The Leslie Townsend Fund

What is the Leslie Townsend Fund?
The Leslie Townsend fund supports students making a gender transition during their time at the University of Pennsylvania. Grants from the fund may be used for expenses related to making the transition, such as hormones, therapies, surgeries, legal matters, or for school-related costs. Recipients are eligible for grants up to $500 once per academic year.

Who is Leslie Townsend?
Since going public in 2002 with her autobiography, Hidden in Plain Sight, Leslie has come to embrace her transgender history and let go of the shame that haunted her for many years. The documentary, Beautiful Daughters follows the casting, rehearsal, and performances of the first transgender production of The Vagina Monologues. Leslie’s involvement in Beautiful Daughters gave her a sense of fulfillment that has motivated her to make an even bigger difference in the transgender community. From her own struggles at a young age, it has been her wish to help students who are not only facing the rigors of academic life, but an even bigger challenge within themselves.

What is the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Center?
Established in 1982, the LGBT Center at the University of Pennsylvania, one of the oldest and most active programs of its kind in the country, supports LGBT students, staff, faculty, alumni, and their allies, and increases the general Penn community's understanding and acceptance of its sexual and gender minority members. It is located in an 1870s Carriage House which received an extensive renovation funded by gifts from alumni and other donors. The Leslie Townsend Fund is administered by LGBT Center staff in consultation with Leslie Townsend.

Who should give to the Fund?
Anyone having an interest in supporting students making a gender transition during their time at the University of Pennsylvania.

How can I donate to the Fund?
See instructions on the attached gift form, or simply write a check payable to “Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania” with “Townsend Fund” on the memo line, and send to:
LGBT Center
3907 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6031

Questions?
Call the LGBT Center at 215-898-5044 or email at center@dolphin.upenn.edu

Thank you for your interest.