RISE is a project of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center. RISE stands for Recognize, Intervene, Support, and Empower. The RISE Project aims to reduce the number of LGBTQ youth in long-term foster care in Los Angeles, and improve prospects for legal permanency for them through decreasing heterosexism and anti-transgender bias in their families and in their placement settings. The RISE Project is designed to provide family members, caregivers and professionals with the support and education needed to nurture lifelong connections, emotionally permanent relationships and legally permanent family status for the youth between the ages of 7-16 and support families in decreasing rejecting behaviors increasing supportive behaviors.

In partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and over 20 community and foster care agencies, the RISE Project will implement and study the effects of a multi-component intervention to assist LGBTQ children and youth to achieve emotional and legal permanency in families where they feel safe, nurtured and loved. RISE is a multi-year Federal research project and an independent evaluator will be collecting data on the results of our efforts to increase permanency for LGBTQ youth in foster care.

RISE is a Wraparound-based care coordination model that will be focusing on working with youth who identify as LGBTQ. The goal of this program is to connect or reconnect LGBTQ youth with family, foster family, and his or her community to build long lasting connections. In the RISE care coordination Pilot, which will get started in April/May 2013, we seeking 12 children or youth ages 7-16 years old for participation in care coordination. These youth must be case managed by the Santa Clarita or San Fernando Valley offices, or be in a placement at Five Acres, Hathaway-Sycamores, Penny Lane, Southern California Foster Family and Adoption Agency, or Vista Del Mar. Youth on Probation or in dual status are not eligible for the pilot. If you know of a child or youth who you think may benefit from participating in RISE, contact their DCFS CSW to discuss the Project.

1) The DCFS CSW must fill out the RISE REFERRAL FORM and submit to:  
   DCFS RISE LAISON Jamie Cantor  
   cantorja@dcs.lacounty.gov  
   661-233-5823

2) If you are having problems contacting your social worker please contact:  
   DCFS RISE LAISON Jamie Cantor