
Program Outline

What is the Poverty Task Force's Community Advocacy Training?

It is a free seven-week training program for eight people from Guelph and Wellington who have direct experience living on low income and are interested in advocating on poverty issues.

The training program is focused on learning and skill building in the following areas:

- Anti-oppression
- Storytelling
- Public speaking
- Media relations
- Government relations
- Advocating in different contexts

The program will provide participants with the skills to share their experience publicly to increase awareness and advocate for system and policy change to address the root causes of poverty.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, training sessions may take place virtually and/or in person. This will be determined closer to the start date in line with COVID-19 restrictions and will be informed by the comfort of participants.

Who can participate in the Community Advocacy Training?

Space is limited to eight participants. To be eligible for this program, participants must:

- Live in Guelph or Wellington
- Have direct experience living on low-income
- Be interested in advocating on poverty issues, such as:
 - Decent work (e.g. low wage work)
 - Income insecurity (e.g. living on social assistance or other income benefits)
 - Housing issues and homelessness
 - Food insecurity
 - Health issues (e.g. not able to afford dental care or medication)

Honorarium and participation support:

Participants will be provided with an honorarium for their time at a living wage rate (\$17.00 per hour) for up to 25 hours. Participants can choose to have the honorarium paid in cash or by cheque. Additional participation supports (e.g. transportation, childcare, technology support, etc.) will be provided on an as needed basis.

When will the Community Advocacy Training take place?

The training runs every Tuesday from 9:00am-12:00pm for seven weeks (September 28th to November 9th). On Friday, November 19th participants will have an opportunity to attend a Poverty Task Force Member Meeting to share their experience with the program.

Individuals who may not be available during the above times are still encouraged to apply indicating their availability as trainings times may change.

Where will the Community Advocacy Training take place?

If training is virtual, it will take place over Zoom. If the training is in person, it will take place in a physically accessible location that can be accessed by transit.

What are participants asked to do?

Participants are asked to attend all seven training sessions and engage in activities as they are comfortable. Upon completion, participants are asked to participate in 2 advocacy activities within a year.

For more information:

Please contact Sarah Steeves, Poverty Task Force Assistant Coordinator, by email: sarah@gwpoverty.ca