

# Tips and Ideas to Build Your Events to Pass a Local Resolution

The following is an extensive list of ideas to help promote your events building towards the passage of local resolutions in support of Medicare-for-All. Please feel free to use whatever ones work for you.

## Reaching out to your friends and networks

**Make an invitation list:** Your event can be a gathering of close friends and family; a gathering of neighbors, co-workers, and colleagues; a mass public event; or a mix of all of the above. If you want to expand your attendance list, make sure to ask friends who've said they will attend to think of names of people to invite!

**Remember that not everyone you ask will be able to make it:** Soccer practice, family trips, and work can always come up for even the most dedicated health care justice activist. Or, sometimes they are just tired and don't have the motivation to go out. Whatever the reason, people who want to come may still not come. So, to have the best chance of a big event that can make a splash, you'll need to **invite about two or three times as many people** as the number you want to attend.

## Spread the Word

**Make invitations:** These can be as simple or as fancy as you'd like. We recommend including a few key pieces of information, such as: the purpose of the organizing party/meeting; the date, time and place; directions to the party/meeting; an encouragement to RSVP and to bring friends.

**Send out invitations and follow up:** You can send out invitations via e-mail or Facebook, drop invitations in mailboxes at work, or even send out paper invitations. The key here is **follow up** – make sure people have received the invitation and ask them to RSVP. We will share a sample e-mail invitation with you that you are free to modify as you wish.

**Timing:** Opinions vary on the best time to send out invitations, but a good rule of thumb is about 3-4 weeks out – well enough in advance so people can plan for the event and mark it on their calendars, but not so far out that folks will forget about it.

## **Some Ideas for inviting people to your event:**

- Put a short invitation in your church/synagogue/mosque/community-center newsletter
- Drop flyers in colleagues' mailboxes at your place of work
- Post a note on your local co-op board.
- Create a Facebook page for your effort and pass it around.
- Other creative ideas you come up with!

**Follow Up!** Some great organizer once said, to paraphrase, that '95% of organizing is follow-up.' Sending out e-mail blasts is a great start, but without personal follow-up from you or

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someone coming to the event, it's less likely folks will show up. So, make sure you give yourself some time to follow up with your invitees to let them know how important it is that they show up and what a good time they'll have! If you've got a notable guest speaker or a local official lined up, then it might be good to ask them for assistance with this.

**Calling/texting:** The single best way to follow up with people is in person or with a phone call. E-mail is fast and efficient but doesn't capture people's attention in the same way, and can be less personal than a one-on-one conversation. Plus, remember: Not everyone is connected to the Internet!

So, make sure you include some time to call people once the invitations have gone out, as well as a week or so before the event, to make sure folks are coming. These calls can be very brief, friendly reminders – a sneak preview of the event and a friendly ask will do.

E-mail can be a great tool to build excitement for the event. You can share updates via e-mail to invited guests on the group's plans, who's coming, and what action you will be taking. There are great online tools and services, such as Evites and PunchBowl, which can help you do this as well.

### **Reaching Out to the Public**

We also encourage you to more broadly invite the general public to attend your event if that feels appropriate. This will both increase your numbers and breadth of your event, and it provides a chance to educate the public about Medicare-for-All and let people know that there are folks out there organizing to build support for it, even if they weren't aware of your event before. Here are a few ideas of how to reach out to the public:

**Flyers:** We've designed a template flyer with you, to adapt as appropriate. You can fill in key information and copy and post your flyer in community centers, coffee shops, religious institutions, and local stores. You can also go to events where there are like-minded people and pass out copies of your flyers at these events.

**Organizations:** Invite organizations that you know have endorsed Medicare-for-All, such as nurses, medical students, unions, faith-based, and other progressive organizations, to participate in your organizing meeting and ask them to share information with their membership.

**E-mail Lists, Event Websites and Listings:** You can share your invitation with e-mail lists, newspaper event listings and post it to local websites and blogs that have event listings.

**PSAs:** Many local radio stations will let you come in and record a brief public service announcement for your event. Be aware that for PSAs and for event listings, there are often deadlines a few weeks in advance.

**Media:** You can inform your local media that you are holding an organizing meeting and perhaps they will cover the event in advance or after it happens. Let us know if you need any help with this. We will do our best to provide you with a sample press release.

**Social Media:** You can create a Facebook event page for your event, tweet or blog about it. If you Tweet, make sure to use the hashtag #MedicareforAll. The more synergy we can get RTing and sharing the better and the bigger this movement will get!