



Administrative Advocacy and Data Disaggregation Policy Change: Opportunities and Strategies to Enhance Data Compilation and Quality

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Administrative Advocacy as a Strategy for Policy Change

- Ultimate goal is generally to achieve changes in policies, practices, procedures of a governmental agency, office, commission or similar entity.
- While ultimate goal may be policy change, several other goals can be achieved through administrative advocacy.
 - Information gathering.
 - Amplifying importance of an issue and its impact on the communities you serve.
 - Relationship building.
 - Creating record for potential litigation.
- Administrative advocacy sometimes defined by target of efforts – agency, office, commission.
- But defining advocacy by policy goal, rather than target, helps you consider complementary strategies.
 - Legislative oversight.
 - Public opinion advocacy.
 - Stakeholder engagement.

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Administrative Advocacy Efforts

Federal – Census data policies

- Advocacy with OMB and the Census Bureau on the revision of the OMB standards on race and ethnicity.
- Advocacy against addition of citizenship question to Census 2020.
- Formal comments on all data products and activities relating to compilation of quality data on the Latino community (includes testing, planning and implementation for decennial Censuses).
- Meetings with agency staff on wide variety of Census issues.



State and local – election policies

- Advocacy with CA Department of Motor Vehicles on best practices for implementing automated voter registration.
- Advocacy with CA Secretary of State around implementation of state election language access requirements.
- Advocacy with Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder about placement of vote centers.



Determining Administrative Advocacy Goals and Strategies

- Start with your organization's **mission or vision statement**; consider most effective role in the advocacy space.
- Consider **long-term change** as well as smaller "**milestones.**"
- Consider **feasibility** of achieving change, and whether other strategies might be needed (for example, litigation).
- Consider **relationships** with agency and other officials who have control over policies you want to change.
- Consider how the **strategies** you pursue will contribute to or achieve policy change you pursue.
- Consider which advocacy **partnerships** you have, which you can leverage, and which you need to build.
- Consider your organization's **capacity**, its strengths, and limitations.
- Consider if you can develop any **measures** of success, or learning opportunities.

Advocating for Better Data Equity Policies – Opportunities and Challenges

- Data equity policy can be extremely complex and technical, creating challenges for trying to discuss and explain how your specific “asks” relate to your overall goal.
 - But some agency staff really like the fact that someone is paying attention to their work, and are willing to “get into the weeds” about specific issues.
- Depending on agency structure, it can be difficult to determine who are the best persons to talk with, and the “internal politics” and power structures of bureaucracies.
 - But if you can find the right people to talk to, and build relationships with them, you can make a lot of progress.
- Achieving data equity policy changes may involve making expensive and time-consuming technological, infrastructure, or staffing changes.
 - Be ready to listen carefully to concerns raised by staff, and assess whether you can work collaboratively to offer solutions, or troubleshoot problems.
- Our nation’s dialogue around race and ethnicity has become very politicized, data equity advocacy may be characterized as promoting “identity politics” or a partisan political agenda. This may result in unanticipated opposition, or non-constructive linking of data equity and unrelated issues.
 - Target your framing of equity issues to use the most persuasive arguments for your audience, knowing that data equity is an issue that will provide benefits to our entire population. And be ready to think through strategies if you anticipate extremely strong opposition.



Thank you.

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