



2025-2026 Cohort Application

Our Mission

Advocacy Works is committed to cultivating a diverse network of emerging advocates who are passionate about making a difference in their communities. Through specialized training in policy, communication, and coalition-building, we equip participants with the skills needed to drive meaningful change. Our program offers hands-on experiences with government agencies, interactive workshops, and real-world advocacy opportunities. By providing mentorship and networking connections, we ensure a lasting impact that extends beyond the program, empowering individuals to create sustainable and systemic change.

Who Should Join?

We welcome passionate, community-driven individuals who are eager to lead and advocate for meaningful change.

Advocacy Works is designed for community-based leaders with at least 3-5 years of leadership experience who are actively engaged in advocacy, civic engagement, or public service. Ideal candidates include community leaders, faith-based organizers, small business owners, youth advocates, and grassroots activists who have a demonstrated commitment to improving their communities. Applicants should have a track record of leadership, experience in organizing or advocacy, and a strong desire to expand their policy and civic engagement skills. This program is best suited for individuals who are ready to take their advocacy efforts to the next level by deepening their knowledge of the legislative process, building coalitions, and driving systemic change.

Our initial cohort will focus on leaders from Marion County, Indiana, with plans to expand statewide in the coming years. If you are committed to advancing equity, strengthening your leadership skills, and making a tangible impact, we encourage you to apply and be part of this transformative program.

Our Program

Cohort Development: Each year, we recruit a diverse group of **20-25 participants** who are ready to engage in hands-on advocacy. The pilot cohort will focus on Marion County, with future expansions reaching communities across Indiana.

Advocacy Training: Participants will take part in interactive workshops that cover key topics such as policy development, legislative processes, storytelling for impact, and ethical advocacy. These sessions will provide a strong foundation in civic engagement and public policy advocacy.

Experiential Learning: Advocacy Works goes beyond the classroom by providing real-world learning experiences. Participants will visit the **Indianapolis City-County Council, Indiana Statehouse, and Washington D.C.**, where they will meet policymakers, observe legislative sessions, and engage in meaningful advocacy efforts.

Impact & Evaluation: To ensure long-term success, we track participant progress through pre- and post-training surveys, mentorship opportunities, and hands-on advocacy projects. By integrating real-world application with ongoing support, Advocacy Works fosters sustained leadership and measurable community impact.

Cohort Timeline

- **May 2, 2025** - Kick-Off Invitational & Application Open
Informational: Kennedy King Memorial Initiative - Cultural Visitors Center
601 East 17th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202 @ 4:00PM - 5:00PM
 - **May 19, 2025** - Application Deadline
 - **April 30, 2025** – Kick-Off Invitation & Application Opens
 - **May 19, 2025** – Application Deadline
 - **June 20, 2025** – Application Review & Selection Notice
 - **June 2025** – **Cohort Meeting #1:** *Understanding Policy & Legislation / Effective*
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Communication & Storytelling

- **August 2025 – Cohort Meeting #2:** *Building Relationships & Coalitions / Advocacy Tactics & Strategies*
- **September 2025 - Cohort Meeting #3:** *Ethical Considerations in Advocacy / Advocacy Scenarios*
- **October 2025 – Cohort Field Trip #1:** *Federal-Level Change (Washington, D.C.)*
- **November 2025 – Cohort Field Trip #2:** *State-Level Change (Organization Day at the Indiana Statehouse)*
- **December 2025 - Cohort Field Trip #3:** *City-Level Change (Indianapolis City-County Council)*
- **January 2026:** Alumni Engagement Event & Next Steps

To take your next journey through advocacy apply here:

[2025 Advocacy Works Cohort Application](#)

We believe in the power of action. Our foundation encourages community members to take part in initiatives that promote positive change and advocate for their rights.

Questions?

Email: info@iblcef.org
