



The Success Equation unites community to reduce and prevent the impact of poverty so all children can thrive. This is accomplished by working with decision makers at the local, state, and federal levels to advocate for public policies that support and improve the lives of families- especially those unable to afford food, housing, early childhood learning and healthcare.

Tools for Federal-Level Advocacy Actions

The Success Equation works with partners to advocate to our Congressional representatives on issues impacting children and families, namely:

- **Healthcare for Low-Income Children and Families:** Protect existing health insurance coverage and funding. If possible, expand Medicaid coverage in NC to cover uninsured adults. To find out more about agencies that are addressing this issue, [click here.](#)

- **Federal Funding for food programs that assist children - WIC, SNAP and school meals:** Protect existing funding and support improvements to school nutrition programs. To find out more about agencies that are addressing this issue, [click here.](#)

How to Find Your Congressional Representatives

- [Look up your elected officials in the US Congress](#)

- Many of our **US Congressional representatives also have local offices**, so once you look up your Congressional representative, you can also call or email to try to schedule an appointment with them in their local office.

Tools for State-Level Advocacy Action Steps

The Success Equation works with partners to advocate to our representatives in the [NC General Assembly](#) on issues impacting children and families, namely:

- **Raise the Age Campaign:** Track and influence state and local implementation planning to ensure that adequate resources are provided for successful transition of 16- and 17-year-olds into the juvenile system.

- **Childcare Subsidies Market Rate and Allocations:** The NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) implements an alternative market rate and allocations formula that factors cost of care for providers, simplifies current formula, and is more equitable across the counties. To find other organizations working on this issue and other issues relating to early childhood learning and development, [click here.](#)

- **Healthcare for Low-Income Children and Families:** Protect existing health insurance coverage and funding. If possible expand Medicaid coverage in NC to cover uninsured adults. To find other organizations working on this issue and other issues relating to healthcare for children and families, [click here.](#)

How to Find Your State Representatives

- [Look up your district and state representatives here.](#)

- To find out a wealth of information concerning how our state general assembly introduces and decides on legislation, go to <http://www.ncleg.net>. Here you can find:

- [How an idea becomes a law](#)

- [Committee members](#): This is important, as many bills are first voted on by committee before going to the full general assembly for a vote.

- [The session calendar](#): Find out what bills will be voted on by General Assembly

- [Live and archived audio of sessions](#), press conferences, and meetings held in the Appropriations and Finance Committee Rooms

- Do you want to know how your state elected officials voted on issues relating to [Economic Security](#); [Education](#); [Environment](#); [Health & Safety](#); [Government & Democracy](#); and [Women's Issues](#)? It's as easy as going to the [WNC Vote Tracker](#) and clicking on one of the issue areas listed above.

Tools for Local Action Steps

The Success Equation works with [Asheville City](#) and [Buncombe County](#) leaders to increase investments in **housing affordability** and **transportation**.

Housing Affordability:

- Pass policies for the City's Housing Trust Fund (and other housing efforts) to include homeownership, align with existing need, extend affordability period, address rehab/ gentrification, and protect renters.
- Publicly accessible meetings to create a county affordable housing strategy/ plan (ideally in consultation with City of Asheville's efforts) that offers increased funding, zoning changes, and incentives to promote development that aligns with affordability needs and protects existing affordability (including a plan for mobile home developments). To find out more about other agencies involved in housing affordability, [click here](#).

Transportation

- Win support for ART funding that results in 7 days, full day (until 10 pm), and increased frequency on major routes.

Early Childhood Care & Education

- Support the Asheville Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative financing ideas and identify and win public and private funding commitments to begin implementation. To find out more about this collaborative and other agencies involved in early childhood care and education, [click here](#).

How to Get Involved with Local Government

- Contact your [City Council](#) members and [County Commissioners](#)
- [Affordable Housing Advisory Committee](#): No more than 9 members who meets the first Thursday of every month at 9:30 a.m., 5th Floor Large Conference Room, Asheville City Hall.
- [Housing and Community Development Committee](#): Made up of City Council members who provide policy recommendations to Council on all matters relating to the creation and maintenance of housing within the city and all matters relating to the alleviation of homelessness and services provided to homeless individuals within the city. [You can access the minutes of each meeting here.](#)
- [Multimodal Transportation Commission](#): 9 voting members and 3 non-voting members, made up of Asheville City residents. Two voting members represent transit interests, two voting members represent greenway interests, two voting members represent bicycle/pedestrian interests, and three are at-large members. Meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month beginning at 3:00pm in the 1st Floor Conference Room in City Hall.
- [Transit Commission](#): Consists of at least seven members and up to eleven members appointed by the Multimodal Transportation Commission. Meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 3:30pm-5:30pm at the 4th Floor Training Room at the Municipal Building at 100 Court Plaza, Asheville, NC 28801.

Make YOUR VOICE Heard

- **Did you know that the average phone call to your elected officials to let them know how you stand on an issue takes as little as 3 minutes?**

The person answering the phone is usually an aide to the elected official, and their job is to keep a tally of how many constituents are calling in support or opposition of an issue. You don't have to be prepared for a debate; you don't need to be an expert on the issue; you just need to know how you stand on the issue.

Example of a script for calling your elected officials "Hi, my name is _____. I live in _____ County. I'm calling in support/opposition of _____ decision. This is important to me because I believe _____.

- Write a letter to local media or to your elected officials about an issue that impacts children and families. Make a quick and easy phone call to your elected officials to let them know if you support or oppose legislation.

Here are some examples of letters to help guide you:

- [Tips for Writing a Letter to the Editor](#)
- [Tips for Writing a Letter to Elected Officials](#)