Meeting Schedule and Expectations

October 2026–August 2027

The Advocacy Network will meet monthly on Zoom. At these meetings, advocates will learn valuable skills and knowledge about policy and advocacy, share their thoughts and advocacy ideas for peer support, hear presentations from guest speakers, and develop their own independent advocacy projects aligned with Strategies for Children's (SFC) statewide advocacy strategy.

All meetings are required and run from 6:00–7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. Exact schedule and topics are subject to change.

OCTOBER 13: 6:00–8:00 pm, Introductions, goals, schedule. Overview of current policy and advocacy opportunities. Equity and representation. Finding your "why?"

NOVEMBER 10: Advocacy 101 (part 1). Begin planning advocacy projects.

DECEMBER 8: Advocacy 101 (part 2). Guest Speaker–Advocacy Network alumni. Finalize advocacy projects.

JANUARY 12: Communications workshop. Public speaking and crafting your "elevator pitch" with SFC's director of communications, Diagneris "Nery" Garcia.

FEBRUARY 9: Advocate share-outs (part 1). Share your advocacy project updates and hear feedback.

MARCH 9: State budget advocacy. Guest Speaker—elected official or administration staff.

APRIL 13: Advocate share-outs (part 2).

MAY 11: State policy updates. Guest Speaker—elected official administration staff.

JUNE 8: Advocate share-outs (part 3).

JULY 13: Advocacy Real Talk, with SFC's executive director, Amy O'Leary.

AUGUST 10: 6:00–8:00 pm, Reception for Reflection, with guest attendees.

In the case of absence, advocates are required to "make up" attendance by watching the recording and writing a reflection. In addition to monthly meetings, SFC staff will hold **"one-on-one" meetings** with each advocate to review their progress and provide support. These will happen three times (fall, winter, spring) with additional check-ins available upon request. We will

also hold evening **"office hours"** for group support. **We are here to support you in your advocacy journey!**

Advocates are expected to dedicate, on average, 10 hours per month to Advocacy Network activities. This includes monthly meetings and independent work on advocacy projects and activities. SFC pays cohort members a small stipend for their time and participation in the program.

All advocates are required to be featured in our Eye on Early Childhood blog, share a professional-looking photo of themselves that SFC will use for promotional purposes, and present on The 9:30 Call.

Additional opportunities available throughout the year:

- Professional development (trainings, meetings, and events),
- Public speaking (serving on panels, testifying at public meetings, media appearances),
- Writing (blogs, articles, letters-to-the-editor, testimony),
- Leadership (serving on boards and advisories).

Advocates will use Google Docs to maintain an "activity tracker," record their progress, and receive feedback. **SFC will provide technology training and support!**

Advocates are expected to read all SFC emails and respond promptly to emails, voicemails, and texts.

For more information, please contact SFC program manager Jayleese Le Blanc at jleblanc@strategiesforchildren.org.