

Taking Action to Address Child Poverty

APA Poverty Curriculum
Module 4

Goal

By the end of this module, learners will be prepared to:

- Communicate the effect of policy on child health



Specific Objectives

- Outline the priorities of child advocacy organizations related to child poverty
- Discuss the unique voice and power that pediatricians and child health providers possess as advocates for policy
- Tailor a message to communicate effectively with different stakeholders about child poverty

Roadmap

Topic	Activities	Suggested Time Allocation
Poverty Issues	Pair share	10 Minutes
Poverty Policy	Pair Share	10 Minutes
Policies and Advocacy Organizations	Large group discussion	10 Minutes
Physician advocate	Large group discussion	10 Minutes
Crafting your message	Individual work and then large group share	20 Minutes

Poverty Issues & Pair Share

- **The AAP policy on Poverty and Child Health (2016)** recommends that pediatricians assess the financial vulnerability of their patients' families in clinic
- Thinking over your clinical experiences in the last month, **what poverty-related health issues would you have heard if you asked parents,**
“Do you ever have trouble making ends meet?”
- **Turn to the person next to you and discuss:**
 - What are 2-3 issues you think parents would say?
 - What could you do for patients in clinic with each issue?

Poverty Policy & Pair Share

- Many poverty-related health issues can't be fixed in clinic. They call for **upstream policy solutions**
- In your pairs consider: **How could you take action** on one of the most common poverty-related health issue, food insecurity?
 - ...through a policy change in your clinic or hospital?
 - ...through a policy change in your state?
 - ...through a policy change nationwide?



Choose a Poverty-Related Policy

- The AAP Federal Advocacy website is a place to find and learn about policies related to child poverty

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Search...

AAP.org > Advocacy & Policy > Federal Advocacy

Federal Advocacy

Related Information

Item 1-5 of 7

FederalAdvocacy.aap.org
AAP Members: Access Federal Affairs resources and contact your federal legislators at the Federal Advocacy site in MyAAP.

AAP 2017 Legislative Conference: April 23-25th
Attend the Academy's 26th Legislative Conference in Washington, DC to learn how to advocate for children at the federal level.

Committee on Federal Government Affairs

AAP Policy

Federal Advocacy

- Poverty and Child Health
- Improving children's access to care
- Child Nutrition
- Protecting Immigrant Children
- Global Child Health
- Children's Environmental Health
- Promoting Children's Mental Health
- Safe and Effective Drugs and Devices for Children
- Keeping Children Safe: Gun Violence Prevention
- State Advocacy

In the Press

5/17/2016 12:00:00 AM

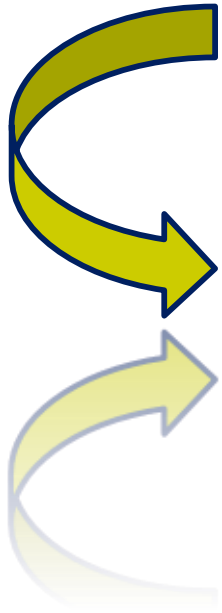
AAP Statement of Opposition to the House Education and the Workforce Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill

"The American Academy of Pediatrics is dismayed by the partisan House Education and the Workforce Committee child nutrition reauthorization bill, released earlier today and scheduled to be marked up tomorrow; the bill would significantly weaken access to healthy, nutritious foods for our nation's children and now includes a deeply troubling three-state block grant proposal that compromises the integrity of the school breakfast and lunch programs and their ability to serve all children in need. The AAP remains hopeful that bipartisan legislation to renew critical child nutrition programs will be enacted this year."

Child Advocacy Organizations

- Consider the priorities and roles of these organizations when looking for allies in action on child poverty policies
- Get to know their priorities and partner with them





TAKING ACTION: THE UNIQUE VOICE OF THE PHYSICIAN ADVOCATE

What unique features do physicians
bring to advocacy?

Example: Taking Action on a Poverty-Related Issue

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHiXx8QMSrk>



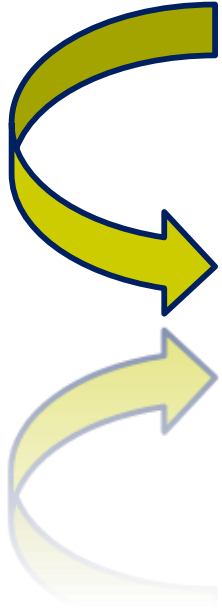
The Pediatrician's Voice

- In the video you just watched,
 - Overall, what was effective about the pediatrician's messaging?
 - What knowledge made her voice as a pediatrician particularly effective?



Your Voice as a Pediatrician

- What is uniquely powerful about the voice of pediatricians and clinicians regarding poverty?
 - We have professional credibility
 - We focus on data and evidence
 - We have consistent contact with young children disenfranchised by society
 - We are witness to the struggles of our families



TAKING ACTION CRAFTING YOUR MESSAGE

Analyzing Food Insecurity for Advocacy

- Let's think back to food insecurity. It can be addressed at many levels (the clinic or hospital, your health system, community, state, or national)
- Think back over your patient experiences who have been uninsured or food insecure.
- Look through the websites of prominent children's advocacy organizations, always start with AAP

Writing your Brief Statement

- Opening – Two Sentences
 - State your title as a health professional
 - Get right to food insecurity (FI) and your policy solution
- Body of the Statement – three to four sentences
 - Explain food insecurity
 - Connect FI to child health
 - Tell a recent patient story
- Conclusion – Two Sentences
 - Deliver your “ask”
 - Look at the [AAP’s Federal Advocacy](#) webpage, and find the Child Nutrition section, there you will learn about the AAP’s resources to address food insecurity through advocacy

Anatomy of a 1-page letter

Name/Issue/Position

Stats

Personal Story

Request

Honorable Governor Smith:

My name is Jane Jones and I am a pediatrician practicing at Apple Valley Children's Hospital. I applaud and appreciate your past efforts to support funding for 'Food For All', our state's food stamp program. I strongly urge you to keep Food For All as a high priority by fully funding it in your upcoming budget revision.

'Food For All' helps the working poor feed their families. In 2015, more than 40% of the patients in our clinic reported not having enough money at the end of the month to buy food for their families. When families do not have enough food their children have worse health and struggle more in school. As a pediatrician, I have many examples of this difficult situation. Just last month I recall seeing a toddler for a check up and the mother reported they did not have enough money to pay for both rent and food. She said she was giving her child water instead of milk which we recommend for healthy tooth and bone development. I was able to connect her to 'Food For All' and with their support I am hopeful that the toddler is now getting the calories and nutrients she needs to thrive.

For the health of our state's children, I urge you to ensure continued funding for 'Food For All'. Again, thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to call me for any questions.

Sincerely,
[Your Name, MD/Medical Student]
[Your Hospital or Clinic]

Connecting the Dots

Thinking about food insecurity, how would reducing it affect health?

How could reducing food insecurity by changing a policy reduce poverty?

How are pediatricians uniquely suited to reduce food insecurity?

Crafting Letter

Remember

- 1.State you are a pediatrician and constituent
- 2.Personalize your letter to your stakeholders
- 3.Use the news
- 4.Keep it local
- 5.Keep it brief

Source: AAP Advocacy Guide, Page 80

IMPORTANT TIP!

If you are doing this work at work, as a part of a hospital or practice, you CANNOT speak for them. You CAN either speak for yourself or reach out to the Government Relations department at your institution and work with them to speak in concert with your institution.

Everyone has 5 minutes

- Sign up for AAP and other child advocacy groups email alerts
- Become an AAP Key Contact
- Subscribe to a trusted news site, skim it each day
- Call a legislator and leave a quick message
- Wear your message with a badge or pin
- Share your voice for kids through social media
- Write letter to the editor
- Vote!

Dig deeper

- Link to AAP for all modules

<http://www2.aap.org/commpeds/CPTI/training-modules.cfm>

- Case study on Wisconsin “Early Brain Resolution”;

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/proposals/sjr59>

- After finishing your letter, send it to others in your intended audience or adapt it for the Op-Ed page of your local paper.

Pre-work

Facilitators may email learners approximately one week ahead of this module and ask them to:

- Read the AAP “Poverty and Child Health in the United States” Policy Statement:

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2016/03/07/peds.2016-0339>

- Consider child poverty-related health issues and their policy foundations to engage through advocacy

Resources

- Identification of poverty-related issues for advocacy
 - AAP Federal Legislative Advocacy: <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/federal-advocacy/Pages/Federal-Advocacy.aspx>
 - AAP State Legislative Advocacy: <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/state-advocacy/Pages/State-Advocacy.aspx>
 - AAP Community Advocacy: <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/community-advocacy/Pages/Community-Advocacy.aspx>
 - Children's Defense Fund:
<http://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/>

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- Workgroup Leaders - Brian Lurie MD MPH and Adam Schickedanz MD
- Content Contributors - Susan Bostwick MD, MBA, Lee Ford-Jones MD, Ambica Nakhasi, MD, Amanda Osta MD, and Barry Solomon MD MPH
- Facilitator Guide developer – Melissa Ruiz, MD