



Criteria for Implementing Advocacy and Public Policy

The following criteria will be used by the Public Policy Council in considering whether MNA should engage in policy advocacy on a particular issue:

Impact:

Does this issue affect the interests of the nonprofit sector in a significant way?

Support:

Is there, or do we reasonably anticipate there will be, a general support among the members of MNA on the position to be taken?

Credibility:

Would MNA as an organization be perceived as a legitimately concerned and appropriate advocate for the position to be taken?

Statement of Policies and Procedures:

- I. The Montana Nonprofit Association (MNA) may take and implement appropriate organizational positions on legislative or other public policy issues which:
 1. Have statewide application or effect; or
 2. Have local or limited application but are determined to have statewide policy significance;

and

 1. Have general relevance to the creation, management, operation, administration and well-being of nonprofit organizations in the State of Montana, 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 the voice of the nonprofit sector to be represented in the policy debate.
- II. Except as noted in I. above, MNA should not take or implement positions on legislation or other public policy issues which are limited in application to a particular subject matter (i.e., education, human services, arts, etc.) of the nonprofit sector.
- III. Should MNA decide not to take a position on a particular issue, it may, nevertheless, provide limited legislative monitoring and updates to members on the status of the issue.

- IV. In cases where there is not agreement among MNA members on a policy position on a significant issue affecting nonprofits, MNA may play a role in providing information to both members and legislators on the various opinions within the sector.
- V. MNA's role in supporting nonprofit organizations in **their** advocacy activities on particular sub-sector issues may include: technical assistance and consultation, training in generic lobbying and advocacy skills, training in lobbying laws and regulations, convening nonprofit organizations to discuss and strategize around issues of broad (but not sector-wide) significance, and creating opportunities for nonprofit organizations to discuss these issues with their legislators.
- VI. Public policy positions shall be consistent with the mission of the MNA and with policies and objectives approved by the Board of Directors, including the long-term Public Policy Agenda, the Legislative Priorities, prior positions taken in the name of MNA, and other policies of the Board regarding advocacy and public policy.

Adopted February 16, 2005 by MNA Board of Directors