How ASAM Advocacy Staff Can Support State Chapter Advocacy Efforts

ASAM is committed to strengthening the capacity of its independent state chapters to advance policies that improve access to high-quality addiction care. Through its Advocacy Team, ASAM provides in-kind, non-directive advocacy support to assist chapters in their state-level advocacy efforts. ASAM's State Advocacy resources and staff support include policy and issue education, legislative tracking and awareness, data and research support, and advocacy capacity-building and training. State chapters independently determine their advocacy priorities, positions, strategies, and communications with government officials.

Available Support:



Legislative Tracking and Awareness

ASAM can provide customized legislative tracking reports on a weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, or quarterly basis. These reports summarize relevant state legislative activity and are designed to help chapters stay informed and plan their engagement during legislative sessions.



Technical and Drafting Assistance

At a chapter's request, ASAM may provide technical assistance such as drafting support for letters, testimony, or action alerts. Final decisions regarding content, positions, attribution, and use of these materials are made exclusively by the chapter.



Identifying External Advocacy Resources

Because lobbying laws vary by state, chapters may choose to engage registered state lobbyists. ASAM can provide general information and, upon request, help identify external resources.



Action Alerts and Member Engagement

ASAM can assist with the development of draft materials that chapters may use to engage their members around specific policy issues. Chapters determine whether and how to use such materials in alignment with their advocacy goals.



Media and Public Education Support

ASAM can provide background support and help connect chapters with regional or local media opportunities to highlight issues affecting addiction care. Chapters independently determine their messaging and whether to participate in media engagement.



Advocacy Capacity Building

ASAM offers guidance and training to help chapters build effective advocacy infrastructure, including strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and understanding state policy processes.



Commitment to Independence and Compliance

ASAM state chapters are independent 501(c)(3) organizations and retain full authority over their advocacy and lobbying activities. ASAM Advocacy staff do not direct, manage, or conduct state-level lobbying on behalf of chapters. ASAM's role is to provide supportive, informational, and capacity-building assistance that enables chapters to advance their own advocacy priorities in alignment with ASAM's mission.

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