGBT and who are interested in receiving family planning services related to preventing or achieving pregnancy qualify as Title X clients.
2. Providers should avoid making assumptions about a client's gender identity or sexual orientation. All requests for services should be treated without regard to these characteristics.
3. The transgender client's gender identity should always be honored, and the pronouns and terminology that the client requests should always be used.