



2008 Advocacy Opportunity Calendar

January 2008

CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE	ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES
<p>JANUARY Tues. 15 – House convenes Tues. 22 – Senate convenes Mon. 28 – State of the Union Address (when the President lays out his budgetary priorities for the year).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Contact your Member(s) of Congress to let them know what your policy priorities are for this coming year and how you specifically want them to help (i.e., co-sponsor legislation or write a letter in support of an issue). ❖ Sign up for the Alliance’s <i>Advocacy Update</i> to receive emails about how and when to take action on policy issues by visiting our website’s advocacy page at www.endhomelessness.org/section/policy/advocacy.
<p>FEBRUARY Mon. 4 – President’s budget for next fiscal year (FY 2009) is released</p> <p>House and Senate Committees hold hearings on the President’s budget proposal and collect information to inform the Congressional budget resolution¹ and appropriations processes.</p> <p>Congressional recess: Sat. 16 – Sun. 24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Join the Alliance’s National Budget Briefing on the President’s FY 2009 Budget Proposal on Feb. 5. ❖ Contact the media about how the President’s budget proposal, if enacted, will affect your work to end homelessness. ❖ Ask your Member(s) of Congress to write letters of support to the Chairs of the Appropriations Committee and relevant Subcommittees requesting an increase in funding for programs targeted to preventing and ending homelessness. ❖ Start scheduling site visits for upcoming Congressional recesses. (<i>A site visit or tour of a program is one of the best ways to demonstrate to your Member(s) of Congress how federal policy decisions impact you locally.</i>)
<p>MARCH House and Senate Budget Committees draft, “mark-up” and vote on their own versions of the budget resolution.</p> <p>Congressional recess: Sat. 15 – Sun. 30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Call your Member(s) of Congress and tell them how the budget will affect homelessness locally. ❖ Ask your Member(s) of Congress to contact the Chairs of the House/Senate Budget Committees in support of sufficient funding for programs targeted to preventing and ending homelessness. ❖ Reminder: Every Congressional recess is an excellent time to host a site visit with your Member(s) of Congress. Work with the Alliance to plan a tour of your program by contacting Sarah Kahn: skahn@naeh.org or 202-842-8259.

¹ The budget resolution is passed by the House and Senate and it sets out the targets and assumptions that will guide Congress as it passes the annual appropriations and other budget bills.

<p>APRIL House and Senate vote on Budget Committees' proposed budget resolution. The deadline for the budget resolution is April 15 (this often takes longer, like until May or June).</p> <p>Appropriations Committee in both Houses allocates funds to the Appropriations Subcommittees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ask your Member(s) of Congress to contact the Chairs of the Appropriations Committee and relevant Subcommittees in support of an increase in funding for homeless assistance programs in the FY 2009 Appropriations Bill.
<p>MAY Congressional recess: Sat. 24 – Sun. June 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Host a tour of a local homeless assistance program for your Member(s) of Congress during recess. ❖ Follow up with Congressional office(s) on your request of your Member(s) of Congress to contact Appropriators.
<p>JUNE House and Senate Appropriations Committees will consider appropriations bills that provide funding for each federal agency.</p> <p>Congressional recess: Sat. 28 – Sun. July 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Start scheduling Congressional office visits for the Alliance's Annual Conference and Capitol Hill Day. Volunteer to be your state's State Captain or Co-Captain and coordinate the state's advocacy activities.
<p>JULY House and Senate are likely to pass appropriations bills on the House and Senate floors.</p> <p>Mon. 28 – Wed. 30 – Alliance Annual Conference and Capitol Hill Day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Attend the Alliance's Annual Conference and Capitol Hill Day and visit your Member(s) of Congress. Some state delegations also hold receptions for their Members of Congress to thank them for their past support and urge them to take additional actions.
<p>AUGUST Congressional recess: Sat. 9 – Mon. Sept. 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Set up in-district meetings or site visits with your Member(s) of Congress and follow up on what you asked them to do in your Hill Day meeting.
<p>SEPTEMBER Congress returns from August recess.</p> <p>Appropriations bills should be completed by Sept. 30th (<i>this rarely happens so they pass a continuing resolution which allows federal programs to continue getting funding until the appropriations bills are completed</i>).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ This is a great time to get media on how federal policies under consideration by Congress will affect you locally. ❖ If Congress does not finish the appropriations bills, continue to follow up with your Member(s) of Congress on your appropriations requests.
<p>OCTOBER Target Adjournment: Fri. Oct 24 (But Congress rarely adjourns this early. This year's Congress did not adjourn until Dec. 21.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Do you have a holiday event planned to which you can invite your Member(s) of Congress? Invite your Member(s) of Congress to do a site visit during the holiday Congressional recess.
<p>NOVEMBER / DECEMBER If Congress has not already adjourned, they will attempt to wrap up business and go back to their districts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Reporters are searching for articles about homelessness during the holiday season. Contact your local media with information about federal policy solutions to help your work to end homelessness.