

University of Massachusetts Medical School

Community Health Clerkship
Health Advocacy

FAMILY ADVOCATES OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

Advocacy Organizations	
What are some Local organizations that do advocacy work?	Family Advocates of Central Massachusetts. Legal Assistance Corporation LACCM
What are some State level organizations that do advocacy work?	Massachusetts housing partnership. Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency Department of Housing and Community Development Citizen Housing & Planning Association
What are some National level organizations that do advocacy work?	Medical Legal partnership for Children. The National Housing Coalition (housing only) Enterprise Foundation(housing only) Housing Assistance Council(housing only)
What are some International organizations that do advocacy work?	N/A
Advocacy Issue	
Looking at the State, National, and/or International level, at the websites or information from the organizations above, what is a major area of advocacy at this time? <i>Try to choose an advocacy issue that will in some way affect the local community.</i> Advocacy specifically refers to promoting legislation, policies or specific budgetary appropriations that positively affect a health issue. This may occur through decreasing barriers to accessing health services, providing an infrastructure conducive to effective health promotion programs, or directly increasing the resources and infrastructure of the public health system.	On the MLPC website is the Child Health Impact Assessment (CHIA) working group. It was convened in 2004 in order to highlight the relationship between public policy and child health. The multidisciplinary, intra-institutional group, which includes representatives from seven Boston-area hospitals and universities, modeled CHIA on environmental impact assessments. CHIA offers an objective, evidence- and experience- based method through which to evaluate the implications of policy, regulations, and legislation for children's health and well-being. CHIA has done research on affordable housing and the impact on the health of children. On a national level The National Housing Coalition is dedicated solely to ending America's affordable housing crisis.
What specific law, policy or appropriation is being advocated for?	The National Housing Trust Fund
Who is doing the advocating? (Which organizations?)	The National Housing Coalition

Who is being lobbied?	The Campaign is working to establish a National Housing Trust Fund with ongoing, permanent, dedicated and sufficient sources of revenue to build, rehabilitate and preserve 1.5 million units of housing for the lowest income families over the next 10 years.
Whom will this issue affect?	The lowest income individuals.
Were they or will they (in your opinion) be successful?	The Bill was passed by the house on October 18, 2007.
Why or why not? What do they need to be more successful?	Barney Frank was a champion for the bill helping it to pass. Along with the entire Democratic vote it also carried 41 of the Republican votes. Its success could also be in part due to the fact it addressed rural and urban populations which would include all districts that the congressmen and women represented. The current housing crisis affects most of the American public also making the bill relevant for most members of congress.
What are the consequences if they are not successful?	Homeless would increase as would the inability of many Americans to get and retain affordable housing.
If they are not successful, what other strategies can be used to achieve the same goal?	N/A
How can physicians and/or nurses be involved in this advocacy issue?	Lobbying, writing letters, writing articles. Each of these should discuss the impact of adequate housing on the health of American children and adults. Remind all that are involved that this is also a public health problem.