Using your research in the policy process

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The Basics

1. See the big picture
   - Understand the debate
   - Learn rules of the game
2. Build a strong network
3. Communicate with different audiences

The Public Professor
How to Use Your Research to CHANGE THE WORLD
M. V. Lee Badgett
Be Proactive!
Reducing poverty for LGBT people

- Congress
- LGBT funders
- Research
- DC advocacy
- Federal policy
- State
- Local
- Employment
- LGBT Orgs
Reducing poverty for LGBT people

Federal policy
- Min wage
  - TANF
  - Soc Security, SSI
  - EITC
  - Housing
  - SNAP
  - Medicaid-Health

State
- Min wage
  - state regs for federal programs
  - Medicaid, exchanges-Health

Local
- Min wage/living wage
  - Education
  - Housing

Employment
- Businesses
  - nonprofits, community orgs

National
- LGBT Orgs
- State
  - Local

Research
- LGBT funders
- DC advocacy

Congress
- Equality Caucus
- Jim McGovern
- Food insecurity people

Kris Hayashi
- Trans Law Center
- Mara Keisling
- NCTE
- Trans orgs
- N LGBTQ TF

CAP
- CBPP
Get started:
Set up a meeting with a policymaker

• Meet them: local meetings, fundraisers, district office time.
• Make an appointment at their office.
• Use your network.
Be ready

• Know your goals for the meeting:
  – Networking?
  – Offers of help?
  – Learning about what’s happening?
• Practice a brief pitch—why is your research important? Why should they care?
• Dress appropriately
• Bring your business cards
A game plan

• Why you’re here: make your pitch
• Pause............. Let them ask questions.
• Have some of your own questions ready:
  – Do you expect issue X to come up soon?
  – Has there been any thought to changing policy Y?
  – Is this kind of research helpful in deciding on Y?
• Suggest some “next steps” if it’s been a productive meeting.
• Thank them.
Follow-up

• Thank you note: repeat your offer of help or mention what you’ve already done
• Do anything you promised to do!
Build relationships to make change