

## **Nonprofit Public Policy Cabinet Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the NH Center for Nonprofits' Role in Nonprofit Public Policy?**

The NH Center for Nonprofits, in partnership with nonprofits across the state, is working to unite the sector in an effort to create a focused single voice to address policy issues which impact all nonprofits. Our goal is to ensure that the nonprofit sector is widely visible, its important role understood and leaders of the sector are seated at policy tables where matters affecting nonprofits are discussed and decisions are made. We will convene leaders on key issues impacting the sector, provide information and lobby, as appropriate. We will also provide advocacy educational trainings

### **With so many issues, how will the Center decide what issues to address?**

The Center will look to its newly formed Public Policy Cabinet as an advisory group for feedback on key issues and then the Board of the Center will determine the Center's top priorities. NH nonprofit leaders from all disciplines are welcome to join the Cabinet. The Public Policy Cabinet will be critical in helping the Center develop its public policy agenda. It also serves as a place for nonprofit leaders to learn of impending challenges and opportunities. It is the Center's primary forum for public policy idea development and discussion.

### **What is the purpose of the Public Policy Cabinet?**

The Public Policy Cabinet is integral to building the united and strong voice of the sector. Its charge is to think, on a sector-wide basis, about where change is needed, where we want to prevent harm to the sector, public policy goals for the sector, and to strategize about how the Center can achieve those public policy goals. The Center relies on the Cabinet for opinions and advice on public policy issues affecting the nonprofit sector as a whole.

### **What are the long-term expectations of the Public Policy Cabinet?**

The Public Policy Cabinet will be part of the Center's effort to unite and organize the sector to be able to move proactively on policy issues which impact all nonprofits. Our goal is that as the Cabinet develops, the nonprofit sector will have a strong voice at the State House and all government agencies and that it will be well known by elected officials. And within a short time we aim to make the Public Policy Cabinet be the go-to group whenever legislation affecting the nonprofit sector is proposed.

### **What does the Public Policy Cabinet do?**

Annually the Public Policy Cabinet develops and discusses public policy issues to recommend as priorities for the Center's Board of Directors. The Public Policy Cabinet shares information, insights and advice on public policy issues, strategizes approaches to and analyzes progress on issues of concern. The Center will count on the Public Policy Cabinet to mobilize support for public policy initiatives at key times, with the goal of finding group solutions to group problems.

### **How often does the Public Policy Cabinet meet?**

The Public Policy Cabinet will meet every other month, or as needed, depending on what is going on in the social and political environment.

### **Why should you be involved?**

The nonprofit sector needs you! Group problems demand group solutions and more thought and analysis from across the nonprofit sector will lead to better solutions. The more information, insights, and interests we exchange, the richer will be our joint input on public policy issues of interest to the sector. We all need to know what we all think is important. We need a choir to raise our voices loud enough to be heard in the public policy arena. We need the strength of an army to make our presence known and felt. We can't play a symphony without an orchestra. We need each and every one of you to help unify and raise the voice of the sector in the public policy arena.

### **Who may participate in the Public Policy Cabinet?**

The Public Policy Cabinet welcomes your participation to help represent the nonprofit sector as a whole. Not-yet-members of the Center may attend a Public Policy cabinet meeting to learn more about it. Because the Center works in partnership with our members, to honor that partnership, we ask that after attending one such meeting, a not-yet-member join the Center in order to attend additional meetings. Lobbyists or government relations advisors, attending on behalf of nonprofit clients(s) who are members, will be able to participate in the Public Policy Cabinet. In addition, the NH Department of Justice, Charitable Trusts Division attorneys are always welcome as guests and resources.