

Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law

JHPPL Call for Paper Proposals: Community Organizing, Power, and Politics

Co-Editors: Sarah Gollust, Jamila Michener, Megan Reynolds

Deadline(s): For proposals: May 15, 2026; for articles: September 1, 2026

The *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* invites proposal submissions for a special issue on “Community Organizing, Power, and Politics.” The health research community has increasingly been considering power—who has it, who does not—as a fundamental condition that shapes population health and health inequities in the United States. Community organizers have long used practices of power-building to achieve objectives to advance health, although their work has rarely been a direct focus of health research. Given retrenchment in health policy at the federal level, increasing evidence of the importance of local political units (e.g., county-level politics) on health outcomes, alongside the prominence of local organizing efforts to protect and promote community wellbeing drawing national attention in 2026 (e.g., Minneapolis), the time is ripe for dedicated attention to the role of power and the practices of community organizing in health policy and politics.

JHPPL invites submissions interrogating how community organizers have advanced change across broad topical areas encompassing health services and the structural determinants of health (e.g., tenant protections, medical debt relief, paid leave, Medicaid benefits). We are also interested in work that operationalizes power as a structural determinant of health (e.g., voting rights or restrictions, collective bargaining, incarceration rates) and examines health outcomes. We seek research that takes a broad view on organizing and power, addressing any or all of the multiple dimensions of power (i.e., Lukes 2005) to address the *visible* power dynamics of policy decision-making, the *invisible* work to shape the political agenda, and the *hidden* aspects of narrative change to shift worldviews that facilitate or constrain political realities. In turn, we are interested in work that addresses both how power might be built or how it might be broken (Michener 2022) to advance community and population health. Research that examines how the academic community has organized themselves in response to external threats related to health and science are also welcome.

We seek submissions using all methodological approaches and from multiple disciplinary orientations, including political science, health policy, public health, communication, sociology, anthropology, and law, and we particularly invite contributions from community members,

community organizers, and community-engaged researchers.

We are interested in proposals for submissions within two categories:

- Commentaries (with or without empirical data, can include personal accounts and narratives) (full manuscripts will be <4000 words)
- Full empirical research articles (any methodology) (full manuscripts will be <9000 words)

Submission instructions

The special issue process will proceed in **two stages**. Proposals describing the manuscript should be submitted by May 15, 2026. Proposals for empirical research articles should be submitted as a structured abstract with the following sections: Authors and Affiliations, Research Objective(s), Motivation/Theory, Research Design, Preliminary Results, and Implications. Proposals for commentaries do not need to be structured. **All proposals, whether for research articles or commentaries, have a limit of 500 words.**

The special issue co-editors will review all submissions and extend invitations for full papers by June 1st. Invited submissions will be due by September 1, 2026.

Submit paper proposals via email to Jed Cohen, *JHPPL*'s managing editor, at jhpppl-editor@dukeupress.edu. Please put "Community Organizing, Power, and Politics" in the subject line.