



Participant Advisory Council Engagement Guidelines

The Participant Advisory Council (PAC) is an invaluable resource for Northwest Harvest. It does not take much imagination to see how closer relationships and better communication with the people who use our food bank would help to keep us honest and potentially improve what we do at every level. It would also be a logical next step if we wish to remain on the cutting edge of not only fighting hunger but treating people with dignity while we do it. In its current form the PAC can and should be utilized for input and feedback for Northwest Harvest operations and advocacy.

The success of the PAC is dependent on strong relationships between Participant Advisors and NWH Staff and continued opportunities for engagement with the work. This Advisory Council is not a speaker's bureau, though, and shouldn't be utilized solely to recruit people who use our food bank services for speaking engagements. That being said, it is encouraged to continue to provide opportunities for Participant Advisors to build skills, advocate, and make connections. When utilizing the PAC for non-feedback opportunities please keep in mind the following guidelines:

- The PAC meets monthly with varied attendance throughout the year. People often need a lot of advanced notice in order to participate. Please give us as much lead time as you can so we can identify the right person and conduct any necessary prep work. Day of or day before requests are almost definitely not going to give us enough time.
- Advisors often desire prep time to feel confident in telling their story or showing up to an event. Please provide as much information as possible about the opportunity. This can include: questions, uses of the interview, how to access the event, when and how to get the final copy, other attendees, etc.
- Advisors and shoppers deserve payment for their participation as much as possible. It can be hard, humbling, embarrassing, painful, or any other kind of emotion to retell a story relating to hunger or poverty. Recognizing this, please build into any upcoming budgets ways to compensate participants for their time and energy when engaging in these opportunities. This includes transportation costs and child care costs.