



EMPOWERING. HEALLING. CONNECTING

October 27, 2011

Dear Member of the Transgender Community:

FORGE, a 17-year-old national transgender and SOFFA (Significant Others, Friends, Family and Allies) organization headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin has received federal funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims for Crime (OVC)ⁱ to improve the ability of critical public service agencies to reach and appropriately serve transgender and gender non-conforming people.ⁱⁱ

You can help FORGE design effective cultural competency and outreach programs by completing the online survey available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/trans-barriers>, and urging other transgender, gender non-conforming individuals, and/or people who are in close contact with the transgender community to take it, as well. Questions focus on your awareness of certain services within your own community, and your willingness to use these services yourself (if you needed them), or to refer other transgender or gender non-conforming people to them.

This survey has been approved by the Morehouse School of Medicine Institutional Review Board, and should take you approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. If you have questions about the survey, the co-investigators are lore m. dickey, Ph.D., who can be reached at lmickey.research@gmail.com, and Loree Cook-Daniels, LoreeCD@aol.com. More information about the project can be obtained from FORGE's Executive Director, Michael Munson at mmunson@forge-forward.org, or by phone at 414-559-2123.

For more information about FORGE, please visit our website at www.forge-forward.org

Thank you for participating and passing the word about this survey!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael Munson
Executive Director

ⁱ This project was produced by FORGE under 2009-SZ-B9-K003, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this survey are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position nor policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

ⁱⁱ FORGE uses "transgender" and "gender non-conforming" as very large umbrella terms that are fully inclusive of hundreds of gender identities, histories, experiences, and expressions. If you identify as genderqueer, gender fluid, bi-gender, omni-gender, two-spirit, androgynous, femme, butch, transsexual, crossdresser, woman of transsexual experience, man of transsexual history, trans man, trans woman, boi, T-girl, stud, aggressor, or any other term, we welcome you to take this survey. Likewise if you are a loved one of a transgender person -- significant other, parent, child, friend, sibling, or anyone close to someone transgender -- we also encourage you to take this survey.