2024: The Year Ahead & How to Get There
HEPATITIS B POLICY PRIORITIES

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HEPATITIS B AND LIVER CANCER
- Appropriations Advocacy (CDC, NIH)
- The LIVER Act

PREVENTION: HEPATITIS B SCREENING AND VACCINATION
- Expanding Hepatitis B Screening
- Increasing Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination

TREATMENT ACCESS
- Ensuring affordability and access to hepatitis B treatments

ENDING HEPATITIS B-RELATED DISCRIMINATION
- Health Care Students and Professionals
- U.S. Military

HEALTH EQUITY
- Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA)
BEFORE PLANNING

ASSESS THESE 3 KEY AREAS

Organizational Capacity - mission, resources, experience, partnerships, stakeholders and other connections

State Statistics - key demographics; HBV infection, mortality, vaccination; liver cancer rates; risk factors

Personal Stories (Local Impact) - engage with storytellers, people with lived experience, and influential members of affected communities in your state
DEVELOPING A PLAN

PRIORITIZE TO MAXIMIZE IMPACT

Define a goal
Map plan's trajectory
Determine who holds power
Organize resources and partners
Create a campaign plan and timeline
Setting Your Advocacy Stage

Familiarize yourself with your state’s legislative process to make advocacy as easy as possible!

- **Analyze Your Landscape**
  - When is my state legislature in session?
  - Who are the legislators for my organization’s district?
  - What committees are my legislators involved in?
  - What committees are helpful for my advocacy purposes?
  - Who is on those committees?

- **Know The Process**
  - When does the fiscal year begin and end?
  - Is the budget cycle annual? Biennial?
  - What are key dates in the budget cycle?

- **Follow The Money**
  - What is the typical annual budget for my state?
  - How much is money has been given to hepatitis B (or viral hepatitis, or hepatitis C) in the past?

- **Building Blocks**
  - Is there current legislation that hepatitis B advocates can build off of? That they can use as a template for new legislation?
  - Points of reference: HIV, hepatitis C
  - Key words: hepatitis B, viral hepatitis, liver cancer, STDs/STIs
WHAT DO STATE LEGISLATURES HAVE IN COMMON?

Most legislatures are bicameral.

This just means they have two chambers. The exception is Nebraska, with a single legislative chamber.  

- "Lower" chamber: House or Assembly
- "Upper" chamber: Senate

Legislative sessions start at the beginning of the (calendar) year.

Most legislatures start in January or February. Legislators use the months right before the session to collect ideas for bills. If you have an idea for legislation that you would like introduced, you need to start right after an election.

The committee process is extremely important.

Before going to a chamber, bills must pass through specialized committees of jurisdiction, where amendments are made. Each committee has a chairperson who exerts a great deal of control over what happens in the committee by deciding things like which bills get heard, which ones never get brought up, and the schedule it all happens on.

https://indivisible.org/resource/indivisible-states-how-state-legislatures-work
State legislative sessions range from 30 days every other year to year-round. Only nine states have full-time legislatures; the rest meet part-time, with some states only meeting in odd-numbered years.

### Session length
- **Full-time:** CA, MI, NY, PA, AK, HI, IL, MA, OH, WI
- **Odd years:** MT, NV, TX, ND

### Legislative process
For example, bills can usually originate in either chamber, and then cross over to the other. However, in some states, appropriations bills must start in the lower house and then move to the upper house. Other states have deadlines on how long a bill can spend between being introduced and passing through a committee.

### Numbers of representatives & amount of resources and staff they have
A single legislative chamber could have as few as 20 members to as many as 400. Legislators in some states may have offices in their home districts as well as at the state capital, while in other states, they may only have capital offices.
**EXAMPLES OF ADVOCACY TACTICS**

### Meet with Legislators and Develop Champions
- Schedule (virtual) district office visits
- Organize a legislative advocacy day at the State Capitol
- Invite your legislators to your events or arrange a site visit
- Participate in town halls
- Attend local public events
- Ask questions at candidate forums

### Impact the Committee Process
- Submit written letters of support or opposition to relevant committee(s)
- Give public testimony at a legislative hearing

### Push for Local Media Coverage
- Send photos to reporters and photo editors at local papers and TV stations
- Send out a press release
- Tweet at reporters
- Share on social media
- Publicize milestones and awards
- Submit op-eds
- Keep a good archive of photos and videos
- Train storytellers and other spokespersons

### Meet with Executive/Administrative Offices and Build Relationships with Key Staff
- Governor’s Office
- Department of Health
- Insurance Commissioner
Find What You Need

**Urban Institute**
State-specific briefs on how budgeting is handled in the state

**MultiState**
Legislative calendars for each state.

**Ballotpedia**
Session calendar, number of members and legislative districts, budget cycle

**Committee For A Responsible Budget**

**Legiscan**
National database to find all bills related to a certain topic, such as "hepatitis B" or "liver cancer"

**Grant Funding Profiles by CDC**
Breakdown of state by state funding provided by the CDC. Viral hepatitis is a lumpsum

**State Dependent Information**
- "Find my state legislator" - District maps
- State budget - current or former
  - Funding levels
- "(State name) House/Senate committee"
- " Rep. Matthew Bradford committees"
  - Specific legislator's committee placement
- [https://openstates.org/](https://openstates.org/)
Want to learn more or become more engaged in state advocacy?

Contact: advocate@hepb.org

www.hepbunited.org/action | www.hepb.org
DISCUSSION / Q&A