

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio Speakers Bureau

Apply at bit.ly/ppaosb24 – it's short! The link will close on Sunday, August 11, 2024.

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Building off our values: If you can answer why you fight for sexual and reproductive freedom, then you have a story to tell. Folks are often called to advocacy because of community needs, and stories reflect their families, communities, as well as their own health care experiences.

Patients are an important part of Planned Parenthood, and barriers to sexual and reproductive health care directly impact their lives. Building a patient-centered movement, through programs like Speakers Bureau, is an essential component of our mission as we work towards collective liberation across many movements.

Planned Parenthood storytellers in states around the country speak to barriers in accessing to abortion, birth control, trans medical care, and other sexual and reproductive health care and education. **Speakers Bureau's main goal is to develop active organizers who use their health care stories to enact change on a local level and act during rapid response.**

We're working hard to build a cohort that truly embodies the full breadth of our experiences and perspectives. **Nothing about us, without us.** Change comes from centering the most marginalized voices and sharing tools so we can speak out against injustice together.

What is it? The PPAO Speakers Bureau is a paid, virtual cohort of 15 dedicated and trained speakers who use their health care stories to make change. Each member will receive at least **\$1000**. This is a 10-month program beginning in September 2024 and ending in June 2025.

Note: You do NOT have to be an existing storyteller. You can be a new or developing leader who is looking for advocacy opportunities and commits to discovering, developing, and sharing your sexual and reproductive story. **Your experience is enough to make change in your community!**

Expectations:

- Commit about 5 hours a month to Speakers Bureau
- Attend monthly trainings (1 to 1.5 hours), take the monthly action, and attend at least 2 out of 3 in-person events
- Engage with program manager – respond within 3 days to emails, take opportunities to speak including rapid response, and contribute to community feel by participating
- Schedule 2 check-in meetings (30 minutes) with the manager during the program

Benefits for members:

- \$1000+ across the 10-month program (stipend + gas mileage reimbursement)
- Building community with other storytellers across the state
- Access to a network of repro and social justice workers in Ohio
- Develop public speaking, communications, organizing, and leadership skills

Location: Virtual within Ohio. There will be 3 in-person events: fall training (September/October Saturday), spring lobby day (March/April weekday), and summer get-together (July Saturday). Please plan to attend at least 2 of 3. Gas mileage and food will be covered.

What do storytellers do with their stories to make change?

- [Lead rallies at the Ohio Statehouse](#)
- [Film abortion stigma-busting videos](#)
- [Speak to their campus about sex ed and birth control](#)
- [Post what gender-affirming care means to them](#)
- [Write opinion pieces in the newspaper](#)
- [Rally at the Supreme Court for mifepristone](#)
- [Lobby elected officials](#)

Payment information: During the program, Speakers Bureau members will earn at least **\$1000** for their work with PPAO, split across the 10 months for completion of the monthly training, monthly action, and 2/3 in-person events. This is to acknowledge the time, energy, and labor required to fulfill program expectations. This requires completing a W-9 form. Gas mileage will be reimbursed.

Who's welcome in Speakers Bureau? Every story deserves to be heard. You don't have to be a seasoned storyteller already – that's what this program is for: to develop skills so you can make changes in your community, the reproductive rights movement, and all the many movements that intersect. **Speakers Bureau is here to share tools as we work towards collective liberation.**

We hope that Speakers Bureau will reflect the wide array of people, identities, and reproductive health care issues facing our state. Therefore, we encourage storytellers to apply from diverse backgrounds, income levels, sexualities, ages, urban and rural areas, parenting statuses, races/ethnicities, experiences with abortion, genders and gender identities, religious backgrounds, educations, and abilities. This program was built with you in mind – you are welcome here!

If you have a question on whether this program is right for you, or an idea to welcome in others and make the program accessible, please reach out: public.affairs@ppao.org

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