

Assets and Advocacy Worksheet

Miami Dade County Civics Academy 2026

Session 3: Solving Local Problems through Governance and Advocacy

Purpose: This worksheet helps participants move from identifying community assets and issues to planning an advocacy response. Advocacy planning tools commonly ask people to identify the problem, clarify the policy issue, define their audience, choose strategies, and name concrete next steps.

Instructions

1. Begin with one issue from your Session 2 community map that matters to you and affects other people in your community.
2. Describe the issue in plain language before trying to solve it. Good advocacy starts with a clear problem statement.
3. Think about what policy, rule, practice, funding decision, or government process may be connected to the issue.
4. Choose an advocacy approach that fits the issue, your audience, and your level of comfort; advocacy can include education, coalition-building, public awareness, meetings, storytelling, petitions, media outreach, and community mobilization.
5. End with one realistic next step you could take with others in your community.

Part 1: Name the issue

The issue or challenge I want to focus on is:

Why does this matter in my community?

Who is affected most by this issue?

What community asset(s) from Session 2 might help address it?

Part 2: Make the policy connection

Policies are the rules, priorities, funding choices, and procedures that shape how communities function. Advocacy worksheets often ask participants to identify where a policy issue, resource decision, or institutional practice is involved.

What policy, practice, system, or decision may be connected to this issue?

At what level does this issue mainly sit right now?

- ☐ Local government
- ☐ School district or public institution
- ☐ County
- ☐ State
- ☐ Community organization or nonprofit
- ☐ I am not sure yet

What change would I want to see?

Part 3: Define your advocacy goal

My goal in one sentence:

What specific action do I want decision-makers or community leaders to take?

How would I know progress is happening?

Part 4: Identify your audience and stakeholders

Advocacy planning usually includes identifying targets, allies, and affected community members.

Who has the power to influence or change this issue?

Who are possible allies, partners, or supporters?

Who should be centered because they are most affected?

Part 5: Choose an advocacy approach

Different issues call for different advocacy tactics, such as educating decision-makers, building coalitions, organizing residents, meeting with officials, using media, or mobilizing public support.

Check one or two approaches that seem most useful right now:

- ☐ Share information or educate others about the issue
- ☐ Meet with a public official, agency, or community leader
- ☐ Build a coalition or partner with other groups
- ☐ Organize residents or gather community voices
- ☐ Use storytelling or testimony to show impact
- ☐ Create a petition, letter campaign, or email campaign
- ☐ Use social media, local media, or public awareness messaging
- ☐ Attend a meeting, hearing, or public forum
- ☐ Research the issue further before acting

Why do these approaches fit my issue?

Part 6: Build your message

Many advocacy tools ask participants to define a short message, explain why it matters, and back it up with evidence or lived experience.

My issue in 15 words or less:

Why should other people care?

What facts, observations, or stories support this issue?

Part 7: First-step action plan

One action I could take in the next 2 weeks:

Who would I need to contact or involve first?

What support, information, or resources would help me move forward?

What might get in the way, and how could I respond?

Reflection

Which kind of advocacy feels most natural to me right now, and why?

What part of this issue feels personal enough that I may want to speak about it in Session 4?