



PUBLIC POLICY FRAMEWORK

AZ Impact for Good—formerly the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits + Arizona Grantmakers Forum, which merged in 2022—is a trusted statewide resource and nonpartisan advocate for the state’s nonprofit and philanthropy communities. AZIFG envisions a vibrant and equitable Arizona where all people and living things thrive. Its mission is to unite nonprofits and philanthropy to transform Arizona through education, advocacy and innovation. The organization serves more than 1,000 member organizations across the state and advocates for public policy issues that advance the nonprofit and philanthropic sector and the people and communities it serves. For more information, visit www.azimpactforgood.org.

Criteria for Implementing Advocacy and Public Policy

AZ Impact for Good will be guided by its mission, vision and values in all public policy decision making. The AZIFG Policy Council will use the following criteria in developing AZIFG’s annual public policy agenda, and in considering whether the organization should engage in policy advocacy on a particular issue:

Impact

Does the issue positively or negatively affect the interests of the nonprofit and philanthropic sector and the people and communities it serves? Does the issue complement, enhance or discourage philanthropic giving?

Support

Does the position to be taken elicit broad support among AZIFG members?

Standing

Would AZIFG be perceived as a legitimately concerned and appropriate stakeholder for the position to be taken? Would AZIFG members’ collective experience, knowledge and voice inform the public policy discussion and foster constructive action?

Equity and Inclusion

Does the issue reflect the values and perspectives of a broad diversity of community members, particularly those who face historical underrepresentation or marginalization?

Statement of Policies and Procedures

I. AZIFG may take positions on legislative or other public policy issues that:

1. Have statewide application or effect, or
2. Have local or limited application but are determined to have statewide policy significance, or are precedent-setting for the entire nonprofit and philanthropic sector and the people and communities it serves, or that disproportionately impact a marginalized or underrepresented segment of the community;

and

1. Have general relevance to the creation, management, operation, administration and well-being of Arizona nonprofit and philanthropic organizations, or
 2. Are of broad, community-wide importance, and are likely to have such a significant impact on the people and causes nonprofits serve that it is appropriate for the nonprofit and philanthropic sector's voice to be represented in the policy debate.
- II. Except as noted in I. above, AZIFG should avoid taking positions on legislation or other public policy issues that are limited in application to a particular subsector (i.e., education, human services, arts, etc.) of the nonprofit and philanthropic sector.
 - III. Should AZIFG decide not to take a position on a particular issue, it may provide legislative monitoring and updates to members on the status of the issue.
 - IV. In cases where it appears there is not reasonable consensus among AZIFG members on a policy position on a significant issue affecting nonprofits and/or philanthropy, AZIFG may play a role in providing information to both members and legislators on the various opinions within the sector.
 - V. AZIFG's role in supporting nonprofit and philanthropic organizations in their advocacy activities on particular subsector issues may include: providing technical assistance and consultation, training in nonpartisan voter engagement, lobbying and advocacy skills, training in lobbying laws and regulations, convening nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to discuss and strategize around issues of broad (but not sector-wide) significance, and creating opportunities for nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to discuss these issues with their legislators.

AZ Impact for Good's Role in Advocacy and Public Policy:

AZIFG will review public policy matters and determine whether and how deeply to engage. In each case, AZIFG will evaluate whether it will:

- I. Lead the nonprofit and philanthropic community in a public policy matter.
- II. Participate in coalitions with other entities or organizations to engage on a public policy matter.

- III. Remain neutral or take no position on a public policy matter.
- IV. Share information regarding public policy matters with members, partners and the public, but take no formal position on the matter.
- V. Monitor a public policy matter internally to be prepared to engage if necessary.

On federal policy issues, AZIFG will work to educate its members about issues relevant to the sector and collaborate as needed with national organizations including the National Council of Nonprofits, United Philanthropy Forum, the Council on Foundations, Independent Sector and other organizations as appropriate.

Public Policy Review Process

The AZIFG Policy Council will develop a proposed annual public policy agenda for review and approval by the board of directors. Public policy matters may be suggested for inclusion in the public policy agenda by the Policy Council, AZIFG board or staff, or AZIFG members. When a public policy matter is proposed for discussion, the review process will generally proceed as follows:

- I. The Policy Council, chief public policy officer and staff will gather data and information, including from speakers or testimonials, and discuss the matter at a regular Policy Council meeting. If the Policy Council recommends AZIFG take a position on the matter, staff will prepare a draft position statement for the board. The Policy Council should also recommend AZIFG's level of engagement in advocating for that position.
- II. AZIFG staff will present the Policy Council recommendation and position statement to the board for discussion and approval. The board will also determine AZIFG's level of engagement on the matter. During this conversation, the board will consider the organization's capacity to participate on the issue, including staff and volunteer time, expenses and political capital used.
- III. If the board approves a formal position statement, staff will share the final statement publicly and execute the plan for engagement. If the matter is a long-term issue, it will be included in the next annual public policy agenda.
- IV. Public policy matters already included in the approved public policy agenda are considered "pre-approved" and the chief public policy officer and CEO can act without additional approval but will report back to the Policy Council and board.
- V. Some matters that are not included in the annual public policy agenda may arise quickly and require an almost immediate response. In these cases, the chief public policy officer and CEO will work with the Policy Council chair and/or co-vice chairs, as well as the AZIFG board chair, to develop a response and execute an appropriate strategy. The Policy Council and/or board will receive information via email or reports at the next meeting(s).

Approved by the board of directors on December 6, 2023.