
2025 Program Outline

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

It is a no cost 6 week training program for up to 10 people from Guelph and Wellington County who have direct experience living with low income and are interested in advocating on poverty issues.

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

- Advocacy
- Anti-oppression
- Storytelling
- Public speaking
- Talking to media
- Meeting with elected officials

The program will provide participants with the skills to share their experience publicly to:

- Raise awareness about poverty issues
- Advocate for solutions
- Build relationships and connections

When training is done, participants will have the chance to advocate with the Poverty Task Force in places like: community meetings, advocacy opportunities, outreach activities, events and more!

Who can participate in Community Advocacy Training?

Individuals can apply if they:

- Live in Guelph or Wellington County
- Have direct experience living with low-income
- Are interested in advocating on poverty issues, such as:
 - Income insecurity (e.g. living on social assistance or other income supports)
 - Housing issues and homelessness (example: renovations, discrimination when finding housing, lack of accessible housing, unaffordable rents)
 - Decent work (e.g. low wage work, jobs with no benefits or security, no sick pay, gig work)

Honorarium and participation supports:

Participants will be provided with an honorarium for their participation in Community Advocacy Training. Additional participation supports (example: money for transportation, childcare, technology support, etc.) will be provided as needed.

When will the Community Advocacy Training take place?

The training runs in person every Wednesday for 6 weeks from May 14th to June 18th. The sessions will take place in a physically accessible location that can be accessed by transit. Full details will be sent to confirmed participants.

Training Schedule:

- **Wednesday, May 14th, 9:00am-1:00pm:** Introduction & Welcome
- **Wednesday, May 21st, 9:00am-12:00pm:** Storytelling & Advocacy
- **Wednesday, May 28th, 9:00am-12:00pm:** Anti-oppression & Advocacy
- **Wednesday, June 4th, 9:00am-12:00pm:** Storytelling & Public Speaking
- **Wednesday, June 11th, 9:00am-12:00pm:** Advocacy & Government Relations
- **Wednesday, June 18th, 9:00am-1:00pm:** Media Relations & Putting Skills into Action

Additional Meeting Times:

- **Onboarding Meeting** (week of **May 5th to May 9th**): A meeting will be scheduled with each participant before training begins. Time to be decided once participants are confirmed.
- **Drop-In Work Sessions** (optional, but encouraged for developing your story):
 - **Monday, May 26th, 10:00am-11:30am:** Drop-in Work Session
 - **Monday, June 2nd, 10:00am-11:30am:** Drop-in Work Session
 - **Monday, June 9th, 10:00am-11:30am:** Drop-in Work Session
- **Awareness Opportunity:** On **Friday, June 13th from 9am-11am**, participants can attend a Poverty Task Force Member Committee Meeting to share their experience.

If someone is interested, but not available during the above times, please encourage them to still apply! Times may change based on participant availability.

What are participants asked to do?

Participants are asked to attend all 6 training sessions and engage in activities as they are comfortable. Upon completion, participants are asked to participate in 2 advocacy activities with the Poverty Task Force within a year.

How can someone learn more or express interest in Community Advocacy Training?

Please contact Chelsey Edwards, Poverty Task Force Community Engagement & Communications Coordinator, by email at info@gwpoverty.ca to:

- Receive an expression of interest form
- Get support to review or fill out the form
- Or to express interest in a different way