About TLDEF's Trans Health Project

The Trans Health Project takes a comprehensive, systematic approach to expanding access to transgender-related health care by educating affected individuals about their legal rights; cultivating a robust movement to achieve health care equity; expanding enforcement of existing legal protections; and driving clinical policy changes among insurance carriers.

The Trans Health Project’s primary activities include developing a network of attorneys capable of challenging exclusions and medical necessity denials; launching a national health care helpline for transgender individuals and advocates to receive timely assistance; and educating individuals, transgender organizations, medical and mental health providers and billing offices.

The Trans Health Project engages in alternative dispute resolution and policy advocacy to establish positive precedent in priority areas including Medicaid, employee-sponsored health plans, and ending the ongoing categorical exclusions for common surgeries such as facial surgery and chest surgery for transgender minors.

The Trans Health Project also works with TLDEF’s impact litigation program on health care cases, such as Boston Alliance v. HHS, Kadel v. Folwell and Lange v. Houston County, Ga.

Noah E. Lewis is the director of the Trans Health Project.