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# Public Policy Advocacy: Yes, You Can!!!

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LEAD

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# Overview

- Learn more about the connections between policy, advocacy, and direct practice in social work.
- Understand how to use direct practice skills to understand policy makers' perspectives.
- Identify what first steps you can take to become involved in public policy advocacy.

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# Public Policy, Advocacy & Social Work

- Public policy and advocacy are an integral part of the Social Work Profession.
- Social Workers have been involved in numerous movements and have played a role in making positive change throughout our history.
- Involvement in public policy and advocacy are included throughout Social Work Values and Ethics

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# Advocacy and Social Work History

- Julia Lathrop and others worked for 8 years to get separate courts for juveniles in Cook County.
- Frances Perkins as Labor Department secretary under Roosevelt established unemployment insurance.
- Whitney Young and other social workers worked toward civil rights during the 1960's.

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# Advocacy and SW Code of Ethics

## **Value:** *Service*

- *Ethical Principle: Social workers' primary goal is to help people in need and to address social problems.*

## **Value:** *Social Justice*

- *Ethical Principle: Social workers challenge social injustice. Social workers pursue social change, particularly with and on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed individuals and groups of people.*

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# Advocacy and Direct Service

Practice skills used with clients can be applied in policy practice settings.

- ❑ Engagement skills – start where the client is to build relationship
- ❑ Assessment skills – problem/solution analysis
- ❑ Communication skills – emails, letters, meetings
- ❑ Problem solving/negotiating skills – “know when to hold ‘em, know when to fold ‘em”
- ❑ Networking/collaborating skills – the power of numbers

# Skill Set in Policy Practice

	<b>Direct Practice Examples</b>	<b>Policy Practice Examples</b>
<i>Engagement Skills</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Start where the client is.</li> <li>■ Be open &amp; honest to build trust.</li> <li>■ Build relationship over time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Understand policy maker's background &amp; values.</li> <li>■ Be open &amp; honest to build trust.</li> <li>■ Build relationship over time.</li> </ul>

# Skill Set in Policy Practice

	<b>Direct Practice Examples</b>	<b>Policy Practice Examples</b>
<i>Assessment Skills</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Understand person-in-environment.</li><li>■ Identify strengths &amp; opportunities.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Understand problem, issues, policy opportunities, potential solutions &amp; remedies.</li><li>■ Identify potential allies.</li></ul>



# Skill Set in Policy Practice

	<b>Direct Practice Examples</b>	<b>Policy Practice Examples</b>
<b>Communication Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Use active listening for effective client communication.</li> <li>■ Communicate with diverse populations.</li> <li>■ Use confrontation when appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Use active listening with many people in the policy process to understand multiple perspectives.</li> <li>■ Use writing skills to develop policy briefs, talking points, and legislative testimony.</li> </ul>

# Skill Set in Policy Practice

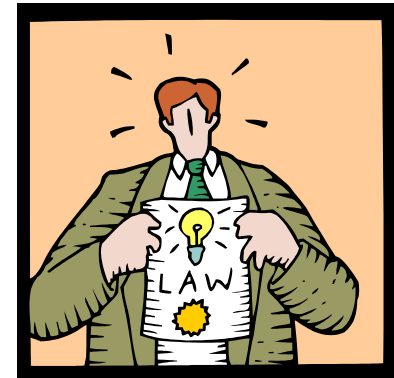
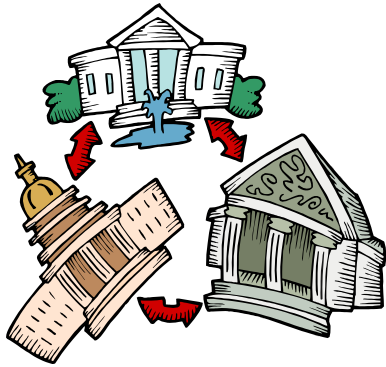
<i>Problem Solving &amp; Negotiating Skills</i>	<b>Direct Practice Examples</b>	<b>Policy Practice Examples</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Help generate alternative plans.</li><li>■ Help families negotiate compromises for action.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Explore costs and benefits of different policy options.</li><li>■ Find common ground to help policies move forward.</li></ul>

# Skill Set in Policy Practice

	<b>Direct Practice Examples</b>	<b>Policy Practice Examples</b>
<b><i>Networking &amp; Collaborating Skills</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Help clients find &amp; use community resources.</li> <li>■ Work with other professionals &amp; those involved with client to achieve wraparound services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Identify &amp; collaborate with ally organizations.</li> <li>■ Develop coordinated &amp; comprehensive policy initiatives.</li> </ul>

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*Public Policy/Advocacy can be  
challenging – it is an important  
part of social work rooted  
in our history.*



*Commit to getting involved!!!!*