

**FOOD BANK OF THE SOUTHERN TIER**  
**Board of Directors**  
*Committee Description*

**ADVOCACY COMMITTEE**

**PURPOSE:**

The Advocacy Committee (AC) demonstrates a clear organizational commitment to addressing the root causes of hunger by advocating for policies that impact both the Food Bank of the Southern Tier and its constituents. Because public policy impacts our organization and those we serve, achieving our mission includes working for public policies that further our efforts to build and sustain hunger-free communities throughout the Southern Tier. The AC is an ad-hoc committee that is responsible for the creation and oversight of the FBST's annual advocacy agenda and policy priorities. The AC will compile an annual list of legislation that the FBST supports or opposes to present to the Board of Directors (BOD) who will approve or modify these priorities. The AC will also provide support to the Advocacy and Education Department by participating in Lobby Days or local legislative visits, submitting op-eds or writing articles for the Advocacy Newsletter, and assisting with special events such as Child Hunger Awareness Weeks, Hunger Action Month, and a Holiday Legislative Repack.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

In fulfilling its charge, the AC is responsible for the following activities and functions:

- Inspiring and engaging the full BOD in public policy advocacy that impacts the organization's ability to achieve our mission
- Monitoring progress on public policy priorities and keeping the BOD informed about advocacy opportunities
- Identifying organizational advocacy priorities annually and bringing to full board for adoption
- Developing an annual advocacy plan and tracking/reporting on progress toward that plan
- Communicate with elected officials, including by phone, email and participation in Lobby Days in DC and / or Albany
- Assist in coordination of special events, such as Child Hunger Awareness Week, Hunger Action Month, and a Holiday Legislative Repack
- Provide support for public education via Op-eds and the Advocacy Newsletter

**COMPOSITION:**

The Advocacy Committee shall consist of at least the Chairperson, the Food Bank President/CEO, the Food Bank Advocacy and Education Manager, and up to four (4) Directors plus additional independent non-director members, including food pantry agency partners and clients. It shall nominate Directors and officers for election at the Annual Meeting, and at other meetings when vacancies are to be filled. ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS must participate in Advocacy 201 training.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:** AC meets four times a year and additionally as needed.

**LIMITS OF AUTHORITY:** AC submits recommendations to the BOD.