



## Public Policy Principles

Tennessee Nonprofit Network (TNN) works to build the momentum of the nonprofit sector in Tennessee to create equitable, measurable, lasting change. TNN is the premier resource for leadership, education, research, and action on behalf of the nonprofit sector. As the nonprofit membership association, TNN works on behalf of nonprofits to educate public officials about the value and needs of nonprofit organizations and to advocate for public policies that **promote**, **protect** and **advocate** for the sector as a whole.

TNN will develop a public policy agenda guided by our public policy principles and through the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion on behalf of the sector and our community. We will actively work to include all voices with an emphasis on individual and communities historically underrepresented or excluded.

### **Promote efforts to ensure nonprofits can fulfill their missions:**

Nonprofits are a critical component of the economy, providing valuable services and enhancing civic life. However, far too often, neither elected officials, their staff or the public understand the impact nonprofit organization to their community's economy and vibrancy. Additionally, nonprofits are not generally able to compete with for-profit corporations in terms of the benefits or wages offered and are not always able to attract and retain much needed talent. Tennessee Nonprofit Network supports policies that will enable the government to collaborate more closely with the nonprofit community, as it does with the business sector, to pursue innovative initiatives and funding intended to strengthen and sustain the sector.

### **Promote efforts to secure adequate public resources and achieve equitable fiscal policies and practices for vital programs and services that sustain and enhance our communities:**

Government delegates responsibility for vital programs and services that serve its citizenry to nonprofits through grants and contracts. It is imperative that funding and compensation for the delivery of these programs and services be fair, timely and cover the full cost of the services funded. Tennessee Nonprofit Network supports efforts that seek to reform the funding relationship between government and nonprofit service providers, including through the development of best practices.

### **Protect and expand policies that encourage charitable giving:**

Tennessee Nonprofit Network supports policies that encourage charitable contributions and volunteer service. Tax policies that broaden incentives for all donors to give, and to give to charities of their choice, are also an important means of encouraging long term support for the sector.

**Advocate for accountability in the governance and in the transparent management of government, foundations, and other nonprofits:**

Tennessee Nonprofit Network supports public policies that promote the effective management of charitable resources and nonprofit organizations. Transparency, governance, ethical conduct, responsible philanthropy and corporate giving, and reasonable access to information are underlying values that are integral to achieving this principle. Laws and regulations should not impose overly burdensome obligations or costs that will require nonprofits to invest additional time and money for compliance and take away their ability to provide much needed resources.