

**Massachusetts Nonprofit Network
Public Policy Statement of Principles**

Adopted 5/10/07

The Massachusetts Nonprofit Network (MNN), grounded in a framework of promoting civil society, believes that public policy formulation and participation is essential to achieve the missions of many of our state's nonprofits. MNN believes that nonprofits must assume an essential leadership role with our federal and state policymakers and those that influence policy to affect a fair, just and civil society. While MNN will develop an agenda formulated with the input of the nonprofit sector toward advancing our collective roles, it will also seek to encourage civic engagement and educate and develop advocacy leadership within the sector. Toward the promotion of an enlightened, engaged and progressive agenda for change, the public policy agenda of MNN will be framed within this statement of principles:

MNN believes that building public policy participation of the state's nonprofits is a cornerstone of our mission. We will build organizations capacity through education, modeling and technical support to the sector's nonprofits.

MNN's public policy agenda will be grounded in empirical data and critical research. MNN's research agenda will strive to educate and strengthen the sector, foster introspection in the sector and enable nonprofits to strive towards excellence in service of community. It will also seek to strengthen the understanding and appreciation of the sector in our everyday life and the state's economy.

MNN believes federal and state tax policy should recognize the critical role that nonprofits play in strengthening local communities. The state and federal tax systems should seek to provide adequate resources, collected in a fair and efficient manner, for services that build strong and healthy communities. To that end, MNN will promote policies that serve to strengthen nonprofits and protect our constituencies.

MNN recognizes that effective governance and accountability practices are not only concerned with compliance, but also lift the sector toward greater effectiveness. Appropriately recognizing the value of nonprofits MNN will promote standards of excellence in ethics, governance and accountability.

MNN polices and actions will be developed to support the greater good of all nonprofits in the sector, taking care to encourage collaboration and ensuring the autonomy of different sub-sectors.

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