

Sample Agendas

Here is a sample agenda you can use for your initial organizing meeting.

Introductions (5-10 minutes). Ask attendees to provide their names, pronouns and something interesting about themselves, such as what they had for lunch or an interesting hobby they've picked up during quarantine.

Set expectations for the meeting and explain the agenda (5 minutes). Let everyone know that there will be some time at the end for any general questions about Medicare for All. Ask someone to take notes.

[Share this introductory video](#) (3 minutes), featuring activists and councilmembers who have passed resolutions in their communities.

Explain the purpose of the Medicare for All resolutions campaign and the process to pass a local resolution in your community (15 minutes). Please find below some talking points that you can use. Don't worry if your meeting attendees ask questions that you don't know the answer to. Simply say you'll follow up with them after the meeting. [Send us an email with the question](#) and we'll be happy to assist.

- *How is a Medicare for All resolution relevant to local governments?*
 - *Local governments must often deal most directly with the consequences of our unaffordable and inequitable health insurance system.*
 - *Municipal budgets are increasingly strapped and local businesses struggle to make ends meet due to rising health insurance premiums.*
 - *Local governments provide front-line response when community members face medical debt-related bankruptcies or become gravely ill or die needlessly because they lacked adequate health insurance.*
 - *Thus, local governments can play an important role in highlighting the desperate need for an expanded and improved Medicare for All. By passing resolutions, local governments can help to shape the national public narrative and build political will needed to ultimately win guaranteed healthcare for everyone as a matter of right.*
- *How does a Medicare for All resolution contribute to the broader movement to win Medicare for All? A Medicare for All resolution by your city council or county board can be used to:*
 - *Build and strengthen Medicare for All activism in your community.*
 - *Recruit politicians likely to consider running for higher office in the future as supporters of Medicare for All and offer them an opportunity to show up as leaders in this movement.*
 - *Pressure members of Congress who haven't committed to the Medicare for All bills, or who are relatively silent on the issues despite being cosponsors, to take a stand in support of the policy. Fence-sitting members of Congress often cite a lack of popularity as an excuse for not championing our cause. Resolutions from cities and counties in their district that explicitly state why Medicare for All will benefit their constituents challenges this position.*
 - *Expose the high cost of for-profit insurance for city employees on municipal budgets.*

MEDICARE FOR ALL RESOLUTIONS

- Offer an opportunity for activists to cultivate transferable skills in lobbying, community organizing, policy analysis, press releases and op-eds, as well as to build working relationships with local legislators.
- *Steps to pass a resolution*
 - Attend regular meetings with activists in your area to build a strategy for your campaign
 - Write your resolution, based on some of the sample resolution language and successful resolutions passed in other municipalities.
 - Approach councilmember(s) to recruit them to introduce your resolution. This step can require persistence!
 - Once your resolution makes it onto the council agenda, work with Public Citizen staff and allied organizations to generate emails, texts and phone calls to supporters in your area asking them to call their councilmember's office in support of the resolution.
 - Use the activist toolkit at www.medicare4allresolutions.org to create a press strategy ahead of the vote and to write a press release advising local media of your victory as soon as the resolution passes.
 - After you win your resolution, you can help start new resolution efforts in nearby communities, organize a meeting with your Representative in Congress to present them with your resolution and help supportive councilmembers write op-eds for national and local newspapers about why Medicare for All is important to them.
- *Involvement from volunteers typically amounts to a few hours a week. Most local groups that are successful have a core team of 3-4 people, plus a handful of additional volunteers who help out on occasion.*

Identify potential city council champions. (10 minutes) Ask if anyone on the call has connections to council members, make a shortlist of progressive councilmembers to approach, and ask people to volunteer to reach out to each of them through email and/or phone calls to request a meeting with your group.

Set a date for your next meeting (5 mins) and make sure you have everyone's contact information.

Discussion space (optional, 10 minutes) Keep time bookmarked at the end for questions or comments about Medicare for All outside of the resolutions process.

After your meeting

Send the notes from the meeting within 48 hours. Include the email addresses of anyone who couldn't make it but want to be involved. Include the date and time of the next meeting and the Zoom RSVP link.

Here is a basic agenda you can use for subsequent meetings.

Introductions (5-10 minutes). Ask attendees to provide their names, pronouns and something interesting about themselves, such as what they had for lunch or an interesting hobby they've picked up during quarantine.

MEDICARE FOR ALL RESOLUTIONS

Set expectations for the meeting and explain the agenda (5 minutes). Let everyone know that there will be some time at the end for any general questions about Medicare for All. Ask someone to take notes.

Updates. Follow up on action items that attendees committed to during the last meeting. Sometimes people volunteering their time have not been able to complete the actions they previously committed to make, and that is okay. These check-ins are helpful to remind one another that the work is important, reiterate how excited you are that everyone is part of this effort, and reassess and reassign tasks as needed.

Choose your next steps. Decide on new action items, discuss alternative councilmembers to approach, or set a day to follow up on an email or phone call to a councilmember who hasn't responded yet.

Set a date for your next meeting (5 mins) and make sure you have everyone's contact information.

Discussion space (optional, 10 minutes) Keep time bookmarked at the end for questions or comments about Medicare for All outside of the resolutions process.