



The Collaborative Advocacy Network (CAN)

Where members turn what they see every day into policy change.

CAN is the Collaborative's member working group on advocacy. It's where you help set our policy priorities, share what you're seeing in the field, and act together on housing and behavioral health. You do not need policy expertise, just real-world perspective and a commitment to helping local decision-makers understand the impact of the policies and funding decisions they're considering.

What We Ask of Each Other

What CAN Members Can Expect

- **A voice** in setting our yearly advocacy priorities and the bills we push
- **People to think out loud with** — colleagues who do this work too
- **Plain-language updates** on the federal, state, and local policy that touches human services
- **A range of ways to act** — sign-ons, trainings, legislator visits, testimony

What CAN Asks of You

- **Show up** — aim for 8 of our 12 meetings a year, plus one other CAN activity. Counted by organization: if someone from your org is there, your org is there. A goal, not a rule.
- **Bring your perspective** and carry what you learn back to your organization
- **Take action** when we ask

What We Work On - And Who Decides

CAN members set the agenda. Each year the group picks our advocacy priorities and the specific bills we push, drawn from the health, human services, and safety net issues that matter most to the Collaborative's membership. If an issue is hitting your organization and the people you serve, CAN is where you raise it.

So far that has centered on housing and behavioral health. Those two are foundational: When people have a safe place to live and access to mental health and addiction treatment, everything else our members do works better. But that focus is a choice the group makes, not a fixed boundary.

What a Year in CAN Looks Like

- **Monthly Meetings:** Second Wednesday, 10:00-11:15am, on Zoom. Policy updates, a working discussion, and time for members to share what's happening at their organizations.
- **Advocacy Trainings:** Storytelling, the state budget process, sustaining this work when it's hard. Open to the full Collaborative.
- **Winter Legislative Breakfast:** Our local delegation, in one room, with our members.
- **Day of Advocacy in Harrisburg:** 100+ advocates, 50+ organizations, 30 legislative meetings in one day.
- **Legislative Visits:** District office meetings with your own legislators, with a toolkit and staff support behind you.
- **Calls to Action and Member Surveys:** Five minutes when five minutes is what you have.

Who Can Join - And How?

Open to staff, board members, volunteers, and other stakeholders of **Bucks-Mont Collaborative member organizations** and our **C3 partners**, the **Tri-County Community Network (TCN)** and the **Interagency Council of Norristown (ICN)**. There is no cost beyond membership in one of those networks, and no cap on how many people from your organization take part.



To join CAN, fill out the short opt-in form to tell us how you'd like to be involved this year!

Join CAN!

Questions first? Contact Correne Kristiansen, Advocacy Coordinator at the Bucks-Mont Collaborative.

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 bucksmontcollab.org/services/advocacy

