



## Speak OUT Hackathon: FAQ

### **What is a Hackathon?**

The word Hackathon comes from combining the words 'hack' (in this case, exploring a problem) 'marathon' (a long or difficult activity in a short period of time).

During a Hackathon, participants are divided into teams who spend the duration of the event (two days) building or creating a product. This hackathon will be a competition aimed to create a program, rather than a project – where the winning program proposal will be the prototype with which we build a pilot program in LGBTQI2S youth dating violence prevention & survivor supports.

Hackathons gained popularity in the tech industry (hence, 'hacking'), with participants coding collaboratively, and it is a common approach for programmers aiming to address problems. Hackathons are becoming increasingly popular within the education and social services sectors – they provide the chance to mobilize the collective knowledge of many invested people across our sectors, offer the opportunity to network with each other, learn from each other, and innovate together!

The Canadian Institute of Health Research acknowledges that hackathons are an effective means of knowledge translation and exchange (KTE). Additional research states that mobilizing a Hackathon approach may be particularly effective approach to knowledge exchange in issues of gender and sexuality. Evidence-based research typically takes 17 years to be fully adopted (Institute of Medicine, 2001), and when it comes to addressing LGBTQI2S youth dating violence, we simply do not have that much time. The Speak OUT Hackathon and its subsequent pilot aim to drastically speed up the process between generating ideas and putting them to action.

### **Who are on the hackathon's panel of judges?**

Members of Egale's intervention program advisory committee will act as judges in the winning solutions competition. This includes experts from the University of Manitoba, Women's College Hospital, and other community partners. A complete set of profiles for the panel will be available prior to the event.



## **Who can participate in the Hackathon?**

Anyone can apply as a participant in the Speak OUT Hackathon. There will be two different application streams for applicants.

1. **Community organizers, front-line service workers, experts and academics in the field of LGBTQI2S gender-based violence** are invited to apply for a spot at the Hackathon. Applications will be evaluated based on prior work or lived experiences, creativity, and enthusiasm for finding solutions to prevent LGBTQI2S dating violence.
2. **LGBTQI2S youth (aged 14-24)** are invited to apply for a spot at the Hackathon. These applications will not be based on prior work experiences and applicants will not be required to share their lived experiences.

Our review team will prioritize applicants who self-identify as LGBTQI2S, specifically trans and non-binary applicants, QTBIPOC applicants and applicants who can demonstrate their commitment to anti-oppressive, trauma-informed, and decolonizing approaches to support services.

If you are not selected as a participant for the Speak OUT Hackathon, there are ample opportunities to volunteer and support the work at the event and in future program development.

## **Will the Hackathon be free to attend?**

Applying to and participating in the Speak OUT Hackathon is completely FREE for participants, and we will be providing 100\$ honorariums for participants present for the entirety of the two-day event.

Food and beverage will be available for the duration of the event, and limited funding is available toward the costs of travel and accommodations.

## **Will funding be available for participants?**

Limited funding is available based on demonstrable need for travel and accommodations for the hackathon. Funding support will have a separate application process. LGBTQI2S youth participants will be prioritized in our allocation of support funds.



### **How can I get involved?**

If you would like to get involved but do not want to be a participant in the hackathon, there are many upcoming opportunities to connect with us for the event in a volunteer, educator, or supportive capacity. Email Lee Cameron at [lcameron@egale.ca](mailto:lcameron@egale.ca) for more details.

Please note that there are currently no paid opportunities for involvement at this time, though workshop facilitators or educators will be offered honoraria. You are welcome to contact the team if you offer workshops related to program interventions, LGBTQI2S youth dating violence, or in approaches to hackathons.

### **What happens after the Hackathon?**

Following the Speak OUT Hackathon, Egale will assemble an advisory committee made up of experts in the field, winning Hackathon team members, Egale's youth advisory council, and partner agencies to adapt the winning Hackathon solution into an operational, research-supported pilot program in LGBTQI2S youth dating violence prevention & survivor supports.

The project team and advisory committee will build the program in the months following the Hackathon, and will build a comprehensive program evaluation model. The pilot program will be launched in the spring of 2021 with up to 5 partner organizations across Ontario.

*If you are interested in partnering with Egale for this exciting event, or interested in volunteering as an events coordinator, please email Lee Cameron at [lcameron@egale.ca](mailto:lcameron@egale.ca)*