



PowerOn Mobile Mini Grant Impact

AUGUST 2022 IMPACT REPORT

PowerOn Mini Grant was made possible by support from **T-Mobile**

KEY METRICS WE ARE TRACKING:

Total grantee centers: **32**

Data collected from **29** centers

Total number of center clients who benefitted from the granted technology in August: **5528**

Centers serving rural clients: **19**

On average, **42%** of clients reside in rural areas

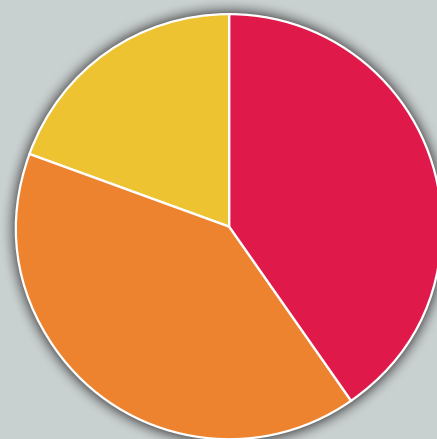
263 social events or support groups were held using the granted technology

17 clients found employment using the granted technology

The granted technology enabled **498** people to access mental health service

Approximately **66%** of partner center case loads were managed using the granted technology

Age groups served by centers:



- youth (under 25)
- general population (26-64)
- elders (65+)

SERVICE HIGHLIGHT

RURAL LGBTQ+

LGBTQ+ individuals living in rural America face many of the same challenges as those living in urban areas, however many of these issues can be exacerbated by lack of access to resources and community. According to research, living in smaller communities may mean lack of alternative options in the face of workplace or housing discrimination, limited access to safe and informed healthcare, or increased vulnerability to legal discrimination. Rural LGBTQ+ communities may need to travel farther in order to access support from LGBTQ+ community centers and social service providers, and may not get to enjoy spaces for community joy and celebration such as Pride parades, queer nightlife, or LGBTQ+ social clubs.

Technology can help to bridge this gap through online queer spaces where individuals can connect with other community members and access information about their identities and lives. The development of telehealth services has helped bring essential services to rural LGBTQ+ communities, such as gender-affirming healthcare and more variety in healthcare providers so that individuals can make sure they are receiving informed, safe, and affirming care.

PowerOn granted technology has empowered many of our partner centers to expand their reach and stay connected with rural LGBTQ+ communities.

poweronprogram.org | lgbttech.org

"Youth in rural communities were able to attend the Youth Advisory Board meetings. One youth was able to access teletherapy using the tablet."
—Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation

"This technology allowed us to travel to other Rural Texas Pride Celebrations to support each other. We used our technology to sell merch and sign people up for our email list."
—Pride Center West Texas

"The technology has helped to enhance communications with our clients in rural places. Additionally, with the growing MPX and COVID-19 emergencies, having reliable technology is imperative. Thank you for the support!"
—The Center For Sexuality & Gender Diversity

"Lambert House has been a blessing for my 11-year-old. Finding community at this complicated age is difficult for a lot of kids. After logging off of an online chat or picking her up from an in-person event my child is happy, confident, and hopeful."
—Lambert House

PowerOn is a program of **LGBT TECH**



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CENTER HIGHLIGHT

PRIDE CENTER WEST TEXAS ODESSA, TX

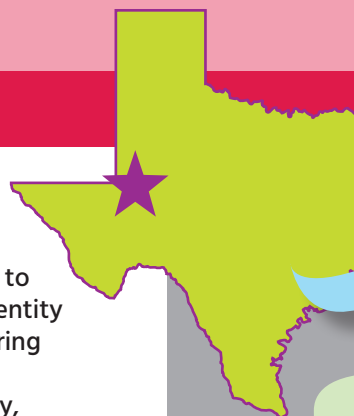
Pride Center West Texas is dedicated to their mission to improve the lives of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) minorities through the provision of safe gathering spaces, educational offerings, and social services that prioritize those who identify as LGBTQN+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, nonbinary, and the rest of our family members +). When Bryan and his husband Clint Wilson decided to move back to Bryan's hometown of Odessa, TX and open Pride Center West Texas (PCWT), little did they know the overwhelming impact and support they would find in a conservative, rural Texas town.

Located in Odessa, Texas, PCWT serves the Midland/Odessa area and many small rural towns around. Before PCWT, services and support for the LGBTQIA+ community were well over 100 miles away in metropolitan cities. Since Texas has some of the highest rates of suicide within the queer youth community, especially within rural areas, their focus has been and continues to be to create safe drop-in spaces and events for youth as they know this reduces suicide, self-harm, depression and more. In addition, their mental health team provides therapies, groups, education services, and referrals to LGBTQIA+ friendly health professionals. Through the various paths of support, they are able to provide youth with a safe place to learn, find friends, and be accepted for exactly who they are.

Largely funded by private donors, and despite opening during a global pandemic, PCWT has successfully established, outgrown, and re-established in a larger space to serve more people. As they go into their third year, PowerOn technology has allowed them to establish and easily maintain records, assessments, and check-ins for mental health, as well as provide technology resources for their youth who may not have access to technology at home.

PCWT also supports parents/protectors and family members of LGBTQIA+ folks through PFLAG and Parents/Protectors of Gender Diverse Children (POG-DC). These groups have been invaluable in giving families a safe place to learn and talk to others.

"Thanks to PowerOn, we can track attendance and keep families connected through social media. As we continue to grow, the information we've been able to collect through our PowerOn mini-grant will help us easily pull and report data for grants and fundraising. Thank you PowerOn for helping us save lives in Texas!"



"Pride center is important to me because it has provided me with a place where I could be myself completely with no judgment. I can also get help whenever I need it. They have really made sure to take care of everybody here. In a place like West Texas, it has been incredible to finally have a sense of belonging and some solid support."
—Anonymous

"The Pride Center was the first place I felt comfortable to be who I wanted to be, it soon became a second home to me. The staff and recurring visitors to the Pride Center became my friends, my mentors, and chosen family. I will always appreciate the time I spent there as it shaped me to be the person I am right now. It's a wonderful place and I hope that it continues to grow in order to help and change people's lives"
—Piper

"Pride center it's important to me because I can be my authentic self and learn and grow with my fellow youth!"
—Milo

