



2010

Cross-Sector Legislative Agenda

With over 500 members, Connecticut Association of Nonprofits is the largest membership organization in the state dedicated exclusively to nonprofits. Collectively, nonprofits employ 11% of the state's workforce and serve tens of thousands of residents annually. Whether it be by saving a life, keeping a family together, instilling hope through art, protecting the environment or giving someone a chance to be independent, nonprofits play a vital role in peoples' lives. Our members are dedicated to strengthening Connecticut's communities and improving the quality of life for countless individuals and families. An investment in nonprofits is an investment in Connecticut's well-being.

When Connecticut needs us most, this is what we need to be there for Connecticut...

Priority #1 – Sustainability

- **Authorize adequate funding to maintain current services.** Nonprofits that contract with the state to provide health and human services on its behalf are critical to meeting the needs of Connecticut's residents. We have been faced with increases in both the demand for service and the cost of service, multiple rounds of rescissions and budget cuts and dramatic increases in healthcare costs. Nonprofits have not received a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) since July 2007, while the twenty year average stands at 1%. Nonprofits are partners with the state and should both be held accountable for results and paid realistically based on the cost of the service.
- **Provide bonding funds to address the aging infrastructure of many nonprofits.** Providers rely on state bonding to make capital repairs and renovations to ensure the health and safety of those being served.
- **Expand low interest loan funds.** The expansion of low interest loan funds to all nonprofits that provide health and human services on the state's behalf are crucial to compensate for the stress placed on provider infrastructure by the dramatic rise in service demand. The state can utilize the format established by the Department of Developmental Services and should expand the scope of the loan to include mortgages, capital improvements and working capital.
- **Eliminate unfunded mandates.** Unfunded mandates and other burdensome administrative and programmatic practices result in underfunded programs that reduce the economic viability of nonprofit services.

Priority #2 – Long-Term Solutions through Meaningful Reform

- **Create a Cabinet to address long-term funding solutions for nonprofit providers.** A meaningful, long-term solution that ensures consistent, adequate funding is essential for nonprofits to support Connecticut residents and ensure the highest quality of life. The Cabinet must include representation by nonprofits and members of both the Legislative & Executive Branches to help facilitate a collective solution to the critical strategic issues that affect all of us.
- **Maximize federal revenue.** The state should explore and maximize all methods for generating federal funds for services currently paid for with 100% state funds.
- **Expand and enhance state revenues.** State revenues—taxes, fees and other income — are the collective investments we make to support our communities and maintain the high quality of life we all expect and enjoy. Connecticut's tax burden falls disproportionately on the middle- and lower-classes. A truly progressive income tax should be adopted and costly tax loopholes for wealthy individuals and large businesses should be fixed.
- **Revise the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA)** to permit greater utilization by both nonprofits and businesses. The NAA gives tax credits against specified business taxes for investments in local community service activities and programs.

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