



## April Recovery Ready Communities Collaborative Meeting Minutes

*In lieu of our regular meeting agenda, New Futures hosted an Advocacy 101 workshop for the group!*

### **New Futures – Advocacy 101 Workshop**

- Why does nonprofit advocacy matter?
  - We speak for the needs of NH residents
  - Nonprofits CAN advocate!
    - Advocacy is educating legislators and other officials about your work and what your organization does
  - Nonprofits CAN lobby
    - If it constitutes 5% or less of annual budget
  - Nonprofits must be nonpartisan
    - Advocate on an *issue*
    - Conduct candidate forums for *all* candidates
    - Voter education on issues
    - Voter registration
    - Candidate education
- You can always advocate by educating without taking a direct position
- Advocacy does not equal lobbying
  - Lobbying
    - Attempt to influence a politician or public official to support a cause
    - Calls to action
    - Asking people to communicate with a legislator to:
      - Share a position on an issue
      - Providing a legislators contact information

- Identifying the legislator as someone who represents the audience
- Direct lobbying is:
  - Communication,
  - With a legislator,
  - That expresses a view about specific legislation.
- If you are not doing all three of the above, you are not lobbying
- You cannot use federal grant funds to lobby
- What is allowed?
  - Examine or discuss broad social, economic, or health problems that does not refer to specific legislation
  - Educate the public (personal health problems, health issues, etc.)
  - Respond to a request from a legislative body for technical assistance or advice
- Examples of Advocacy
  - Calling elected officials
  - Participating in a public hearing
  - Social media
  - Coffee with an elected official
  - Legislative events or breakfasts
- Advocacy & Social Media
  - Build awareness (spread information & resources)
  - Call to action
    - Encourages others to join you in taking action
  - Power in numbers
    - Increases the number of people taking action as well
- Stories humanize policy
  - Stories are more memorable, relatable, and repeatable than data alone
- [Learn more about ways to advocate on public policy in NH](#)

## **What's Next**

- Next month, we will be wrapping up the 2025-2026 season of meetings by finalizing some of our work and preparing for exciting events this summer!

**Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 12, 10am-11am, in person at the Makin' It Happen office.**

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