

ACS CAN INFORMATION



ACS CAN: Making A Difference & Saving Lives



The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nation's leading voice advocating for public policies that are helping to defeat cancer. As the advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, ACS CAN works to encourage elected officials and candidates to make cancer a top national priority. ACS CAN utilizes its expert capacity in lobbying, policy, grassroots, and communications to amplify the voices of patients in support of laws and policies that save lives from cancer.

You CAN Be Empowered

Defeating cancer is as much a matter of public policy as scientific discovery. Lawmakers play a critical role in determining how much progress we make as a country to defeating cancer. ACS CAN gives a voice to those impacted by cancer as they encourage lawmakers at all levels of government to join the fight to make cancer a national priority. By raising issues of importance, raising funds, educating voters and rallying others to the fight against cancer, ACS CAN unites and empowers you to make a difference and help save lives. ACS CAN's work helps advance the Society's mission to defeat cancer by helping to protect and increase public investment in groundbreaking medical research, and by improving access nationwide to the latest prevention and early detection measures, treatments, and follow-up care that are proven to save lives. Like cancer itself, ACS CAN is nonpartisan. ACS CAN does not endorse candidates or political parties, but it does educate voters by serving as a trusted source of information about candidate positions on cancer-related concerns and on key issue campaigns across the country that impact those affected by cancer.

ACS CAN in Action

ACS CAN helps to save lives from cancer through involvement, influence and impact. Involvement – With a powerful grassroots movement of nearly a million strong and growing, ACS CAN ensures that the voices of patients, survivors and caregivers are heard in public policy debates in Congress and in state legislatures nationwide. Influence – ACS CAN supports proven measures that help save lives and mobilizes cancer advocates in every state and every congressional district nationwide to hold lawmakers accountable to their constituents for the decisions they make related to cancer research, prevention, early detection and treatment. Impact – ACS CAN's work has resulted in enormous progress through increased funding for cancer research and prevention programs; stronger tobacco control policies nationwide and improved access to the full range of cancer care for people diagnosed with the disease and their families



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What's the Difference?

The American Cancer Society and ACS CAN are independent organizations that share the same goal: to save lives and to diminish suffering from cancer. ACS and ACS CAN take different routes to meet these shared goals.

What ACS CAN does:	What the American Cancer Society does:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads a national grassroots movement of cancer survivors and their families to support policies that help fight cancer • Works with lawmakers from all political parties at all levels of government to make cancer a national priority • Joins with diverse stakeholder groups in public campaigns supporting our advocacy priorities • Educates the public, lawmakers, candidates, and the media about cancer issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds research • Provides cancer information to the public • Educates the public on cancer treatment, prevention, and early detection • Works in local communities to help cancer patients • Provides funding for advocacy and public policy work

Together we CAN defeat cancer



What is ACS CAN?

ACS CAN is the nation's leading advocate for public policies that are helping to defeat cancer. The organization ensures that cancer patients, survivors, and their families have a voice in public policy matters at all levels of government. As the American Cancer Society's advocacy affiliate, ACS CAN works to encourage elected officials and candidates to make cancer a top national priority.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the organization that will allow the voice of the cancer community to be heard. ACS CAN is a national grassroots movement of people just like you — cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and their families and friends — who are dedicated to changing laws and policies to help people fight cancer.

What are ACS CAN Volunteer Opportunities?

It Starts by Being an Advocate

Becoming an advocate is the first step in our volunteer structure. Being an advocate enables you to get involved with a minimal time commitment. Go to www.fightcancer.org to sign-up to receive a monthly online newsletter and periodic email action alerts.

Joining ACS CAN

Take the next step and join the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the American Cancer Society's nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate. By becoming an ACS CAN member and responding to action alerts, your unique story will make our message louder than just statistics. By joining ACS CAN, you enable ACS CAN to amplify our message and make it even louder still, ensuring that lawmakers understand they must make the fight against cancer a top priority.

To join ACS CAN today go to <http://www.fightcancer.org/donatecenter>

Contributions or membership payments to the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc. are not tax-deductible.

Supporting ACS CAN Fund Raising Efforts

Each state team has an ACS CAN fund raising goal. They work to achieve this goal through special events, such as research breakfasts and house parties. You are encouraged to participate or even consider hosting an event. We help with all the planning and make it easy!



Together we CAN defeat cancer

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Partnering with American Cancer Society Signature Events

- Relay For Life - Relay ACS CAN Chairs help Relayers “Fight Back” against cancer through advocacy ensuring that advocacy activities and legislative priorities are part of Relay For Life events and year-round meetings. Relay ACS CAN Chairs are also charged with recruiting new ACS CAN members. Special recognition is given to Relay events that achieve “ACS CAN Club” status by recruiting at least 40 members. Consider serving as the Relay ACS CAN Chair for your local event.
- Making Strides Against Breast Cancer– ACS CAN also has a presence at Making Strides events by recruiting ACS CAN members and collecting petitions at kick-off breakfasts and day-of-the event.

Becoming an ACT! Lead or County Advocacy Representative

Each Congressional District has an Ambassador Constituent Team Lead (ACT! Lead). These volunteers help manage our grassroots activities at the community level. ACT! Leads and County Advocacy Representatives help with ACS CAN recruitment, participate in Congressional Recess visits in their district, provide support for Advocacy at Relay For Life, give advocacy presentations and interact with the media. Each year, the ACT! Lead travels to Washington DC to participate in ACS CAN’s annual Lobby Day and Leadership Summit. Each state also has one State Lead Ambassador (SLA) who works closely with the ACT! Leads to help ensure they have the information and materials needed to be successful. The SLA is the top ranking Advocacy volunteer in each state. North Carolina currently needs volunteers to serve in these leadership positions.

How Do I Become Involved?

For more information about these opportunities, please contact your Massachusetts ACS CAN Grassroots Manager: Melissa Stacy, melissa.stacy@cancer.org, 508-834-4017

What issues does ACS CAN work on?

While ACS CAN's work has resulted in enormous progress, there is much more to be done in the fight against cancer. ACS CAN continues to advocate for: cancer research funding; strong smoke-free laws and higher tobacco taxes; lifesaving screening programs; access to quality, affordable health care; nutrition and physical activity.

Cancer Advocacy Accomplishments



The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's (ACS CAN) comprehensive advocacy efforts in **2017** resulted in numerous achievements benefiting people with cancer and their families.

More than
2.7 million
people will be covered by
new local smoke-free laws,

including restaurants and bars,
once all ordinances passed in
2017 are fully implemented.



ACS CAN helped secure

more than
\$2.4 billion
in appropriations

at the state and local level.



ACS CAN gained
more than

35,000
new members.



25,000
Lights of HOPE

illuminated the reflecting
pool in front of the Lincoln
Memorial as part of ACS
CAN's National Leadership
Summit and Lobby Day.



68
fundraising events

across the country highlighted
cancer research, access to care and the
importance of patient quality of life.



More than

650
cancer patients,
survivors, caregivers and staff

met with members of Congress and their staff
during ACS CAN's National Leadership Summit
and Lobby Day.



Congress approved a

\$2 billion increase

in medical research funding for the National Institutes of Health,

including \$475 million for the National Cancer Institute.



7 states

passed ACS CAN's model quality of life legislation, bringing the total to 20.



4,000

ACS CAN volunteers and staff attended

Day at the Capitol events

in all 50 states, Guam and Washington, D.C.



27 states

protected funding for their breast and cervical cancer screening programs.

