

Advocacy and Public Policy Decision-making Framework

The Connecticut Council for Philanthropy will engage in public policy advocacy as one strategy toward its mission of organizing, inspiring, and equipping a community of funders to learn, collaborate, and lead together for sustained impact and social change. This advocacy work will include a spectrum of activities, including: convening, education, communications, public policy development, and lobbying.

CCP will decide which public policy issues to pursue and the organization's level of engagement by using the following criteria and decision-making process. This decision-making process aims to: bolster the organization's ability to coordinate action in support of advocacy that advances organizational mission, values, and strategic priorities*; maintain and enhance the organization's reputation among members and partners; and identify high-impact opportunities for the organization's finite advocacy resources.

General areas for the CT Council for Philanthropy's policy agenda include:

1. Issues that impact the sector of philanthropy;
2. Issues that impact the nonprofit sector;
3. Issues that provide an opportunity to advance public-private partnerships in alignment with strategic priorities, organizational mission and values; and,
4. Issues that provide an opportunity to advance strategic priorities, organizational mission and values in alignment with member interest.

In addition to developing its own agenda, the CT Council for Philanthropy will provide platforms for its members to develop shared public policy goals and support their work with logistical support, information, and expertise.

CT Council for Philanthropy Advocacy Policy Decision-making Process

For public policy advocacy

Annually, an advocacy agenda will be set. The organization will identify policy opportunities. Member organizations will be asked for input through a survey. A draft policy agenda, including issues and levels of engagement, will be developed by the President and reviewed by a new ad-hoc policy advisory committee comprised of at least 5 members with relevant expertise. An approved agenda will be shared with the board and members.

The President and ad-hoc policy advisory committee will rely on the following criteria to guide their assessment and decision making, including which issues to add to an annual agenda and at what level of engagement:

1. Is this opportunity strongly aligned with our mission and strategic priorities?
2. Does this opportunity align with our members' priorities?
3. Have members indicated support for this policy issue?
4. Do we have internal or member expertise to inform work & make critical decisions?
5. Are we uniquely positioned to lead? To support? To educate?
6. Is the issue controversial among our members? Is the issue controversial among our partners?
7. Is this opportunity politically viable or likely to be politically viable in the next five years?

For public statements and testimony, lobbying, joint letters, and media advocacy

President reviews the request. The President may take the following actions after reviewing:

- Declines if it does not meet decision-making criteria.
- Approves if it meets decision-making criteria and is not controversial among members or highly visible issue.
- Reviews with Executive Committee if it meets decision-making criteria and is controversial or highly visible. The President decides with the Executive Committee. This decision is reported to the Board of Directors at its next meeting.

Mission, Vision, Values and Strategic Priorities*

Mission: The Connecticut Council for Philanthropy organizes, inspires, and equips a community of funders to learn, collaborate, and lead together for sustained impact and social change.

Values: Community and lived experience • humility, equity and diversity • courage • transparency • accountability • bias toward action

Strategic Priorities:

- Cultivate and advance an awareness of and commitment to equity, particularly racial equity, as an essential component of effective philanthropic practice
- Sustain and deepen member engagement by offering resources to foster relationships across our sector and improve and strengthen philanthropic practice.
- Harness the collective leadership of our members and engage in strategic advocacy for policy aligned with our mission, nonprofit and community partners.
- Build and sustain CCP's organizational capacity to support an ambitious workplan toward these new strategic priorities.