ADVOCATING WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Making A Visit
Identify Your Elected Official

You have a member of the State Assembly and State Senate that represent you.

1. Find their names on the following website.
   http://192.234.213.69/lmapsearch/framesetpage.asp
   (type your address and zip code)

2. Locate their names on the Advocating With Your Elected Officials website “CA Legislators” section.
GETTING READY

1. Watch “Advocating with Your Elected Officials” video.

2. Phone or email your legislator’s district or Capitol office to request a meeting.

3. Describe the reason for your visit.

4. Tell them how many people will be with you.

5. Ask for only 15–20 minutes.
GETTING READY

1. If going as a group, have no more than 4 people.

2. Assign people tasks:
   - Spokesperson
   - Note taker

3. Make sure everyone understands the issue and what will be shared.

4. Practice what you will say.

5. Bring your Worksheet.
YOUR VISIT

1. Be on time and stay on topic.

2. Be flexible – you may meet with a legislator’s staff member, if the legislator is not available.

3. Take notes on questions or suggestions.

4. Talk about how the issue affects you.

TIPS:

- If you are a person receiving services or a family member – share experiences about how it affects you.
- If you represent an organization – bring materials and a business card to share.
1. Follow-up on anything you promised to do.

2. Keep track of your issue and how your legislator votes.

3. Send a thank-you note.

4. Build a relationship – keep in regular contact.
TIPS

✓ Be patient and polite.
✓ Dress and speak professionally.
✓ Be brief and focused.
✓ Be flexible.