



Idaho Nonprofit Center Policy Agenda 2023

Statement of Purpose/Goals

- Raise the profile of the nonprofit sector by creating a voice for INC members on public policy issues.
- Educate nonprofit organizations and legislators on public policy issues that affect the nonprofit sector as a whole, their rights and responsibilities as advocates, and the skills needed to effectively engage in advocacy.
- Build a representative body of nonprofits organizations where diverse viewpoints are represented and engaged in public policy debates on issues that affect the sector as a whole.
- Enable INC members to weigh in on significant state and national policy issues through advocacy and lobbying as needed (within limits set for charitable nonprofits by the IRS)
- Increase the ability of nonprofits to carry out their mission by collectively advocating for policies that are good for the majority of organizations and make it less burdensome for nonprofits to raise funds and deliver services while also maintaining high levels of transparency and public trust

Issue Areas

- **Nonprofit & Government Relations**
Improve, strengthen, and support the interface between Idaho nonprofits and state and federal government agencies and processes.
- **Building Public Trust, Transparency, and Accountability**
Enhance the ability of Idaho nonprofits to function at the highest levels of integrity, efficiency, and transparency and be accountable to the public they serve. As such, maintaining the proper balance between protecting and informing the public and preventing excessive and disruptive regulatory burdens is a priority.
- **Charitable Giving Incentives and the Tax Code**
Preserve and enhance the ability of nonprofits to raise needed funds in Idaho by increasing tax code incentives at both state and federal level to encourage Idahoans to donate to charitable organizations.

This includes promoting and advancing policies that preserve the tax exemption of nonprofit organizations.

- **Budget Appropriations – Maintaining & Enhancing Federal and State Resources for Nonprofits**
Preserve and enhance the ability of nonprofits to access federal and state resources including, pass through dollars, federal grants, state grants, and contracts/fee for services. Included in this is advocacy for fair and timely reimbursement rates for services nonprofits provide as part of grants and contracts. The Center also advocates for transparency around available federal/state grants contracts that nonprofits can apply or compete for.
- **Workforce Development, Employee Recruitment and Retention**
Expand and strengthen incentives for people to enter the nonprofit workforce as professional staff or volunteers. Reduce and advocate for reduction of burdensome regulations/policies that hinder nonprofit effectiveness or efficiency.
- **Nonprofit Advocacy and Lobbying Rights**
Preserve the advocacy and lobbying rights of all nonprofit/exempt organizations as defined by current IRS regulations and strengthen the ability of Idaho nonprofits to engage and educate elected officials about.
- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) and 'ALICE' (Asset, Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Issues**
Support or engage in nonprofit sub-sector issues (e.g. childcare, housing, etc) which are central to the quality of life in Idaho communities, especially as it relates to core issues like housing and food security. Most human services nonprofits support clients who fall into the 'ALICE' demographic.

Likewise, the INC advocates for diversity, equity, and inclusion within nonprofit organizations and the communities they serve.

INC Policy Criteria

The INC will **track** and **educate** on policy and legislation that:

- Impacts nonprofits in the above policy issue areas in a significant way.
- Have statewide application or effect; Or local or limited application but are determined to have statewide policy significance.
- Have general relevance to the creation, management, operation, administration or well being of nonprofits in Idaho
Or
Have broad, communitywide importance, and are likely to have a significant impact on people and causes nonprofits serve such that it is appropriate for the voice of the nonprofit sector to be represented in the policy debate.

The INC will **track, educate, and advocate for or against** on policy and legislation that/with:

- Evidence is provided via membership that the policy/legislation in question would be significantly damaging/helpful to a majority of the INC nonprofit membership
- Significantly puts at risk the ability of nonprofits as a sector or in a substantial subsector (e.g. housing) to carry out their missions/services effectively
- Significantly affects nonprofit's ability to attract and retain workers or volunteers

- Significantly affects nonprofit's ability to attract or raise financial resources
- Does not significantly impact the INCs ability to be seen as a nonpartisan organization or compromise its reputation as a credible voice of the sector

Process

- INC staff, under guidance of the CEO have broad authority to **track** and **educate** on policy and legislation that corresponds to the above policy areas.
- The INC policy committee – are responsible for determining if a stance of: **Advocate for or against** a piece of policy/legislation via:
 - Full board approves general INC Policy Agenda
 - Staff brings a recommended position forward to the committee (electronically or in person)
 - Advocacy Committee votes (super majority – 2/3) to advocate *for or against*
 - Note: For efficiency sake, not every bill that the INC takes a formal position on needs a committee vote as the committee may offer blanket authority to advocate for or against certain types of bills that may come up repeatedly in a legislative session or in each chamber of the legislature, etc.