

QUICK GUIDE 41 Organizational Policy Advocacy Activities

Chapter 12, p. 557

Complete the following tool about organizational policy advocacy activities using an organization with which you are familiar. Completing this assessment can shed light on the degree to which organizations use opportunities to engage in policy activities for the benefit of their clients and organization. Organizations that engage in few of these could consider expanding their policy advocacy activities to more opportunities, such as those listed here.

In the past, our agency has:

(Organizational Activities)

Testified at public hearings held by the city council, state legislature, or other decision-making body.

Participated in legislative or policy working groups with government officials.

Engaged in nonviolent civil disobedience (i.e., deliberately broke a law to draw attention to unjust government policies, programs, or actions).

Sent unique letters, emails, faxes, or texts to the city council, the mayor, local government agency directors, or senior staff members regarding legislation, government policies, government programs, or other issues that affect our clients.

Participated in rallies, protests, vigils, and/or demonstrations to draw attention to an issue that affects our clients.

Attempted to engage television, radio, print, or web-based media reporters to give attention to legislation, government policies, government programs, or other issues that affect our clients.

Submitted letters to the editor or op-ed pieces to the local media regarding legislation, government policies, government programs, or other issues related to our client population.

Helped draft legislation.

Sponsored or co-sponsored forums or other community events to educate the general public about legislation, government policies, government programs, or a social issue.

Submitted formal comments on rules, regulations, strategic plans, or other administrative governmental documents.

Met with the city council members, the mayor, and/or local government agency directors or senior staff to discuss legislation, government policies, government programs, or other issues that affect our clients.

Contacted city council members, the mayor, and/or local government agency directors or senior staff to discuss legislation, government policies, government programs, or other issues that affect our client populations.

____ Participated in letter-writing campaigns, “sign-on” letters, “call-in days,” postcard drives, petition drives, or email drives to contact public officials about legislation, government policies, government programs, or other issues that affect our clients.

____ Submitted articles in our newsletter about legislation, government policies, government programs, or other issues that affect our clients.

____ Posted fact sheets, issue briefs, articles, and/or testimony about legislation, government policies, government programs, or other issues that affect our client population on our website.

____ Invited council members and/or the mayor to visit our program(s) to educate them about the issues that affect our clients.

____ Actively participated in coalitions related to our area of service or issue of concern. (Actively participated means attended and gave input at coalition meetings, joined and actively participated in coalition committees, attended coalition events, etc.)

(Activities with Clients and Community Members)

____ Met with and/or distributed written information to clients and community members to educate/inform them about legislation, government policies, government programs, or upcoming public policy activities, (e.g., meetings, public hearings).

____ Solicited input from clients and community members to inform our agency’s advocacy priorities.

____ Included clients and community members when making visits to the city council, state representatives, or other decision-makers.

____ Provided skill-building workshops to clients and community members to encourage their public policy participation. Skill building may include writing and giving testimony, writing letters, making phone calls, meeting with decision-makers, and other tactics.

____ Met with clients and community members to help them formulate direct action strategies around issues of their choice.

____ Conducted voter registration drives.

____ Facilitated transportation for clients and community members to encourage their participation in public policy activities and/or to vote at the polls.