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LGBTQI+ & Same Gender Loving (SGL) Business Funding Readiness Checklist

Your step-by-step guide to funding, certifying, and growing your inclusive business · Powered by Noble Trinity Media

This checklist is designed for LGBTQI+ entrepreneurs and African American Same Gender Loving (SGL) business owners who are ready to organize, certify, and apply for funding with confidence. Use it quarterly to stay grant-ready and never miss an opportunity.

■ Business Setup & Readiness

- Registered business with EIN & required licenses
- Financial records and bank accounts separated
- Business plan and 12-month cash flow forecast complete
- Clean, professional website or landing page live

■ *A fully compliant business foundation builds credibility and speeds up the funding process.*

■ LGBTQI+ & SGL Certification

- Apply for LGBTBE® (LGBT Business Enterprise) certification via NGLCC
- Research SGL-affirming business networks and local Pride Chambers
- Explore SBE, MBE, or WBE certifications if applicable to your identity
- Keep digital copies of all certification letters in one cloud folder

■ *LGBTBE® certification opens access to corporate supplier diversity programs and exclusive grant pools.*

■ Funding Opportunities & Sources

- Research NGLCC-connected corporate grant and contract programs
- Apply to StartOut Growth Lab for accelerator programs and investor access
- Explore Queer to Stay (HRC + Showtime) grants for hospitality/retail businesses
- Investigate Founders First CDC for diverse and LGBTQI+-led company funding
- Search CDFIs for LGBTQI+-inclusive microloans at reduced rates
- Identify angel investors and VC networks: Gaingels, Chasing Rainbows VC

■ Funding Calendar & Application Prep

- Maintain a Funding Tracker with grant names, deadlines, and award amounts
- Prepare a reusable grant narrative: your story, impact, and funding use-case
- Save key documents in cloud storage: financials, certifications, pitch deck, tax filings
- Review all applications before submission — accuracy and authenticity build trust

■ Community, Networking & Growth

- Join NGLCC, local Pride Chambers, or Equality Business Alliances
- Attend LGBTQI+ business summits, pitch competitions, and procurement events
- Establish community partnerships or Pride brand collaborations
- Seek mentoring through SBA SCORE, MBDA Business Centers, or StartOut

■ *Community connections open funding doors faster than cold applications — your network is your net worth.*

■ **Quarterly Review:** Use this checklist every quarter to review progress, update your funding calendar, and submit new applications. Visit you2funds.com for active LGBTQI+ and SGL business grants, certification tools, and step■by■step submission support.