



## **PUBLIC POLICY FRAMEWORK**

AZ Impact for Good formed in 2022 with the merger of the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits and Arizona Grantmakers Forum. Its mission is to unite nonprofits and philanthropy to transform Arizona through education, advocacy and innovation. AZIFG envisions a vibrant and equitable Arizona where all people and living things thrive. AZIFG is a trusted statewide resource and nonpartisan advocate for the state’s nonprofit and philanthropy communities. The organization serves approximately 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](http://www.azimpactforgood.org).

In this document, the term “sector” refers to the nonprofit and philanthropic sector.

### **Criteria for Implementing Advocacy and Public Policy**

AZIFG will be guided by its mission, vision and values in all public policy decision making. The AZIFG Policy Council will consider the following criteria in developing AZIFG’s annual public policy agenda, and in considering whether the organization should take a position on a particular issue:

#### **Impact**

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

#### **Support**

Does the position elicit broad support among AZIFG members?

#### **Standing**

Would AZIFG be perceived as a legitimately concerned and appropriate stakeholder for the position being considered? 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 would set a precedent for the entire 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 AZIFG's voice to be represented in the policy debate.
- II. Except as noted in I. above, AZIFG will avoid taking positions on legislation or other public policy issues that are limited in application to a particular nonprofit subsector (i.e., education, human services, arts, etc.).
- III. Should AZIFG decide not to take a position on an issue, it may monitor and update members on its status.
- IV. If reasonable consensus does not exist among AZIFG members on a significant policy position, AZIFG may share the various opinions within the sector with members and legislators.
- V. AZIFG's role in supporting nonprofit and philanthropic organizations in their advocacy activities on subsector issues may include providing technical assistance and consultation, training in nonpartisan voter engagement, lobbying and advocacy skills, and lobbying laws and regulations. AZIFG may also convene nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to discuss and strategize around issues of broad (but not sector-wide) significance and create 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 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.
- V. Monitor a public policy matter internally to be prepared to engage if necessary.

On federal policy issues relevant to the sector, AZIFG will educate its members 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 the board of directors' review and approval. 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, the chief public policy officer 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. The Policy Council chair and chief public policy officer will present the Policy Council's recommendation and position statement to the board for discussion and approval. The board will also determine AZIFG's level of engagement. The board will consider the organization's capacity to participate in the issue, including staff and volunteer time, expenses, and political capital used.
- III. If the board approves a 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 chief executive officer can act without additional approval. They will report back to the Policy Council and board on any actions taken.
- 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 leadership, 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 11, 2024.