



ARIZONA GRANTMAKERS FORUM

Public Policy Agenda 2016

Arizona Grantmakers Forum is the regional association of grantmakers serving Arizona. Created in 1986, **AGF's mission is to empower our members to transform Arizona through leadership and meaningful philanthropy.** We build and maintain relationships with public policymakers and other stakeholders to enhance their knowledge, understanding and support of the philanthropic sector and the communities we serve.

We support public policies that contribute to a sound economy, promote economic well-being and quality of life for all residents, protect vulnerable populations and encourage civic engagement. And while Arizona's philanthropic sector invests significant resources to improve our communities, our role is to *supplement* and not *supplant* state and local funding for education and human services. In that spirit, AGF encourages policymakers to engage philanthropic leaders and grantmakers as partners in addressing public policy issues.

The following policy principles guide our leadership in the public policy arena:

- AGF favors public policies that promote philanthropy, encourage charitable giving and advance the nonprofit sector
- AGF supports legislative and regulatory policies that enhance the ability of philanthropies to carry out their charitable activities
- AGF supports reasonable and effective public accountability of the philanthropic sector

2016 Policy Priorities

AGF's public policy agenda was informed in part by ongoing discussions among member grantmaking organizations and the nonprofit organizations they fund, and reflects issues we anticipate state lawmakers will likely consider in 2016.

Priority 1: Stewardship of Arizona's Resources

AGF supports state and federal fiscal policy that provides levels of resources for education, quality of life, human needs and public infrastructure that are necessary for Arizona's and the nation's long-term economic growth.

Priority 2: Preserving and Strengthening Arizona's Nonprofit & Philanthropic Community

Tax-Exempt Status - AGF supports the underlying exemption of nonprofit corporations from corporate income and property taxes at federal, state and local levels of government. AGF opposes the elimination of nonprofits' tax-exempt status, as well as the imposition of fees on nonprofit corporations that have the effect of removing existing exemptions.

Charitable Giving – AGF supports continuation and expansion of Arizona’s charitable organization tax credit (formerly called the Working Poor Tax Credit) to encourage significant community support for nonprofits serving the state’s most vulnerable populations. AGF supports tax incentives that encourage charitable giving by individuals, businesses and institutions. We oppose efforts to eliminate or limit such tax incentives that would reduce the level of contributed income for nonprofit organizations.

Nonprofit Indirect Costs – AGF supports state and local agencies’ compliance with the federal Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance on reimbursement of nonprofit grantees’ indirect costs.

Priority 3: Protecting Children’s Safety and Well-Being

AGF supports state policies that will safely reduce the numbers of children in foster care, including investments in prevention and in-home services and other efforts to strengthen families.

Priority 4: Investing in Education

AGF supports adequate and equitable funding for early childhood and K-12 education to ensure that every Arizona child graduates from high school prepared for college and career. AGF supports investments in post-secondary education that ensure a well-prepared workforce to support Arizona’s long-term economic growth.