



**Alameda County - Oakland
Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP)**

Visit us on the web at AC.OCAP.com or contact us by email at AC-OCAP@oaklandca.gov

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 12, 2026, 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. at 150

Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 4TH Floor Human Services Department, Conference Room 1

The Public May Observe This Meeting Remotely by:

Webinar Registration Link:

https://oaklandca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zKNxHulDS1ur6wHC03n6uQ

Webinar ID: 822 3280 8179

To make public comments, community members must do so in person at the published location or submit written comments via email to AC-OCAP@oaklandca.gov. Please note that remote participation is not available.

Advocacy Committee: Councilmember Carroll Fife (Tonya Love), Terrence Riley, and Mayor Barbara Lee (Dr. Atiya Rashada)

Staff: Maria Huynh

AGENDA

1. Call to Order to Determine Quorum of Advocacy Committee Meeting
2. Approval of Meeting Agenda
ACTION ITEM:
3. Approval of Minutes from Advocacy Committee Meeting on January 8, 2026 – **Attachment 3**
ACTION ITEM:
4. Public Comment: (Specific Agenda Item(s): Audience Comment Period)
5. Discussion Item(s):
 - a. Re-Cap Survey distribution, responses, and next steps. – **Attachment 5a**
 - b. DC Trip Activities
6. Open Forum: (General Audience Comment Period)
7. Adjournment: The next in-person meeting is **rescheduled for April 9, 2026**

The meeting is held in a wheelchair accessible facility. Contact the Office of the City Clerk, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Room 201, or call (510) 238-3611 (VOICE) or (510) 238-6451 (TTY) to arrange for the following services: Sign interpreters or Phonic Ear hearing devices for hearing impaired; 2) Large print Braille, or cassette tape text for visually impaired. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

Attachment 3



MINUTES



Alameda County-Oakland Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP)

Advocacy Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 8, 2026, 5:30 PM

Committee Members Present: Councilmember Carroll Fife (Tonya Love) and Terrence Riley

Guest(s): Lola Rockwell (Operation Dignity)

Staff: Maria Huynh

1. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum

Committee Chair T. Love called the meeting to order. Staff M. Huynh performed roll call, and a quorum was established at 5:36 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the January 8, 2026, Advocacy Committee Meeting Agenda.

M/S/Carried: Motion carried by consensus.

3. Approval of Minutes from Advocacy Committee Meeting on November 13, 2025 (Attachment 3)

MOTION: To approve the Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes on November 13, 2025.

M/S/Carried: Motion carried by consensus.

4. Public Comment: (Specific Agenda Item(s): Audience Comment Period) – None

5. Discussion Item(s):

- a. **Review Legislative Process (Attachment 5a)** - T. Love explained they're reviewing the legislative process so members understand how laws and budgets get made and how they can engage. She used the quote about having a "seat at the table or being on the menu" to stress why communities must participate in decision-making, not just elect officials, and step back. Tonya walked through the three branches of government:

- Executive – The Governor (Gavin Newsom) at the state level.
- Legislative – California State Assembly and State Senate.
- Assembly – 80 members, each representing about 500,000 residents.
- 2-year terms, up to 12 years total.

Responsibilities: pass policy bills, set state spending levels, raise/lower taxes, uphold or override vetoes, and help establish the budget.

T. Love also noted California currently has a Democratic "trifecta":

- Democratic Governor

Attachment 3



- Democratic majority in the Assembly
- Democratic majority in the Senate

The majority matters because it gives Democrats more power to pass legislation they support and shape the budget.

Legislative caucuses:

- Affinity/identity caucuses: Latino Caucus (largest and most powerful, 32 members), Black Caucus (12 members), Asian Pacific Islander Caucus (11 members).
- Regional caucuses: e.g., Bay Area Caucus, where Buffy Wicks is vice chair.
- Ideological caucuses: e.g., Progressive Caucus.
- Republicans function like a caucus with a Senate Minority Leader, even though they're not the majority.
- What a Bill Is and When It Becomes Law?
- A proposal that creates, changes, or repeals a law.
- It becomes a statute once it passes through the Legislature, is signed by the Governor, and then receives a chapter number in the California codes.

Timing:

- Idea and Author (A person or organization has an idea that must find an Assemblymember or Senator willing to "carry" the bill.
- Committee Hearings in the First House
- Appropriations Committee (First House)
- Floor Vote in the First House
- Second House: Repeat of the Process
- Governor's Desk (both houses agree on the same version, the bill is sent to the Governor)
- Governor's Proposed Budget (January)
- Legislative Review (Jan–May)
- Final Budget Deadline (By law, California must pass a budget by June 15)
- If they don't? Legislators don't get paid, which T. Love pointed out as a strong motivator.
- This is a unique feature compared with the federal government.
- Interaction with Bills

Who Actually Writes the Bill Language?

- Community members or organizations usually start with ideas and policy goals, not legal text.
- Legislators (or their staff) collect those ideas using a form with key questions (e.g., problem, scope, impact).

The proposal is sent to the Legislative Analyst / Legislative Counsel:

- They check existing California codes.
- They draft the bill's formal legal language.
- They may also produce research and data on topics (e.g., homelessness, housing).

Attachment 3



Role of Organizations and Advocacy in the Process

Organizations can:

- Bring bill ideas to legislators (“sponsor” bills).
 - Help with research, community input, and impact data.
 - Mobilize supporters, other orgs, and businesses.
 - Provide testimony in committee (depending on their 501(c) status and legal limits).
 - Engage the press to shape public opinion and visibility of an issue.
 - Lobby the Governor** after the bill reaches the governor’s desk.
- b. **Review List of Agencies - plan scheduling meetings w/ Agencies** – There are 17 grantees/agencies in total. T. Love realized that the list she had only included 12 agencies and noted that some were missing (for example, St. Mary’s). She needs to update and resend the complete list. After the survey is distributed and the results are collected, the next step is to meet with each agency individually to explore their issues and advocacy interests in greater depth. T. Love plans to ask the agencies if they would like to schedule a meeting at the end of the survey. The committee is willing to visit the agencies and request about 20–30 minutes of their time, either virtually or in person. She suggests reviewing approximately two agencies per week. These meetings are scheduled to take place between now and April, after the survey is distributed. T. Love aims to use these meetings to clarify the challenges agencies and their clients face, including licensing, documentation barriers, and access issues. The goal is to identify legislative or policy issues that can be prioritized for advocacy. During the meetings, the advocacy plan will be explained, and agencies will be informed of how they can participate within their capacity. The objective is to gain their support and alignment before approaching Sacramento and Washington, D.C.
- c. **Conferences: DC: March 17-20 and State Conference: May 13-15.** – T. Love discussed the upcoming conference in Washington, D.C., scheduled for March 17-20. This event is organized by the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF), which is part of the larger Community Action Partnership structure. A key topic of interest is the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which is essential for funding. The money AC-OCAP distributes to grantees comes from the federal government, specifically through the CSBG funding. The main purpose of the trip to D.C. is to visit Capitol Hill and meet with congressional representatives to advocate for the continued funding of CSBG. Attendees will share local priorities and needs during these meetings. T. Love outlined the trip agenda: a breakfast meeting, followed by visits to legislators, then lunch, and additional visits. The focus will primarily be on these Hill visits rather than on training sessions. She emphasized the importance of having grantees' survey results ready before the Washington trip. The survey will be sent electronically, and she has requested a clear deadline for its completion.
- d. **Committee Meetings rescheduled or canceled? - March: DC Conference** – The committee agreed to cancel the Advocacy meeting on March 12, 2026, due to T. Love's attendance in D.C.

Attachment 3



Action Item(s):

- Clarify and Finalize Full Grantee/Agency List
- Build Out Agency Profiles (Research on Agencies)
- Create and Launch Grantee Survey
- Compile Survey Results Before DC Trip
- Plan and Schedule Follow-Up Meetings with Agencies
- Decide on May Committee Meeting (TBD)

6. **Open Forum: (General Audience Comment Period)** – None

7. **ACTION ITEM: Adjournment**

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm

M/S/Carried: Motion carried by consensus.

The Next In-Person Meeting: [February 12, 2026](#)

DRAFT



Tonya Love <tdlove5@gmail.com>

AC-OCAP Advocacy Committee - Feedback and Participate in Anti-Poverty

1 message

On, Puthea <POn@oaklandca.gov>

Mon, Jan 26, 2026 at 1:14 PM

To: Community Action Partnership <AC-OCAP@oaklandnet.com>

Cc: tdlove5 <tdlove5@gmail.com>, "terrenceriley@hotmail.com" <terrenceriley@hotmail.com>, "Lakes, Lea" <LLakes@oaklandca.gov>, "Huynh, Maria" <MHuynh@oaklandca.gov>, Monique Rivera <monique.rivera@kp.org>

Dear Community Partner,

As a valued AC-OCAP community-based grant recipient, we invite you to complete a brief survey to share feedback and gauge your interest in participating in advocacy efforts to end poverty. This survey will help inform a new AC-OCAP strategy to elevate community voices and strengthen our collective impact.

This work is especially timely given the current legislative environment at both the state and federal levels and the growing need to protect and expand critical social programs. Your perspective will help shape how AC-OCAP engages in advocacy alongside community partners.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey here: [AC-OCAP Advocacy Survey](#). We would like to share this information with our federal legislators during an advocacy trip in March.

Please fill out the survey by Feb. 15, so that we can share with them your priorities.

If you are interested in participating in our advocacy activities, our Advocacy Committee team will follow-up with you regarding next steps.

Thank you for your partnership and for the vital work you do every day.

In solidarity,
AC-OCAP Advocacy Committee
Tonya Denise Love
Terrence Riley

Best Regards,

Thea On (she | her)

Administrative Assistant II

Human Services Department (AC-OCAP)[150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4340 | Oakland, CA 94612](#)

Desk Phone: (510) 238-5382



2026 AC-OCAP Grantee Legislative Advocacy Survey

This is a survey submitted to current Alameda County-Oakland Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP) grantees to gauge their interest in or current level of legislative advocacy and working in partnership with AC-OCAP Advisory Board on a legislative platform.

Name (First, Last) *

Maeve Brown

Name of Organization *

Housing and Economic Rights Advocates

Level of Legislative Advocacy Participation

Are you and your organization able to participate in legislative advocacy (not candidates for office, but legislation to improve public processes and services)? In 'other' state if there are special circumstances. *

Yes

No

Unsure

Other:

Do you have a legislative advocacy program? *

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe your program. Include what government levels and your legislative priorities.

Consumer rights, housing, debt/credit concerns of consumers. No special unit, but attorney staff engage. It is a very small part of our work compared to the vast majority of our work which is direct services. State and federal advocacy, generally, some local occasionally.

If no, would you like to learn more about how to advocate for your organization and clients at the county, state, and federal level?

- Yes
- No

Has your organization communicated with an elected official regarding a legislative concern? *

- Yes
- No

If yes, please briefly describe one experience: who was contacted, what was the topic, and what was the outcome?

Various regarding public policy, and legislation we've proposed.

Would your organization be willing to communicate with the elected officials regarding a legislative concern? *

Yes

No

If yes, please select the method by which you would be able to communicate with an elected official.

Write or sign-on to an email

Make an office visit organized by AC-OCAP

Make a phone call

All of the above

Legislative Issues

Questions regarding issues pertaining to the work of your organization

Do your clients share with you challenges that can be potentially resolved through legislative action? Not specific to your organization but in general. *

For example: A client can't get services because lack of ID? Can't find housing because lack of options? Can't afford food because prices are too high?

Please describe the challenge. (Please include a rough estimate of how many clients make similar comments)

If you can't recall enter "NA"

Yes, and too many concerns to enumerate.
.....

Does your organization experience road blocks that could be fixed legislatively? Enter yes or no. If yes, please describe the challenge. *

Yes. Too many concerns to enumerate.
.....

Does your organization experience funding challenges that could be fixed legislatively? Enter yes or no. If yes, please describe the challenge. *

Yes, potentially. Funds allocation for legal services by the state is essential.
.....

Follow-up Questions

If the AC-OCAP board would like to talk with you more about some of the concerns you mentioned, can we reach out to schedule a meeting? *

Yes

No

If yes, please indicate days and times that work best for you. Click all that apply. Other: list details like hours or location preferences.

During business hours

Weekend - Saturdays

Virtual Only

Other:

Would you like to be kept up to date on AC-OCAP's legislative activities? *

Yes

No

Please share any other comments you would like to make.

Thanks for the survey.
.....

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2026 AC-OCAP Grantee Legislative Advocacy Survey

This is a survey submitted to current Alameda County-Oakland Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP) grantees to gauge their interest in or current level of legislative advocacy and working in partnership with AC-OCAP Advisory Board on a legislative platform.

Name (First, Last) *

Rich Harrison

Name of Organization *

Lighthouse Community Public Schools

Level of Legislative Advocacy Participation

Are you and your organization able to participate in legislative advocacy (not candidates for office, but legislation to improve public processes and services)? In 'other' state if there are special circumstances. *

Yes

No

Unsure

Other:

Do you have a legislative advocacy program? *

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe your program. Include what government levels and your legislative priorities.

Lighthouse Community Public Schools works with the Deveau Burr Group (DBG), and they support (as lobbyists) our interests in Sacramento. The advocacy is around TK-12 education, charter school governance and accountability, school funding, community schools efforts, college and career, etc.

If no, would you like to learn more about how to advocate for your organization and clients at the county, state, and federal level?

- Yes
- No

Has your organization communicated with an elected official regarding a legislative concern? *

- Yes
- No

If yes, please briefly describe one experience: who was contacted, what was the topic, and what was the outcome?

We do this regularly - In the last year, I spoke to ~20 state assembly / senate members and their staff about various concerns, legislative positions, etc.

Would your organization be willing to communicate with the elected officials regarding a legislative concern? *

Yes

No

If yes, please select the method by which you would be able to communicate with an elected official.

Write or sign-on to an email

Make an office visit organized by AC-OCAP

Make a phone call

All of the above

Legislative Issues

Questions regarding issues pertaining to the work of your organization

Do your clients share with you challenges that can be potentially resolved through legislative action? Not specific to your organization but in general. *

For example: A client can't get services because lack of ID? Can't find housing because lack of options? Can't afford food because prices are too high?

Please describe the challenge. (Please include a rough estimate of how many clients make similar comments)

If you can't recall enter "NA"

no.

Does your organization experience road blocks that could be fixed legislatively? Enter yes or no. If yes, please describe the challenge. *

yes - quite often. The TK-12 system is quite bureaucratic, as is charter school oversight and accountability. The challenge is that the most effective advocacy is led by those who largely fund IEs and have lobbying dollars; its really the largest organizations that shape legislative efforts in the areas I am most concerned about.

Does your organization experience funding challenges that could be fixed legislatively? Enter yes or no. If yes, please describe the challenge. *

Yes. I sponsored a bill in Sacramento last year related to charter school funding of schools that serve high percentages of high needs students / operate in high needs communities.

Follow-up Questions

If the AC-OCAP board would like to talk with you more about some of the concerns you mentioned, can we reach out to schedule a meeting? *

Yes

No

If yes, please indicate days and times that work best for you. Click all that apply. Other: list details like hours or location preferences.

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Other:

Would you like to be kept up to date on AC-OCAP's legislative activities? *

Yes

No

Please share any other comments you would like to make.

I think that lobbying efforts (CA, county, city) is best done in partnership with other like minded organizations and groups - and to build coalition (with one group leading, and a few groups backing).

In terms of workforce development - there is a significant funding and strategic disconnect between the TK-12 system and their high schools (both district and charter), the parcel tax in Oakland that funds this work (measure N/H) in the form of high school CTE programming, the community college system's CTE pathways operate differently and not in alignment in terms of local high schools truly feeding in, and the city/county workforce efforts are not truly done in partnership (translating to jobs) with private and public entities that hire for critical family sustaining jobs.

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