



A Beginner's Guide to Advocacy

Knowledge is Power.

Want to get involved in making the world a better, more fair place? Follow this guide and you'll be an expert advocate in no time.



- ✓ **IDENTIFY** an issue (or issues!) that most upsets you and/or directly impacts you or the people you care about. This may be housing affordability, the criminal justice system, or something else.
- ✓ **LEARN** as much as you can about the topic. Become comfortable with the issue and start to talk to others about why it matters to you.
- ✓ **RESEARCH** which level of government has influence over this issue and what other organizations are already involved.
- ✓ **SIGN UP** for LMM's advocacy newsletters and newsletters for the elected officials at the level of government most relevant to your chosen topic. This could be city council, county council, members of the state house or Congress.
- ✓ **JOIN** other organizations that are looking to affect change in this space. This may be a local nonprofit (i.e. LMM), a statewide organization (i.e. Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio), or a national advocacy organization (i.e. National Low-Income Housing Coalition).
- ✓ **ATTEND** community events hosted by these elected officials – and also meetings held by the organizations working toward the same goals.
- ✓ **SEEK** opportunities to engage in sharing your story, and why this issue is important to you. This may be through calling elected official offices, sending letters or emails, attending meetings elected officials or their staff or even sharing a comment during a public comment.
- ✓ **DON'T GIVE UP** as change can take a long time.

For additional information visit www.lutheranmetro.org/advocacy or email mail@lutheranmetro.org.