

2021

Advocacy Roadmap



What do we mean by advocacy?

Advocacy is public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy. The Foundation advocates for policies on behalf of patients on the state and federal level.



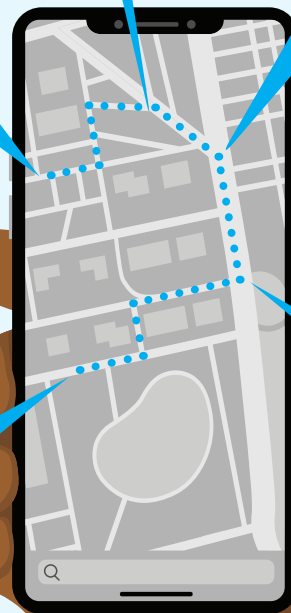
Why should I advocate?

The U.S. Congress and state legislatures are making decisions that impact patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). These policies can affect your access to medical care as well as national funding for medical research. The best way to ensure that your needs are considered in policy decisions is by sharing your story and explaining how specific policies will affect you or your loved ones.

What are the Foundation's 2021 advocacy priorities?

The Foundation's policy priorities are developed in collaboration with patient advisors as well as advanced practice providers and physicians on the National Scientific Advisory Committee. Learn more on our [Be An Advocate](#) webpage.

- Protect and improve patient access to care
- Increase funding for medical research on IBD
- Increase the membership of the Congressional Crohn's & Colitis Caucus



How can I participate?

Sign up for the Advocacy Network (www.crohnscolitisfoundation.org/advocacy) email list-serve! We will email you monthly action alerts as well as any relevant instructions and legislative updates. The Foundation has mapped out monthly activities to help you plan your participation in advance, outlined below. You can also text "IBDADVOCACY" to 50457 to receive text alerts.



What about local advocacy?

All politics is local and we will help you build relationships with the legislators that represent your area throughout the year. Below are tips. Email us at advocacy@crohnscolitisfoundation.org for more information!

- Send template emails from your own email address
- Schedule a meeting with your legislators, virtual or in-person
- Attend virtual events hosted by your legislators and introduce yourself



NEW!

We have added new informational resources and training materials to help you advocate from the comfort of your own home. See more in our [Advocacy Tools and Resources](#) webpage.



Below is a list of action alerts and training opportunities that we will send you via the Advocacy Network every month in 2021. These are subject to change based on current events. We will occasionally email additional action items when legislation is moving and we need to make our voices heard.



Questions? Email advocacy@crohnscolitisfoundation.org

Month	Action Alert Topics	Justification
January	'Welcome to Congress'—an overview of IBD-related policies in 2021	The 117th Congress convenes in early January. Email your legislators a 'welcome letter' via the Action Center explaining IBD and the 2021 advocacy priorities.
February	Building relationships with your legislators	This year we want to help you strengthen your relationships with your legislators. We will help you find your best contacts and give tips on effective advocacy communication.
March	Support federal IBD research funding	Congress holds the power of the purse and usually begins considering spending decisions for the next fiscal year in March, including spending on medical research. A template email will be posted in the Action Center.
April	Telling your story	We will provide tips to help you connect policy asks with your personal experiences.
May	Day on the Hill 2021	Volunteers from across the nation will meet with their legislators virtually during the annual Day on the Hill. We'll help you participate via social media or by sending an email to your legislators.
June	Prepare for in-district visits	Prepare for August in-district advocacy by learning strategies for successful communication. We'll ensure you feel fully prepared to meet with your legislators.
July	Take a deeper dive into health policy	Tune in for a deeper dive on a prescient issue that you can discuss with your legislators in August.
August	Hold a local meeting with your legislator	It's summer recess for Congress! Work with a team to meet with your legislators locally and/or participate in a virtual event. After your visit, you can send an email to reinforce your requests.
September	Support federal research on IBD	When legislators return to Congress in September, they will be tasked with finalizing the funding bills for the next year. Email your legislators to remind them to support IBD research funding.
October	Public policy update	The year isn't done and there is still time to follow up with your legislators on your policy asks. We'll share information on our progress in gaining support for key legislative items.
November	Research and advocacy overview	The federal government funds medical research on IBD. Learn what the government is doing and how the Foundation's research supports the research pipeline for finding cures.
December	Crohn's & Colitis Awareness Week!	Participate in our advocacy activities for Crohn's & Colitis Awareness Week!



Don't forget to tell us about your outreach! Email advocacy@crohnscolitisfoundation.org if you had a positive phone call and/or met with your legislator. We will follow up in Washington, D.C.!