



## Mission & Values

Brave Space Alliance (BSA) is the first Black-led, trans-led LGBTQ+ Center located on the South Side of Chicago, dedicated to creating and providing affirming, culturally competent, for-us by-us resources, programming, and services for LGBTQ+ individuals on the South and West sides of the city. We strive to empower, embolden, and educate each other through mutual aid, knowledge-sharing, and the creation of community-sourced resources as we build toward the liberation of all oppressed peoples. **All programming, services, and resources are intended for BIPOC & TGNC individuals.**

## Strategic Priorities

**Health and Wellness** – We view health and wellness as broad concepts, reaching far beyond getting tested or focusing on medical services. Queer and trans people face unique barriers to living full, healthy lives. We break down these barriers by offering programs that focus on the needs in our community, such as food insecurity, housing insecurity, and economic justice.

**Visibility and Expansion** – We want Black and Brown queer and trans people to be seen, wherever and however they want to be seen. And we know our community deserves services that are accessible to them, in the neighborhoods in which they live. Brave Space is striving to expand our programming to all parts of the South and West sides; if you are located there and want to partner with us, please reach out!

**Bravery and Solidarity** – We step away from the language of safety because we know that queer and trans people can never truly be safe in spaces and communities that are not of our own making. We instead emphasize bravery-- living one's fullest, truest, and best life in the face of oppression-- and solidarity as ideals for the longevity of our communities and the best hopes for queer and trans liberation.

## Volunteer Expectations & Guidelines

Brave Space Alliance is a Black-led, all-trans community center, focused on providing programs, services, and resources geared towards meeting the needs of Black and Brown trans people on the South and West sides of Chicago. We are a Black liberation organization and a trans liberation organization.

# **BRAVE SPACE** **ALLIANCE**

Brave Space Alliance's community spaces and programs are designed to be places where Black and Brown people can be themselves, and bring their full selves to the table. This includes their language, culture, and physical selves, among other things. Please make your best effort to control your response to any discomfort you may feel, and ask yourself why you are feeling uncomfortable. Black and Brown individuals often cannot survive in spaces that center cishet non-Black and Brown folks; our spaces are designed for their joy and survival first and foremost.

We currently need volunteers to help deliver pantry items to the front doors of Black and brown queer and trans individuals who are elderly, disabled, and/or immunocompromised. We also need volunteers to assist with the following:

- Receiving and documenting donations
- Organizing incoming donations
- Restocking BSA pantry shelves
- Weekly inventory of BSA shelves and stockroom

Once in-person programming begins there will be more opportunities for volunteers to work with our other programs.

All individuals interested in volunteering for Brave Space Alliance must understand and abide by the following guidelines:

- 1. Anti-Blackness will not be tolerated in any capacity.** Anti-blackness voids Blackness of value, while systematically marginalizing Black people and their issues and is the unethical disregard for anti-Black institutions and policies (*definition provided by <https://www.racialequitytools.org>*).
- 2. Trans identities are a big and beautiful continuum of words, concepts, and ways of existing. Gender as a thing that is done, gender as a thing that is experienced, and gender as a site of power and control.**
- 3. We have a zero-tolerance policy for transphobia.** Transphobia is the form of oppression that targets trans people based on our trans status. This often takes the form of stereotypes, forcible gender policing, state-sanctioned violence.
- 4. You must believe in and be for trans liberation.** This looks like a radical, Black, and Brown trans-led movement to secure the full and unquestioned liberation of trans people, people of all marginalized genders, and all oppressed people everywhere. The antithesis to Cis Supremacy and Transphobia, and requires the dismantling of those two systems and the institutions that uphold them.



## Guidelines for In-Person Volunteering

Thank you for signing up to deliver much-needed food and supplies across Chicago to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. By helping make our Crisis Pantry a reality, you're assisting Brave Space Alliance in saving lives during a public health crisis, and distributing resources to those most in need.

As we continue to provide support for individuals in need of resources we ask that all volunteers interested in supporting our efforts throughout this pandemic abide by the following guidelines to ensure safety and efficiency:

1. Due to recent updates to CDC guidelines, when conducting in-person volunteering (weekly pantry deliveries and pantry bagging) we ask that all volunteers wear either a KN95/N95 mask or two masks, have gloves on at all times (gloves will be provided to you if you do not have any) and maintain a 6 ft distance from those around you.  
**\*\*PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR MASK IS ON PROPERLY, COVERING BOTH YOUR NOSE AND MOUTH\*\***
2. If you are elderly, disabled, or immunocompromised we ask that you DO NOT sign up for in-person volunteer opportunities with us at this time.
3. Please do not select a delivery slot for our Crisis Pantry Delivery Program unless you are absolutely sure of your availability and/or capacity to both show up on time to receive your bags and to complete all deliveries for your assigned route.
4. We understand that these are difficult times and things come up. However, there have been several last-minute cancellations recently and they disrupt the entire delivery process. To avoid this in the future, two last-minute cancellations will result in no longer being able to volunteer with BSA. Instead, we ask that you honor your needs and yourself and take whatever time you need to best care for yourself and those around you.
5. **By signing up to volunteer as a delivery driver for Brave Space Alliance's Crisis Pantry Delivery Program, you must be authorized to operate a vehicle and have appropriate automobile insurance coverage in the State of Illinois. If you operate a vehicle without this authorization or coverage and do not alert Brave Space Alliance, you agree to waive Brave Space Alliance's liability should an accident occur during that time.**

Thank you again for helping us provide essential resources and care to our community during a time of need and crisis. We love you, and we appreciate all that you do so that this work can continue. We sincerely hope that this crisis ends soon, and ends without further suffering or pain for anyone.