

Budget & Advocacy Timeline

Month	Budget process	Advocacy tasks
October	Governor & team begin to formulate next fiscal year's budget	Exam current year budget & determine next set of advocacy priorities
November		Reach out to Executive team
December		Begin educating community & partners on priorities to build awareness and support
January	Governor's budget proposal released	Read proposal, compare to current year funding and priorities
February		Reach out to Senate and House Appropriation members to review priorities/provide data
		Continue to educate/engage community & partners
		Consider planning or attending a capitol day to rally advocates and meet legislators face-to-face
March	Senate and House begin working on their budgets	Develop legislative strategies, matching partners and community members to their elected leaders
April		Meet/call/send letters to Senate and House Appropriation members, and legislators who might share priorities (and those who might not – a lot to learn from them as well)
		Increase community engagement/education around top issues/issues without easy support. Encourage calls, blogs, letters to editor, social media, events, etc.
May	Senate & House release budget proposals (late April into May)	Read proposal, compare to Governor's budget, and current year funding and priorities
		Meet with contacts in executive branch, appropriations committees – remind them of issues, seek their support
June	Budget negotiations	Work legislative strategies
		Maintain close contact with partners

		Share reliable information with advocates
July	Budget passed by July 1! (This <i>is</i> what is supposed to happen.)	Analyze what is in/out. Celebrate wins. Praise advocates and partners. Acknowledge the issues that need more advocacy. Rest
August	[Nothing much]	Begin to strategize, plan and prioritize
		Talk with community members and partners
September through December	Budget cycle begins again	Finalize priorities and strategies
		Work with community, partners
		Focus on awareness/education, laying groundwork & creating advocacy materials
		Communicate with executive branch and advocate for priorities