



# 10 Ways Foundations Can Work with the Public Sector

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Connecticut Council for Philanthropy

*Foundations and state and local governments have a long history of working together and a common goal of supporting the quality of life in their communities. Foundations are not simply potential donors but rather potential partners in making public policy. Initiatives and results can provide visibility for both partners.*

1. Foundations have knowledge and experience on many issues that also interest government or the public sector
2. Foundations can support nonpartisan analysis, study and research, providing an independent and objective review of a public issue
3. State and local government and foundations can leverage impact by aligning financial resources and avoiding duplication and conflict
4. Foundations can be neutral conveners
5. Foundations can support and provide technical assistance to state and local policy leaders
6. Foundations can help states measure and evaluate impact and results
7. Foundations can provide training for public leadership and skills development
8. When, because of their position or politics government administrators cannot speak, foundation professionals and trustees can speak for them
9. Foundations can help in developing strategies for systemic change
10. Foundations can complement new policy initiatives by supporting valuable community services