

Who we are

Training and Consulting that works for Progressive Organizations

Midwest Academy is a leading national training institute for the progressive movement. The Academy advances the movements for social change by teaching a strategic, rigorous, results-oriented approach to social action and organization building. The Academy provides training (introductory and advanced level) and consulting, equipping organizers, leaders, and their organizations to think and act strategically to win justice for all.

Some of the organizations that have used our services are:

- USAction • American Cancer Society • Sierra Club • Clean Water Action • Smokeless States Project • Alliance for Justice
- US Student Association • National Wildlife Assn • National Assembly for School Based Health Care • New Jersey Citizen Action • California Independent Living Council • United American Nurses • Colorado Environmental Coalition • Union of Concerned Scientists • NAACP Voter Fund • CASA • Brady Campaign/Million Mom March • Wisconsin Citizen Action
- and numerous other national, state and local organizations.



Contact us

For more information about Midwest Academy, visit our website, www.midwestacademy.com or contact us at:
27 E. Monroe. 11th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
Ph: 312.427.2304
Email: info@midwestacademy.com

The Sierra Club provides opportunities for our field staff to get trained by Midwest Academy. . . there is no better training opportunity to learn the craft of organizing than Midwest Academy.

— Bob Bingaman,
Sierra Club National Field Director

The Midwest Academy is where Citizen Action/Illinois sends all of our organizers to be trained. The Midwest Academy has a long track record of giving organizers the tools they need to be effective and dynamic community leaders of winning campaigns.

— Lynda DeLaForgue and
William McNary, Co-Directors
of Citizen Action/Illinois

People power can still trump the power of big money. Midwest Academy will teach you how to organize that power.

— U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky
Midwest Academy Alumna

MIDWEST ACADEMY

POWER STRATEGY LEADERSHIP ORGANIZING



Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and never will.

—Fredrick Douglass

MIDWEST ACADEMY

What we do

“Organizing for Social Change” Training

This is Midwest Academy’s signature 5 day training. Progressives from a wide variety of organizations and varying years of experience attend “Organizing for Social Change” trainings and it changes their lives. They live and work together for five days and walk away with a new understanding of how to win power. Midwest Academy goes beyond teaching the hard skills and actually teaches progressives how to think and act strategically and organizationally.



2010 Training Dates

Date	Training	Location
March 8-12	Organizing for Social Change	Chicago
March 24-26	Supervisors of Organizers Workshop	NYC
May 17-21	Organizing for Social Change	California
July 14-16	Supervisors of Organizers Workshop	Chicago
Aug 16-20	Organizing for Social Change	Chicago
Oct 11-15	Organizing for Social Change	Chicago
Nov 15-19	Organizing for Social Change	DC/Baltimore
Dec 1-3	Supervisors of Organizers Workshop	Chicago

For information on training dates, registration and consulting services go to www.midwestacademy.com or call 312-427-2304

Strategic Planning and Consulting Services

- Long Term Strategic Planning
- Issue Campaign Strategies
- Civic Engagement Strategies (Non-Partisan Voter Registration & Get out the Vote)
- Volunteer and Board Development
- Evaluation/Development of Field Structures and Organizing Campaigns
- Staff Development
- Executive Director Coaching

Topics Covered Include (but not limited to)

- Understanding Relations of Power
- Choosing Issues
- Developing Strategy
- Building & Maintaining Coalitions
- Recruiting New Members
- Leadership Development
- Holding Elected Officials Accountable
- Developing Message and Media
- Social Change Movements

Consulting and Strategy

Because Midwest Academy’s organizing training is comprehensive, organizations occasionally sign-on for five-day trainings and discover strengths and weaknesses they didn’t even know they had. For organizational development issues that cannot be fixed overnight, Midwest Academy develops ongoing consulting relationships. Organizations that need help developing issue campaigns, civic participation programs, strategic plans, and board and staff retreats contract with Midwest Academy. The Strategic Consulting of Midwest Academy strengthens investments that have already been made in progressive organizations by professionalizing their work and dramatically increasing their capacity.

Support Midwest Academy

It’s easy to make a gift online at www.midwestacademy.com

Supervisors Workshop

Good supervision develops good organizers. This program is for supervisors who want to develop good staff by raising their organizing work to the next level. The Supervisors of Organizers workshop gives supervisors a chance to step back from the missing time sheets and meetings-on-the-run in order to see and understand supervision as the major and most consistent form of training that their organizers receive. Investing in the training of competent supervisors is a critical piece in the infrastructure of an effective organizing community.



Midwest Academy Internship Program

The ten-week Summer Internship Program begins with a version of the “Organizing for Social Change” curriculum tailored to the specific issue campaign on which interns will work. Midwest Academy then places the interns in host organizations to facilitate their ongoing learning. The program provides participants with hands-on experience in direct action organizing while providing progressive organizations with skilled young organizers. Midwest Academy’s experienced staff members serve as mentors to provide support and advice throughout the internship and job search assistance upon graduation.