FAMILY VISIONS INCORPORATED
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

POLICY: **ADVOCACY**		POLICY NO: FBC - 001
	DATE ISSUED: February 16, 2022	PREVIOUS POLICY DATE/NAME: N/A
APPROVED BY: Board of Directors	DISTRIBUTION: Board Policy	

DEFINITION:
Advocacy is the act of speaking out for a cause or course of action. The aim of advocacy is to influence decision-making at all levels of government and the creation of positive change or to preserve specific government programs for people and their environment. Advocacy can occur for oneself, another person, a group, or to change a system.

POLICY:
Family Visions Inc. Board of Directors may from time to time initiate and participate in advocacy on behalf of Family Visions Supported Individuals, staff or volunteers.

PROCEDURE:
With approval of FV Board, the Executive Director or designate(s) will prepare an advocacy statement/action which may include but is not limited to: background and history to provide context, statistics, budget estimates, public education, personal/individual stories, description of what changes could mean.

Steps to advocacy may include:

a. Phone and letter campaigns remain effective. Elected officials and their staff note the issues that generate the most letters and calls; they are a useful gauge of community support for and against an issue.
b. public presentation
c. be time sensitive (initiation & duration)
d. Take Five alert: On a single page, usually within a box, “Take Five” alerts provide brief facts and messages, and the information needed to contact a member of government by mail, email, or phone. This allows the participant to communicate the message in any form quickly and clearly.