



South Carolina
Institute of Medicine & Public Health
HEALTH POLICY FELLOWS
Program

SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF
RURAL HEALTH
Investment. Opportunity. Health.

Engaging Your Elected Officials

Interacting with your policymakers is an effective strategy used by community members to influence policy change. This can take the form of letter writing, phone calls and participating in hearings. It is important to remember to be specific when you are speaking to your elected officials.

LETTER WRITING

Letter writing is one of the most effective ways to engage. Letters give you the opportunity to provide a clear explanation of a public health problem and its effect on your local community.

Remember to use proper greetings such as “Honorable [Name]” or “Councilman [Last Name]” or “Councilwoman [Last Name].”

ENGAGING YOUR COMMUNITY

Community events and coalition meetings

- As a constituent of your elected leaders, you have the chance to inform and educate them on issues within your community and neighborhood. For example, you can invite them to attend community events or to come to an event your coalition is hosting.

Board composition

- Invite your policymakers to serve on your advisory committees and leadership boards. Elected officials are community members, too. This is a great way for them to stay connected to the work.

Social media

- Most elected officials are on social media. Following their social media presence makes it easy to follow along their journey. If you're hosting an event or want to share key pieces of information, tag your councilperson to ensure they see it.



