



2017 – 2018 MNN PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

The Massachusetts Nonprofit Network (MNN) is the voice of the Commonwealth’s nonprofit community and the only statewide organization bringing together all parts of the nonprofit ecosystem—organizations, funders, community and business leaders, and elected and appointed officials—to strengthen the capacity of the sector. MNN believes that strong nonprofits build strong communities. Critical to MNN’s mission is a robust public policy agenda focused on the following four issue areas that impact the entire nonprofit sector:

STRENGTHENING NONPROFIT AND GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Nonprofits are a cornerstone of our communities. They provide a critical social safety net and improve our quality of life, often in close partnership with government. MNN is committed to strengthening nonprofit and government collaboration, educating policymakers about the breadth and economic significance of the nonprofit sector, and ensuring that nonprofits have a voice at the table. Specifically MNN supports:

- Simplifying and streamlining procedures related to government grants and contracts.
- Improving collaboration and coordination across the nonprofit, public, and private sectors.
- Enhancing the stability and sustainability of state funding through long-term funding continuity and full and timely payment for services provided, including indirect and administrative costs.

ENSURING FAIR TAX POLICY AND SUPPORTING ACCOUNTABILITY

Nonprofit organizations serve the public interest and advance the common good. Sound tax policy is critical to the success of nonprofits and the quality of life in the Commonwealth. MNN is committed to preserving the tax-exempt status of nonprofits, expanding incentives to contribute, and supporting policies that promote transparency and accountability, preserving the public trust. Specifically MNN supports:

- Protecting the nonprofit tax-exempt status and educating decision-makers on the community benefits that nonprofits provide.
- Protecting the federal charitable tax deduction and re-establishing the state charitable deduction.
- Strengthening and expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).
- Preserving the integrity of the sector by promoting best practices for nonprofit fiscal management.



ENCOURAGING INNOVATION AND TALENT

The work of the nonprofit sector impacts every resident of Massachusetts. The Commonwealth's more than 33,000 nonprofits are a critical economic engine generating more than 500,000 jobs and employing 17% of the state's workforce. MNN is committed to strengthening the sector and solidifying its position as a social innovation leader by investing in knowledge and resources that advance promising ideas and proven solutions. Specifically, MNN supports:

- Promoting job creation efforts, including work on employment issues that impact the business operations of nonprofits.
- Exploring and expanding results-driven funding models.
- Promoting and supporting student loan forgiveness efforts.
- Ensuring the implementation of the Massachusetts nonprofit retirement program.

INCREASING PHILANTHROPY, VOLUNTEERISM, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Civic engagement is the lifeblood of the nonprofit sector. MNN supports policies that encourage citizen participation through voting, philanthropy, and volunteerism. Specifically, MNN supports:

- Expanding nonpartisan efforts to promote democracy, civic participation, and voting.
- Promoting volunteerism and the hiring of nonprofit workers through the streamlining of fingerprinting and background checks.
- Promoting and strengthening collaborations and relationships between the nonprofit and philanthropic communities.
- Promoting individual giving by advancing ideas that facilitate and maximize the impact of individual contributions.