



ADVOCACY, POLICY CHANGE, AND THE HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY

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Community Health Worker
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TR Reid

Author, Lecturer, Documentary Film Maker

Workshop Schedule

1:00pm-2:30pm

Policy Change Through Legislative Advocacy

Aubrey Hill, MPP; Matt Warfield, MSW, MUP

2:30pm-3:00pm

Break

3:00pm-3:45pm

ColoradoCare: Universal Health Care in Colorado

TR Reid; Lyn Gullette, PhD

3:45pm-4:30pm

Voter Registration and the HCH Community

Joseph Benson; Matt Warfield, MSW, MUP



POLICY CHANGE THROUGH LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

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Contemporary homelessness is the product of conscious social and economic policy decisions that have retreated from a commitment to ensuring basic life necessities for all people

Be an Advocate for Change!

- Acting in support of a cause, person or policy
- Speaking on behalf of, or helping to empower, others to have their voice heard
- Standing up for what you believe in



Advocacy Tactics

- Protests and mass movements v. legislative advocacy
- Sweeping systematic changes v. incremental change
- Raising awareness v. calls to action
- Can/should work together



Individual → Legislative Advocacy

- Individual Advocacy is:
 - Helping a client to gain access to care
 - Helping a client navigate systems, overcome barriers and injustices
- Legislative Advocacy is:
 - Changing policies, laws, or rules that impact many people
 - Increased funding, support of bills, testifying for more affordable housing



Education v. Lobbying

- Education
 - Explaining the importance of HCH;
Raising awareness
- Lobbying
 - Advocating the enactment or defeat of pending or proposed federal, state, or local legislation
 - Direct/Grassroots



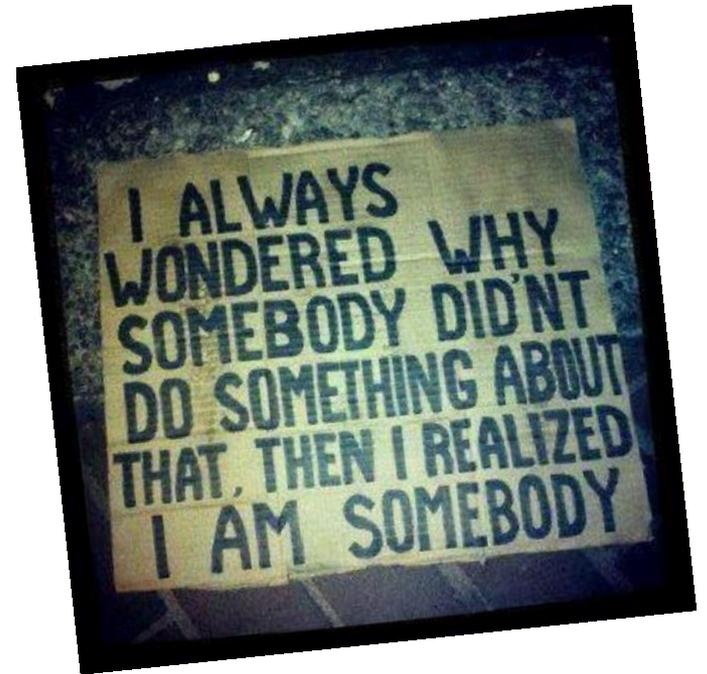
But we are a Non-Profit, is this Legal?

- Yes! You may engage in as much education as you like, however there are restrictions on lobbying:
 - Federal grant funds cannot be used for lobbying
 - Lobbying cannot constitute a 'substantial part' of your center's activities
 - You cannot intervene in a political campaign or support one candidate over another



Why Be an Advocate?

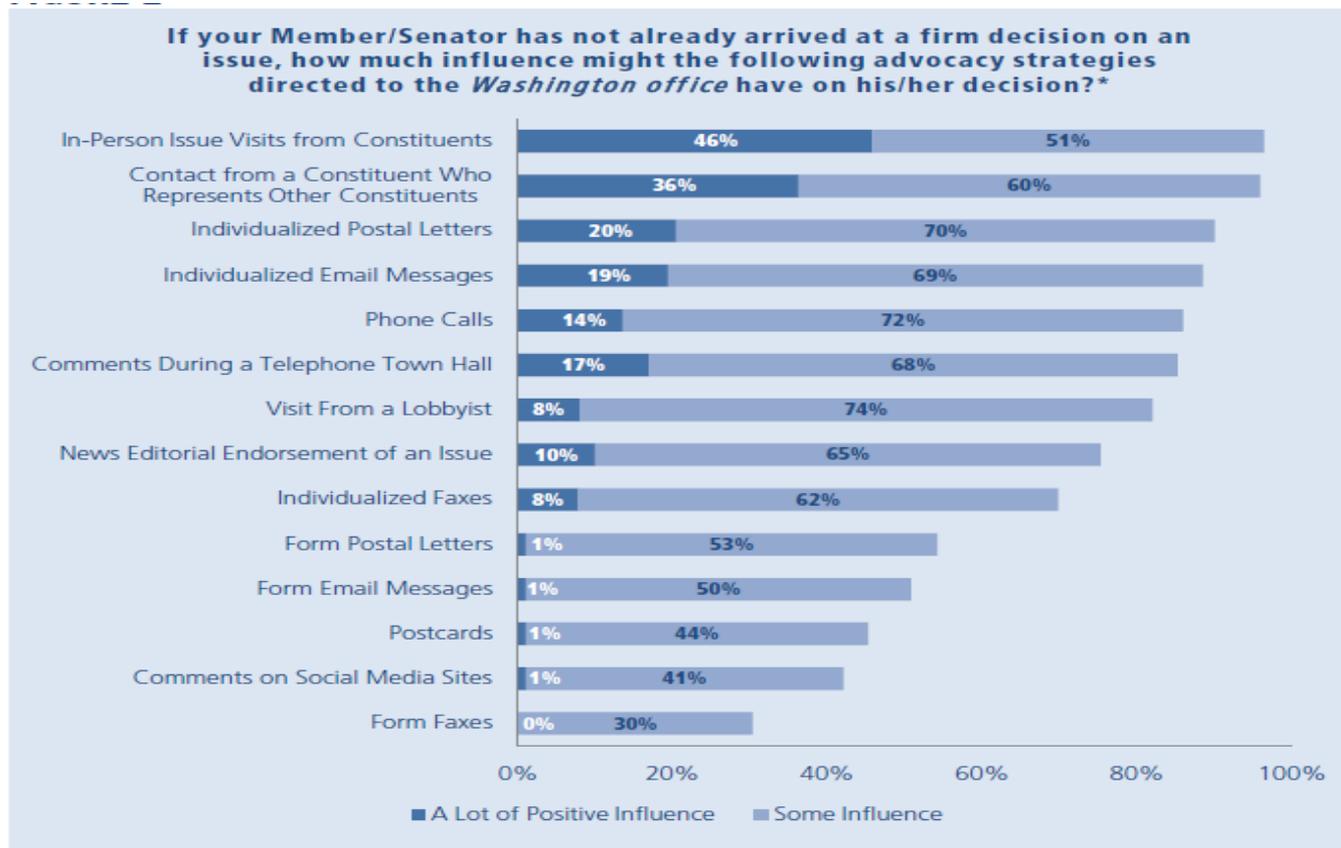
- If not you, then who else?
- You are the expert
- Failed policies have led to homelessness
- Hold your elected officials accountable
- Work together to meet the needs of the community



Why Legislative Advocacy?

- Congress shapes national priorities
- Congress appropriates all federal spending
- Congress sets parameters for programs, even those administered at the State level
- Congress is accountable to the people
- An engaged constituent can have a huge impact

Your Voice Matters



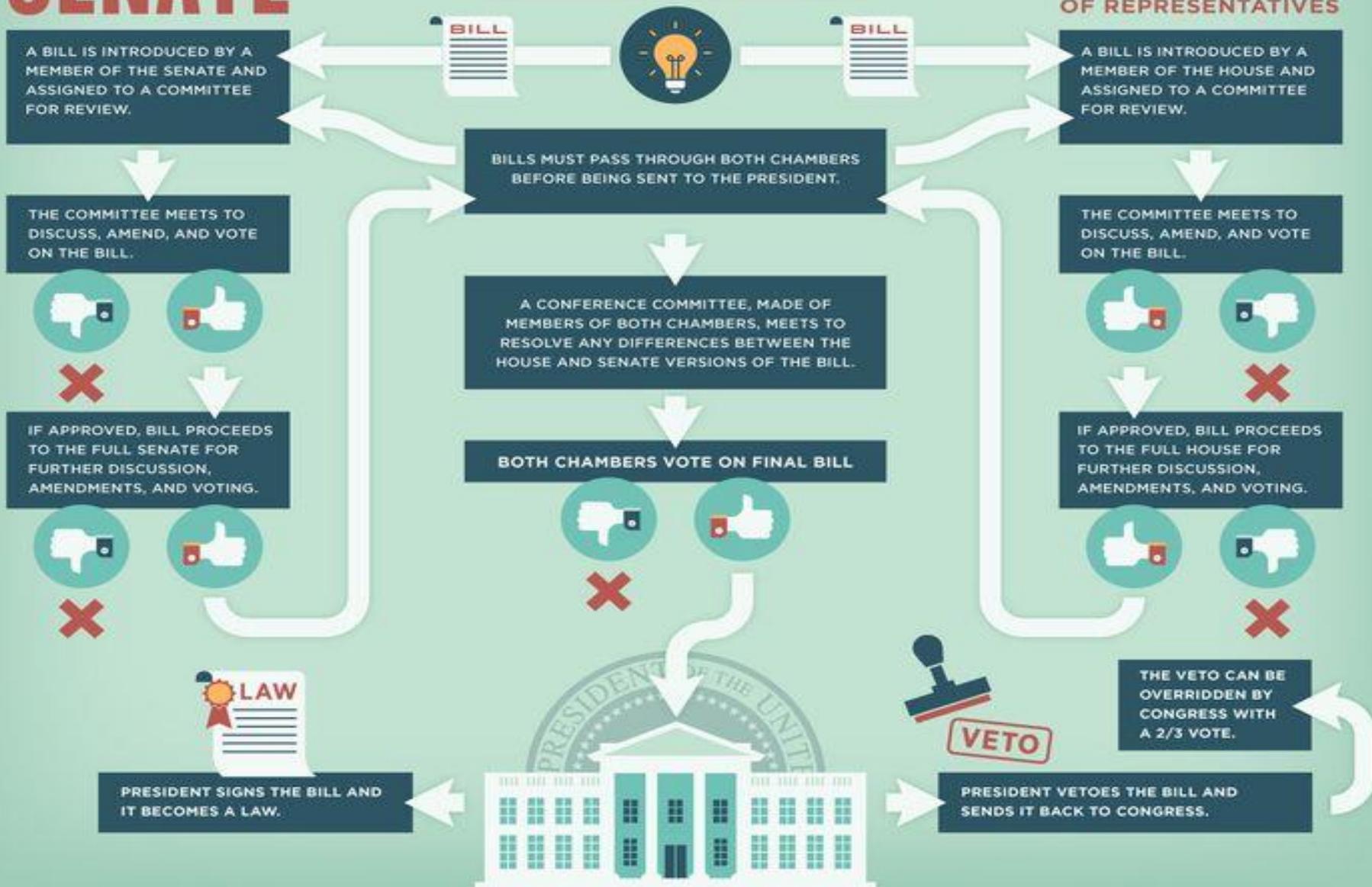
*Question was asked only of senior managers and mail staffers. Their responses are aggregated (n=194).

THE US LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

SENATE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

IT STARTS WITH AN IDEA...



Committees and Subcommittees

- Most work on a Bill occurs in Committee
- Committees have a lot of power
- Chair and Ranking Member have a lot power within committees

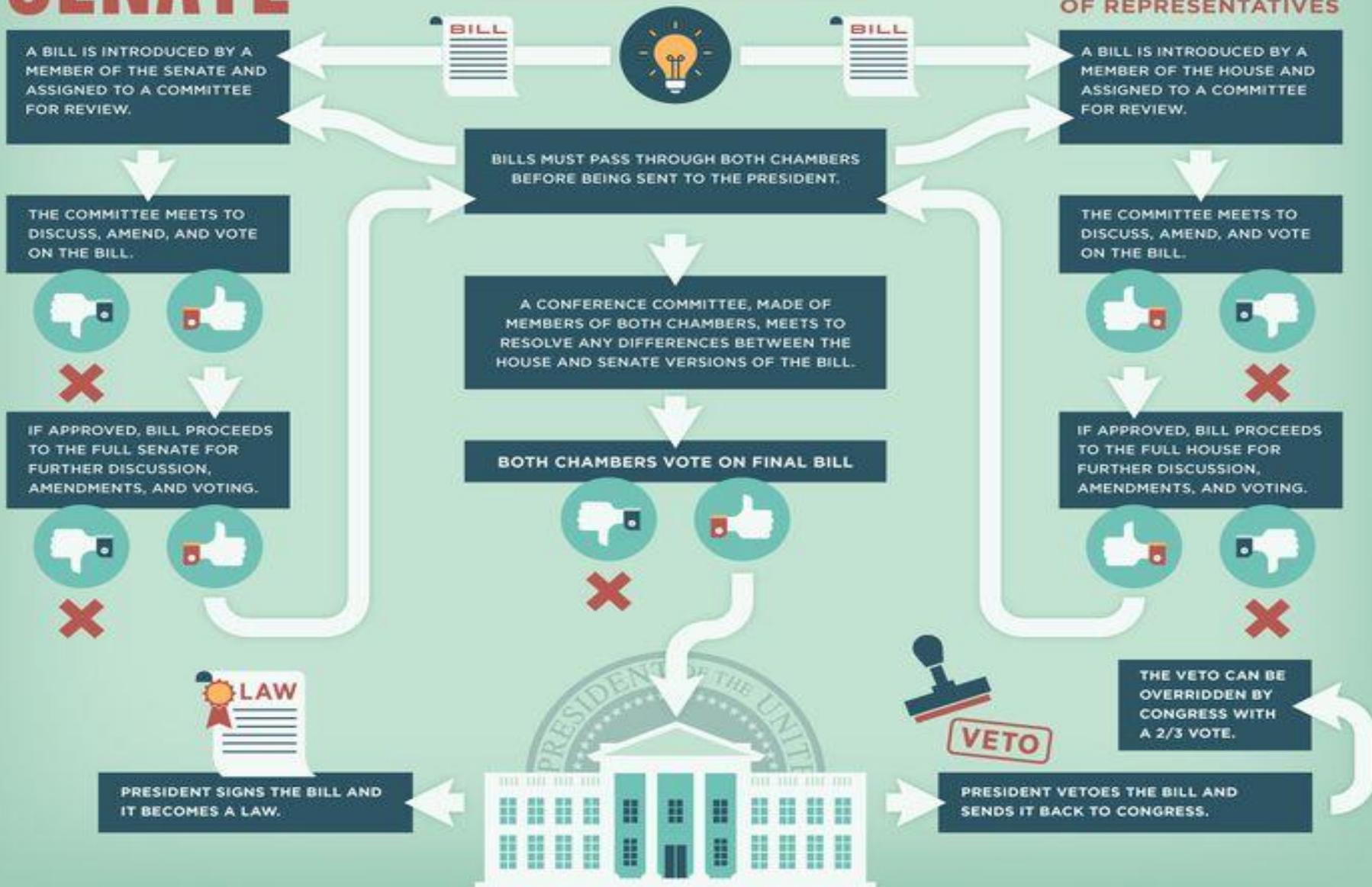


THE US LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

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How to be an Effective Advocate

- Build relationships/Get to know your legislators
 - Share your story
 - Be a source of knowledge
- Become part of coalitions
 - Coordinate efforts/tactics to accomplish similar goals
- Be in it for the long haul/Be active
 - Advocacy is an ongoing effort – change isn't immediate.
- Know what you want and who can give it to you

Build Relationships: Engage your Legislators

- In-person meeting at home or in DC
- Contact via telephone, email, letters (faxed), twitter and other social media
- Invite your legislator to tour your HCH program



Contacting your Legislator

- Many online resources
- Capitol Switchboard: 1(877) 210-5351
- Ask to speak to staffer who works on subject
- In-person meeting
 - District or DC Office?
 - Think about timing:
 - When is Congress in session?
 - Where in the process is the bill you want to support?
 - What is it you are asking for, does now make sense?

Plan Ahead

- Meeting is generally 15 to 30 minutes
- Think about who should attend, who should say what, and in what order
- Have a clear ASK
- Bring printed materials to leave behind
- Consider likely counter-arguments to your position and prepare responses

Do's and Don'ts of Legislative Advocacy

Do:

- Know what you are asking for
- Know your audience
- Know your opponents
- Know the rules
- Make a commitment
- Be polite
- Say THANK YOU
- Keep it simple

Don't:

- Offer answers you don't have
- Assume knowledge of HCH
- Believe someone else will advocate
- Burn bridges
- Be intimidated
- Express partisanship
- Forget to make your ASK

What Administrators Can Do

- Allow time for advocacy in job description
- Create tangible advocacy opportunities and encourage participation
- Recognize staff and consumers for their advocacy work
- Include advocacy in staff and Board orientations and trainings
- Encourage participation in external coalitions

What the Board Can Do

- Include advocacy in your Mission Statement
- Develop an annual advocacy agenda
- Make time to discuss advocacy at meetings
- Use external contacts and professional experience to advocate for HCH projects and patients

What Clinicians and Staff Can Do

- Correspond with public officials
- Use real life stories from your work
- Participate in internal advocacy committees
- Participate in external coalitions
- Discuss advocacy with consumers and support their involvement
- Get involved! Its not just the CEO's job

What Consumers Can Do

- Join Consumer Advisory Board or Board of Directors
- Participate with the National Consumer Advisory Board
- Discuss advocacy and organizing at meetings
- Voter registration and education
- Use staff support for advocacy activities
- Share your story

Where Do You Go From Here?

- Get to know your legislators
- Know what policy issues you want to address and build stories around them
- Join Coalitions – Build Power
- Look to the NHCHC for support
 - www.nhchc.org
 - Contact Matt Warfield, Health Policy Organizer, mwarfield@nhchc.org



Being a Health Care Advocate



Colorado Coalition for the
Medically Underserved

Aubrey Hill

March 31, 2016

Structure of Presentation

- Medicaid expansion
- Child Health Plan Plus program financing
- Implementation advocacy
- Key considerations

Background Medicaid Expansion

2010

ACA
becomes
law

2014

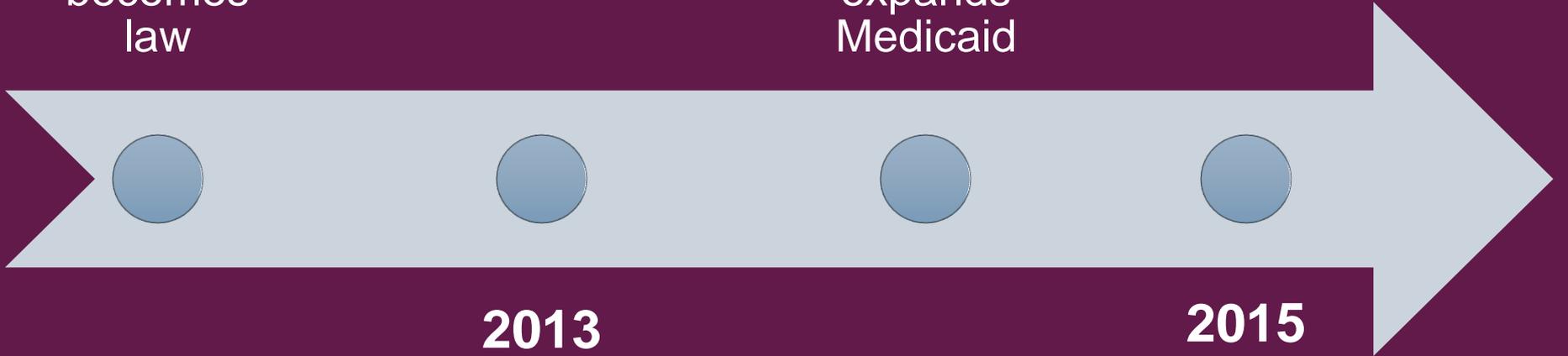
Colorado
expands
Medicaid

2013

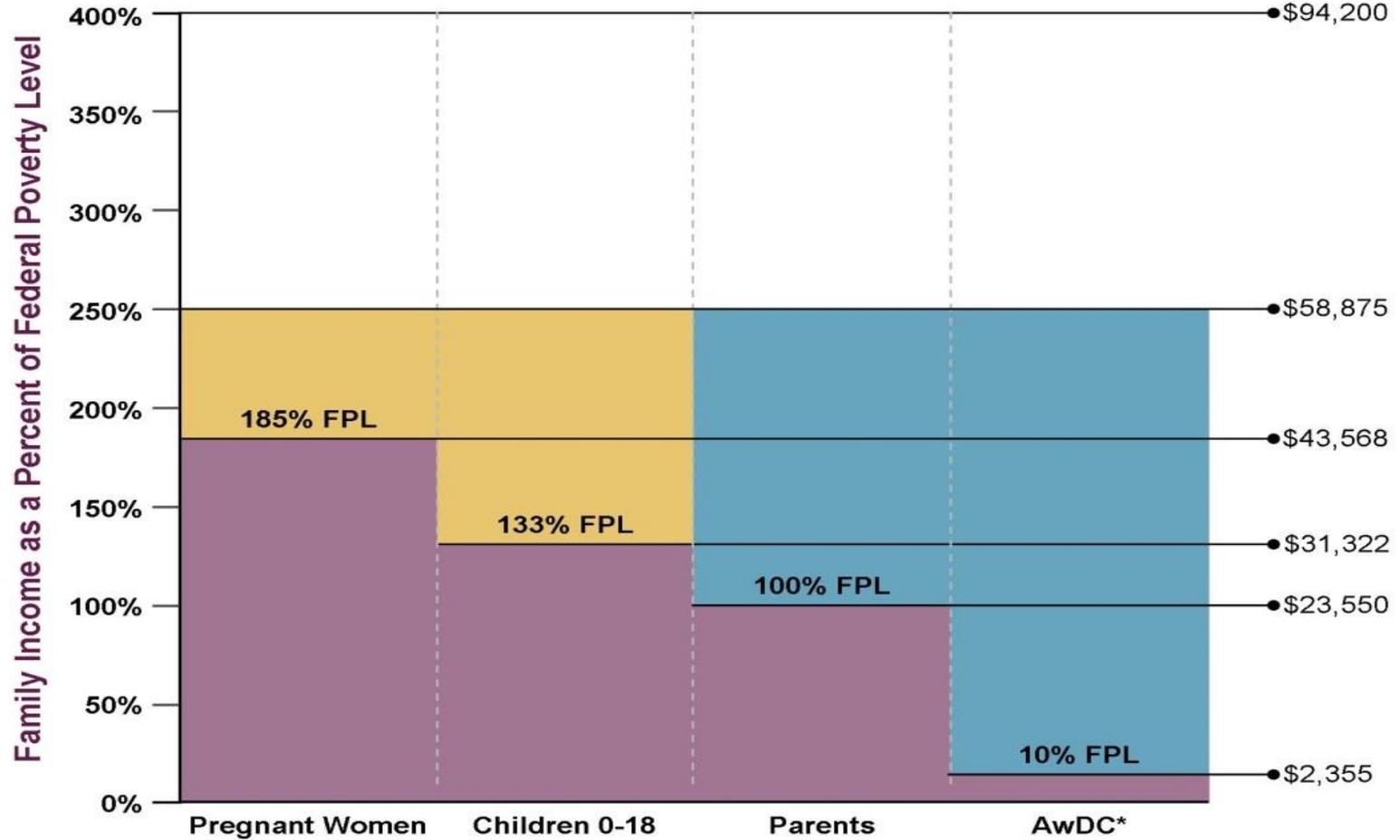
Colorado passes
SB 13-200,
formalizing
decision to
expand

2015

1.3 million
Coloradans
enrolled in
Medicaid



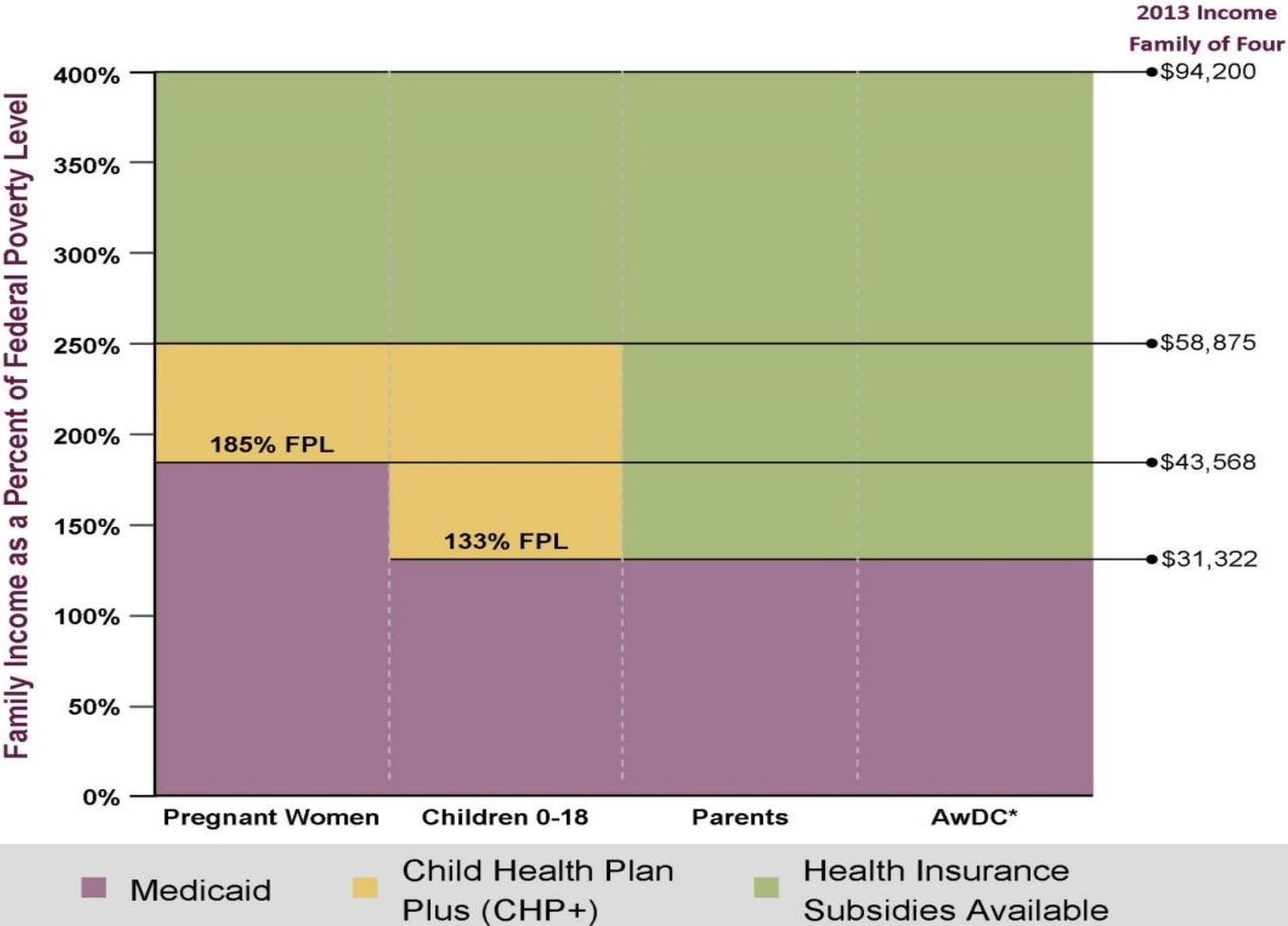
2013 Income
Family of Four
● \$94,200



Medicaid
 Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)
 Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP)

*Enrollment in Medicaid for AwDC, or Adults without Dependent Children, is currently capped at 10,000.

2014 Medicaid Eligibility



*Adults without Dependent Children



INSURING
OUR FUTURE

FISCAL YEARS

2015-16

2034-35

IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY



The number of jobs will increase.

31,074
MORE JOBS

43,018
MORE JOBS



Additional state economic activity, as measured by gross domestic product, will increase.

\$3.8
BILLION

1.14% INCREASE

\$8.5
BILLION

1.38% INCREASE



Average annual household earnings will be higher.

\$643
HIGHER

\$1,033
HIGHER

IMPACT ON THE STATE BUDGET



The state's General Fund revenue will increase.

\$102
MILLION

\$248
MILLION



INSURING
OUR FUTURE







Child Health Plan Maintenance advocacy

1997

CHIP
becomes
law, and
states
begin
programs

2014

CHIP
Campaigns
begin

2007, 2009, 2010
CHIP reauthorized

2015
CHIP
reauthorized
until 2019, but
only 2 years of
funding



**Implementation
Advocacy**

Medicaid
Expansion



Different types of policy advocacy

- Legislative advocacy
- Implementation advocacy

How to advocate?

- Determine what issues are most important to you
- Determine your comfort level in sharing your story – anonymous is okay, too!
- If you work for a health care organization, you can advocate on your own behalf or on behalf of others (or empower others to advocate)
- Also, find organizations who are working on the issues at different levels
- Find ways to get engaged at different parts of the process
- Stay informed!
- Stay in touch with your elected officials!

Questions? Thoughts?



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US



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+ Voter Registration and Engagement

March 31, 2016

Joseph Benson

National Consumer Advisory Board

Matt Warfield, MSW, MUP

Health Policy Organizer, NHCHC

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Why Register Clients to Vote?

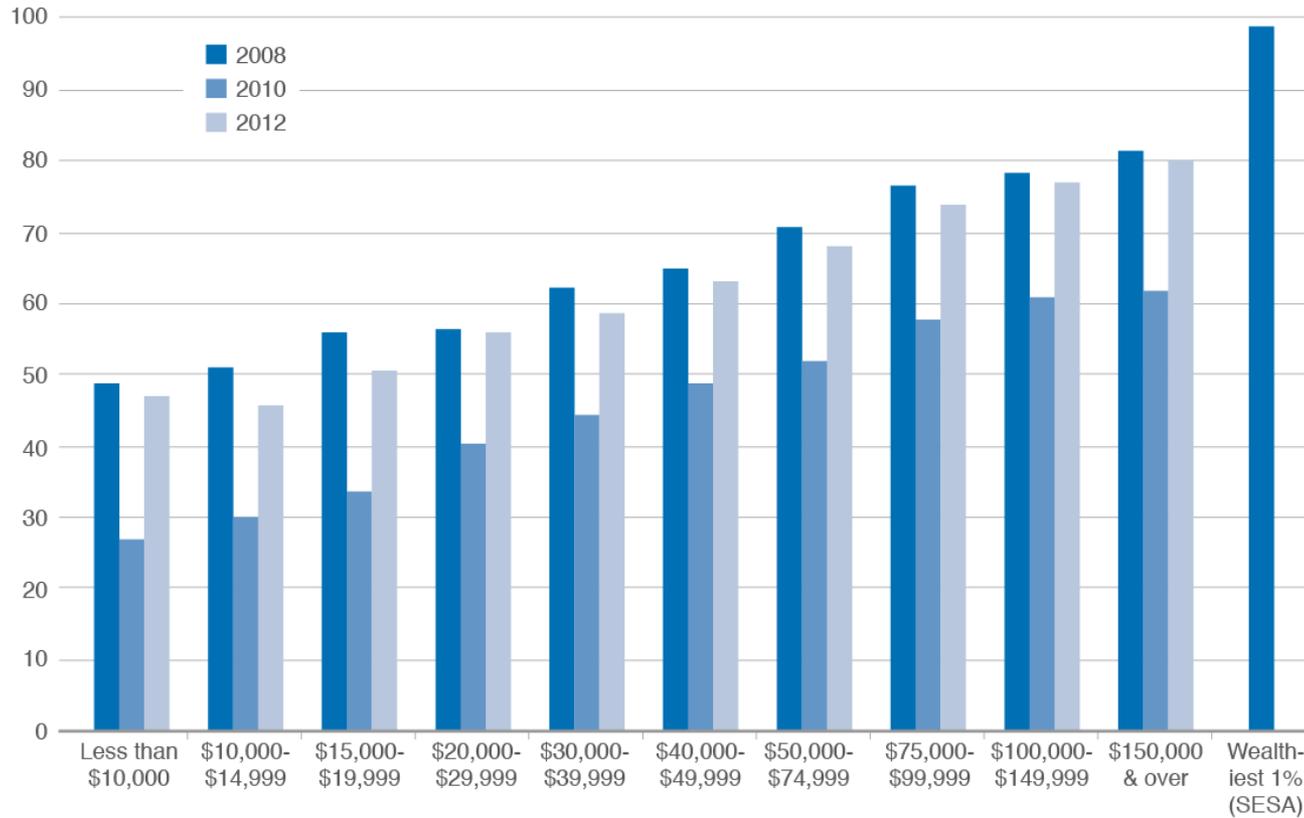
- Empower Clients
- Help Clients to Reconnect with Community
- Public Policy Decisions Impact All of Us
- Integrate Service and Advocacy
- It's Our Mission





But Voting Doesn't Matter...

Figure 1. Voter Turnout, by Household Income, 2008 - 2012



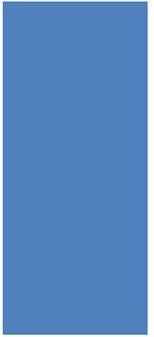
Source: Census Data, Supplemented by SESA 2013

Health Care & Housing Are Human Rights

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HEALTH CARE
for the
HOMELESS
COUNCIL



...and Politicians Don't Care, So Why Should I?

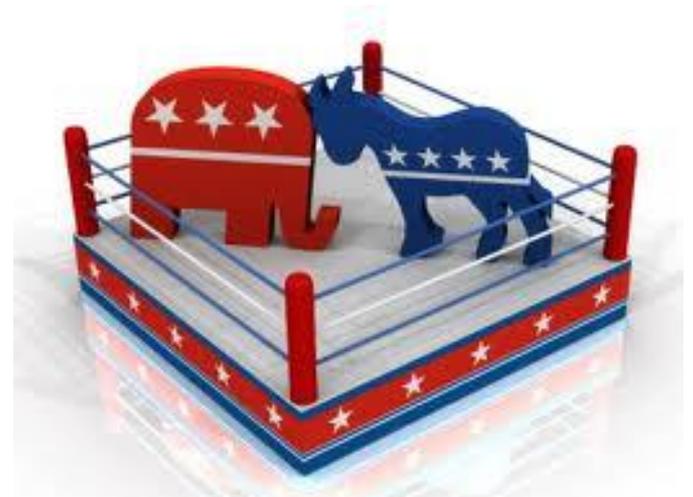


- In 2014...
 - Social Security kept 25.9 million people out of poverty
 - Food Stamps (SNAP) kept 4.7 million people out of poverty
- Medicaid Expansion has provided health care to 7 million people who were previously uninsured



We Are A 501c3, Is This Legal?

- The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 **encourages** nonprofits to register historically underrepresented groups
- So long as you...
 - Remain non-partisan
 - Use proper sources of funding
 - Follow local and state laws





Options for Integrating Voter Registration



- Provide registration materials in lobby
- Register during intake
- Include in case management/clinical work
- Voter registration drives
- Consumer Advisory Board sponsorship



Voter Registration at HCH Baltimore

We Can Help You Register to Vote!



We will be registering people to
vote on Tuesday and Thursday
mornings in the HCH 1st floor Lobby

*Brought to you by B'More Housing For All Advocacy Group
(Group Meets Tuesdays from 11:45-1 in the first floor middle group room)*

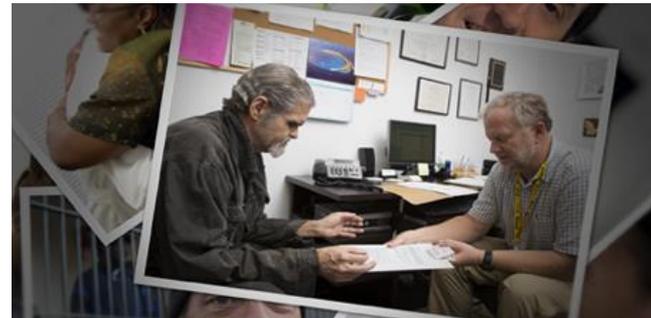
Health Care & Housing Are Human Rights

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Voter Registration at Houston HCH

- Consumer Driven
- Every Monday year-round
- Extensive work with local election board
- Get out the vote campaign





Voter Suppression

- Voter ID Laws
- Misinformation Campaigns
- Restricting ex-offenders
- Reducing or Relocating Polling Places
- Voter Caging (challenging registration status at the polls)





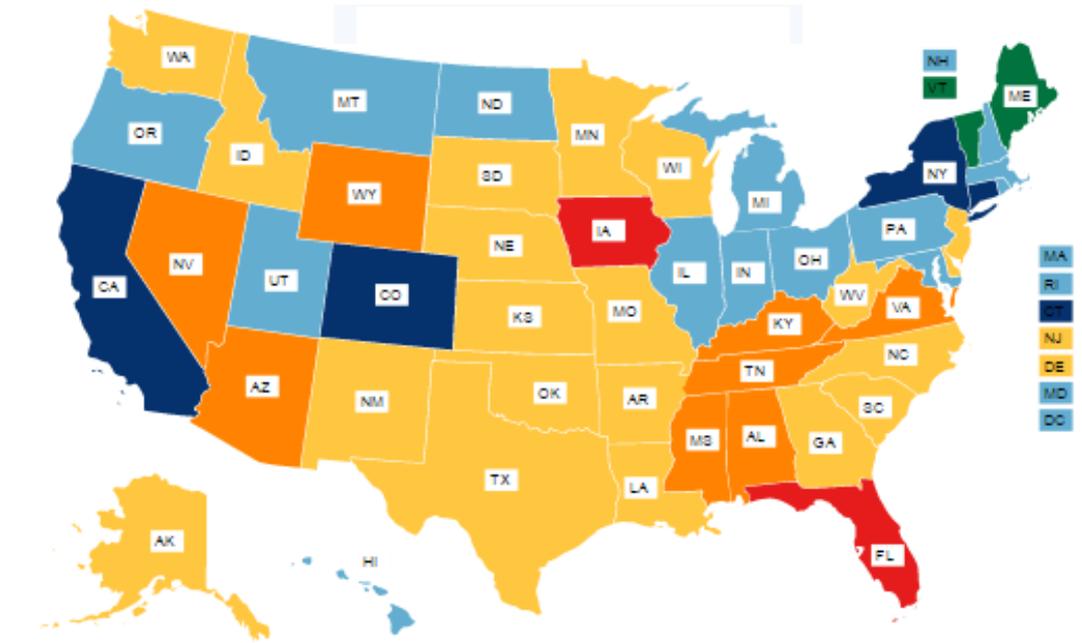
Overcome Common Barriers

- I do not have time
- My vote does not matter
- I am homeless
- I do not have an ID
- I have a criminal record
- I am already registered





Restricting the Right to Vote for Ex-Offenders



-  Some people with felony convictions cannot vote.
-  All people with felony convictions are permanently disenfranchised.
-  People in prison, on parole and on probation cannot vote. People with felony convictions can vote upon completion of sentence.
-  People in prison cannot vote. Everyone else can vote.
-  People in prison and on parole cannot vote. All other people with criminal convictions, including people on probation, can vote.
-  Everyone has the right to vote.

Health Care & Housing Are Human Rights



Get Out the Vote!



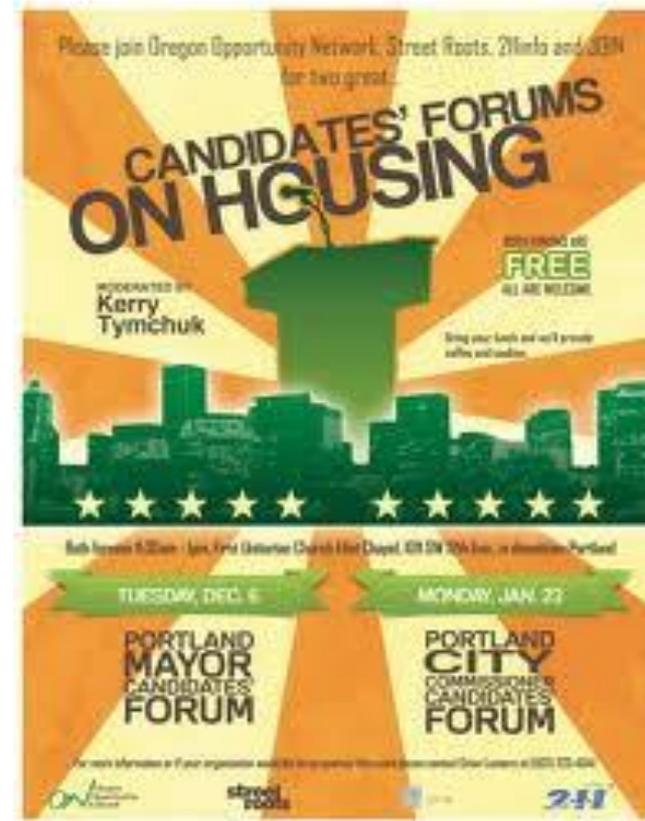
- Leading Up to the Election
 - Early voting opportunities
 - Absentee ballots
 - Locating polling places
 - Sample ballots, voting machines
 - Nonpartisan issue education
- On Election Day
 - Provide transportation to polls
 - Go to polls together
 - Have a get out the vote rally
 - Have volunteers at polling places





Other Election Year Activities

- Host a candidate forum
- Attend town hall meetings
- Invite candidates to tour or volunteer at your project
- Write letters to the editors and/or op-eds



Health Care & Housing Are Human Rights

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Many Resources Available Online



- National Coalition for the Homeless, You Don't Need a Home to Vote Registration Manual: <http://tinyurl.com/hx5zq56>
- Community Health Vote (NACHC): <http://communityhealthvote.net/>
- League of Women Voters, State Voter Laws: <http://www.vote411.org/>
- Nonprofit Vote: www.nonprofitvote.org
- NHCHC, Voter Registration: <https://www.nhchc.org/voter-registration/>



Questions?



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