

RIVER BEND
FOOD BANK

MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCACY 101

Introduce yourselves in the chat box!



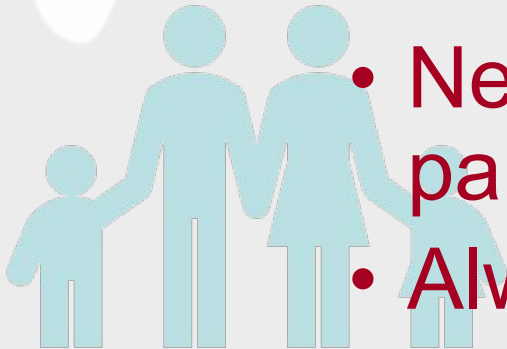
Agenda

- RBFB's Approach to Advocacy
- Current Issues
- Education v Advocacy v Lobbying
- Partnerships
- Anti-Hunger Advocacy Guide
- Questions/Discussion



River Bend Food Bank's Approach to Advocacy

- It's in our mission – to advocate on behalf of hungry people
- Anti-hunger issues
- Never supporting or opposing a party or candidate
- Always non-partisan approach



501(c)3s and Advocacy

Rule #1

*“...are **absolutely prohibited** from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, [or donating to], any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office.”*

Rule #2

*“...are allowed to conduct **nonpartisan** activities, such as educating the public on issues, publishing voter education guides, or encouraging people to participate in the political process (such voting or contacting elected officials).”*



Anti-Hunger Issues

- USDA programs
- Making anti-hunger programs more accessible
- Child Nutrition Bill
- Farm Bill
- SNAP

Advocacy Overview

- Important tool for nonprofits
- Unallowable Activities
- Nonpartisan Activities
- Educational Activities
- Advocacy
- Lobbying
 - Direct Lobbying
 - Grassroots Lobbying

Gray Area

*“...no organization may qualify for section 501(c)(3) status if **a substantial part** of its activities is attempting to influence legislation (commonly known as lobbying). A 501(c)(3) organization may engage **in some lobbying**, but too much lobbying activity risks loss of tax-exempt status.”*



Advocacy

or

Lobbying?

- Informing a Senator about how a program helps stakeholders.
- Letting USDA know to improve TEFAP
- Inviting as state rep. to visit your site
- Asking your state rep. to vote for lowers taxes on food banks
- Sharing research on programs

- Asking your Senator to support a SNAP increase in an omnibus bill
- Asking your Congressman to include more funding for Food Bank programs in the 2022 Farm Bill

How We Advocate / Tactics

- Volunteering
- Keeping yourself informed
- Educating Friends and Family
- Letters to the Editor
- Contacting Elected Officials
- Meeting with Elected Officials

Partnerships

- Partner Agencies
- FANO organizations
 - Iowa Food Bank Assn
 - Feeding Illinois
 - Greater Chicago Food Depository
- Volunteers, Donors, other Supporters



Anti-Hunger Advocacy Guide

- *RBFB's Approach to Advocacy*
- *Issues*
- *Education v Advocacy v Lobbying*
- *Tactics*
- *Partnerships*
- Targeted Messages
- Storytelling
- Budget Cycles
- Additional Resources

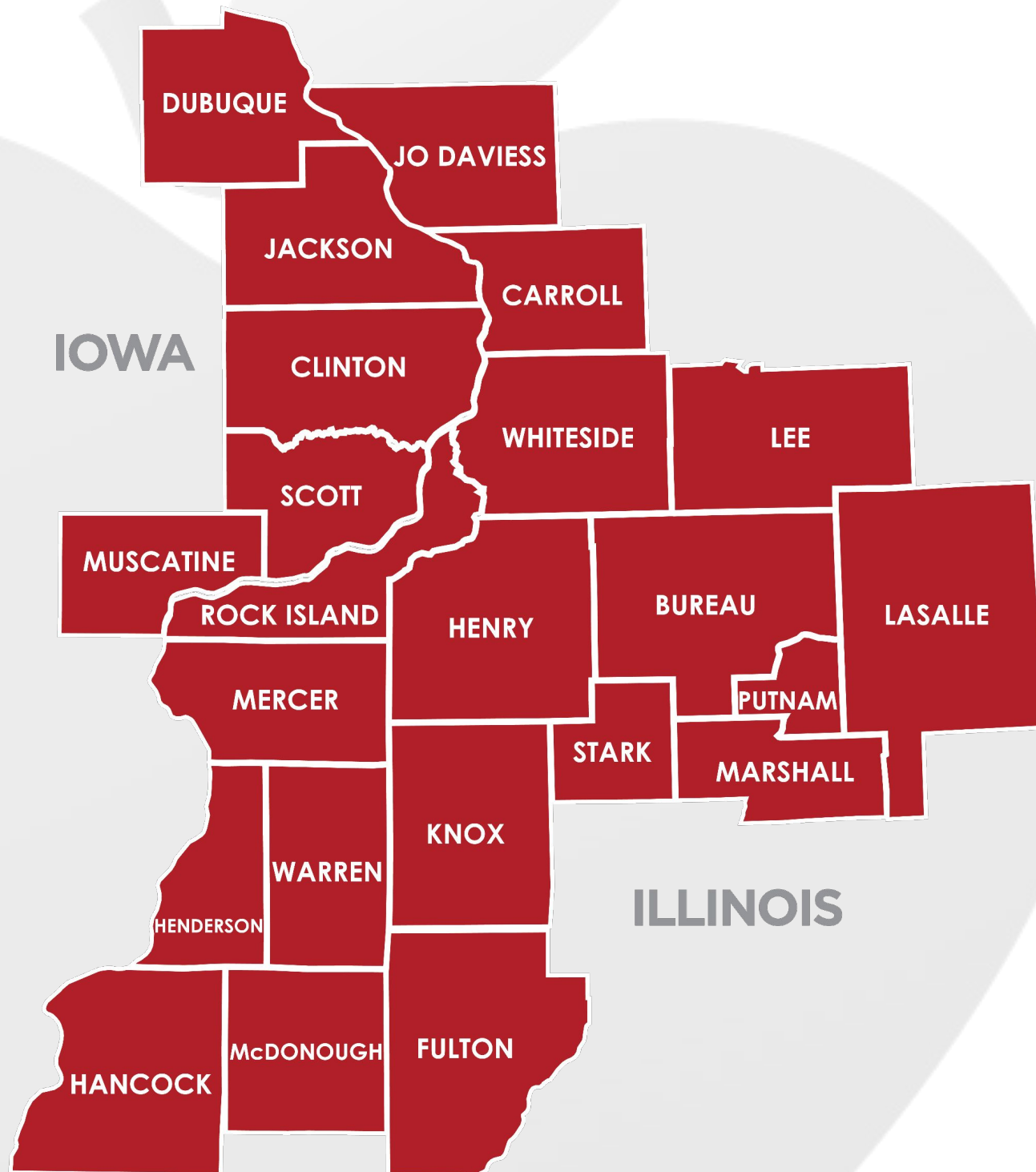


Be Sure To Join Us

Friday, August 6

**Storytelling and
Social Media
Webinar**

WHO WE SERVE:



Chat Box – Advocacy 101 – River Bend Food Bank – 7/23/2021

11:01:22 From Mike Miller - River Bend Food Bank to Everyone:

Hi, Everyone! Thanks so much for joining today. This is Mike Miller with River Bend Food Bank. Who else is here?

11:01:44 From Andy Andersen to Everyone:

Hi This is Andy Andersen from CASI.

11:02:02 From Diane Copeland to Everyone:

Hello, Diane Copeland, FISH of Galesburg food pantry.

11:02:05 From Michelle Hatfield to Everyone:

Hi, this is Michelle from Midwest Food Bank

11:24:28 From Ryan to Everyone:

What if an employee of a nonprofit runs for office?

11:36:37 From Mike Miller - River Bend Food Bank to Everyone:

advocacy@riverbendfoodbank.org

11:38:35 From Mike Miller - River Bend Food Bank to Everyone:

The political campaign intervention prohibition is not intended to restrict free expression on political matters by leaders of organizations speaking for themselves, as individuals. Nor are leaders prohibited from speaking about important issues of public policy. However, for their organizations to remain tax exempt under section 501(c)(3), leaders cannot make partisan comments in official organization publications or at official functions of the organization.

11:39:12 From Mike Miller - River Bend Food Bank to Everyone:

https://bolderadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/501c3_Employees_Running_for_Office.pdf

11:39:33 From Mike Miller - River Bend Food Bank to Everyone:

https://bolderadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Election_Activities_of_Individuals_Associated_with_501c3_Organizations.pdf

11:39:42 From Ryan to Everyone:

Mike, what do you think the likelihood is of continuing to be able to deliver Summer Meals