University of Maryland, Baltimore

Organizational Description
UM is a public, non-profit, educational institution and a constituent institution of the University System of Maryland. UM received $499.6 million in grants and contracts in FY 2015. UM has the capacity in place to manage large, federal projects such as this. UM will provide full administrative and operational support for the implementation of the QIC. The Institute for Innovation & Implementation, within which all work on this project will be done, has demonstrated capacity as the current contractor for SAMHSA’s National Training and Technical Assistance Center for Child, Youth and Family Mental Health (NTTAC).

Use of Grants in National Quality Improvement Center on LGBTQ Children and Youth in Foster Care Program Funds
The QIC will partner with 4-6 sites as they work to improve placement stability, well-being, and permanency through interventions designed to enhance staff, caregiver, and/or provider competency in providing safe, affirming and supportive environments for LGBTQ youth. Sites will be supported to craft sustainability plans to ensure continuity of interventions after the conclusion of the grant. The QIC will provide high quality, responsive, and flexible technical assistance (TA) related to providing culturally responsive care for LGBTQ youth in foster care.

Expected Outcomes
Short-term Outcomes: 4-6 research projects identified, developed, implemented and evaluated; Integrated best practices with LIS policies, programs, and practices; Improved outcomes for LGBTQ youth in foster care; Increased body of knowledge for effective interventions for LGBTQ youth. Long-term Outcomes: Increased availability of evidence-based models for addressing direct services needs of LGBTQ youth in foster care; Improved LGBTQ youth outcomes in foster care; Enhanced knowledge of CW systems and workforce about unique needs of LGBTQ youth; Integrated lessons learned with CW agencies at all levels; Increased awareness and improved policy development addressing barriers facing LGBTQ youth in foster care.