



Meals on Wheels People Advocacy Guidelines

Mission: We enrich the lives of seniors, and assist them in maintaining independence, by providing nutritious food, human connections, and social support. We also use our expertise and capacity to serve other nutritionally at risk populations.

Our Approach:

- First and foremost, we are a resource to seniors. We provide information and education on issues that matter to our clients, and provide them with opportunities to make their voices heard. We focus on positive solutions and avoid partisan issues.
- The law allows charities to engage in a wide variety of nonpartisan election-related activities, including voter registration and education, support for mission issues, as well as urging the public to contact policy makers for the purpose of proposing, supporting, or opposing legislation. This includes advocating the adoption or rejection of legislation.

Advocacy Approval: At times, we may endorse a specific policy proposal that aligns with our mission. Formal endorsement of a policy solution on behalf of the organization will be made only after pre-approval by the Executive Committee and a formal approval from the full Board.

General Advocacy Issues:

Program Funding:

- Older Americans Act (OAA)
- Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)
- Medicaid
- Local/state programs such as Portland Children's Levy and OPI

Food Insecurity:

- Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

Independence:

- Safe, Affordable Housing
- Home Energy Assistance
- Caregiver Support
- Chronic Disease Mgmt
- Access to Prescription Medicine
- Elder Abuse

Examples of programs and policy areas; not a comprehensive list