

Activity 5.3: Creating Effective Policy Recommendations

Materials needed:

Butcher Paper
 Markers
 Your Research Findings (From Activity 5.1)
 Your Policy Target Diagram (From Activity 5.2)

Intended Audience:

Members who have been actively involved in the research project
 Members

Time Needed:

1 Hour

Purpose of Activity:

The purpose of this activity is to create effective policy recommendations that are connected to the data that you have collected through the PAR process.

By the End of Activity Participants Will:

Brainstorm policy recommendations for your PAR project

Before this Activity Participants Will Need to:

Be informed about your research project
 Be familiar with the major research findings of the project

Part I. Brainstorming Policy Recommendations (1 hour)

Facilitator Instructions:

1. Introduce that this activity will enable the group to brainstorm policy recommendations for your PAR project.
2. Post the research findings you created in Activity 5.1 on the wall. Review your research findings with the group. Remind the group that policy recommendations provide solutions to the problems you've found and documented through your research.
3. Post your diagram of policy targets on the wall and remind participants that each of the policy recommendations that they come up with needs to have a specific target that has the power to create or change the policy they are calling for.
4. Split participants in small groups.
5. Remind the participants of the categories of policy recommendations: legislative, budgetary, enforcement, oversight, and democratic participation and point to the examples posted around the room.
6. Give each group 5-10 minutes to brainstorm 2-3 policy recommendations for the each of the categories. Remind the groups to connect the recommendations to the findings. If some of the categories do not seem relevant to your project, just ask the participants to make a note of that in their small group discussions. Tell the small groups to be prepared to present the following to the larger group:
 - a. The policy recommendation
 - b. Explain which category they placed it in and why Explain who the target is and why
 - c. Explain what information is still needed to make it a strong policy recommendation
7. Come back together as a big group and have each small group present what they came up with.



- 8.** After all the groups have presented ask the group to consider the following questions:
 - a.** Which recommendations seem most in line with the vision of our organization and the priorities of our members?
 - b.** Which recommendations will have the biggest impact for our membership?
 - c.** Which recommendations seem the most winnable in the short term?
 - d.** Which recommendations seem like more long term fights?
 - e.** Which recommendations are going to be the most difficult to win?
- 9.** Mark the butcher paper to record which recommendations that seem to be high priority (have biggest impact, are most in line with vision) and those that are short term, which are long term and which seem most difficult to pursue.
- 10.** Ask the group if they feel good about what they've come up with? Is there anything that is missing? Is there anything you haven't considered, or need to work on further?
- 11.** Explain that these can be used as a starting point to develop recommendations for your report.