

Kentucky Nonprofit Network Public Policy Program

KNN Advocacy Council

Goals of KNN Public Policy Program:

1. To create a voice for Kentucky's nonprofit sector on public policy issues.
2. To educate nonprofits across Kentucky on: the public policy issues affecting the entire sector; their rights and responsibilities as advocates; and the skills needed to effectively engage in advocacy.
3. To educate legislators and government officials on the public policy issues affecting the nonprofit sector, including the economic and social impact of the sector, and to engage with government on policy solutions in Kentucky communities.
4. To build a representative body of nonprofit organizations to represent and engage diverse points of view on issues impacting the sector as a whole.
5. To engage Kentucky nonprofits, especially KNN members, in significant national policy issues through participation with the federal activities of the National Council of Nonprofits and other partners.

Goal of the KNN Advocacy Council:

Provide information and support to KNN and its members so that Kentucky's nonprofit community can effectively respond with a collective voice to broad public policy issues that affect the entire nonprofit sector and to sub-sector issues that could have far-reaching implications for all Kentucky nonprofits.

KNN Advocacy Council Structure:

Advocacy Council membership is open to nonprofit professionals or volunteers interested in creating a collective voice for Kentucky's nonprofit community.

KNN Advocacy Council Functions:

1. Inform KNN and its members of the important public policy issues and positions affecting Kentucky's nonprofit organizations.
 - Serve as a source of information for KNN and its members, and more specifically to advise the KNN Board of Directors' Public Policy Committee in developing KNN's annual public policy agenda, goals and objectives.
2. Assist KNN in educating and encouraging nonprofits to actively participate in supporting the annual public policy agenda.
 - Work to bring nonprofit leaders together from across Kentucky to advocate for their unique causes and the nonprofit sector as a whole.
 - Encourage nonprofit leaders to develop the skills and educate themselves and their peers on their legal rights and responsibilities as advocates.
3. Assist KNN in educating legislators, media and the public about Kentucky's nonprofit sector, the role it plays in the state's economy, and its unique expertise in partnering to solve community problems.
 - Lobby and advocate for Kentucky's nonprofit sector.
 - Attend KY Nonprofit Day at the Capitol.
 - Engage organization board and staff to actively communicate with legislators, public officials, the media and the public on issues of importance to Kentucky's nonprofit sector.
4. Connect formally and informally with other nonprofits for information sharing, support, guidance and coalition building around sub-sector issues.

Specific Responsibilities of the Council Members:

1. The Council will meet at least quarterly via conference call and/or webinar. During these virtual meetings, issues identified by Council members, KNN staff or members or legislators/government officials will be discussed.
2. Council members will submit their recommendation for KNN's public policy agenda each legislative session to the KNN Public Policy Committee. The Public Policy Committee will utilize these recommendations for development of a public policy agenda, to be formally approved by the KNN Board of Directors.
3. Council members will actively support the goal of creating a collective voice for the sector, including advocating on behalf of KNN's annual public policy agenda to support, benefit and protect the sector.
4. Members will make an annual good faith commitment to:
 - Serve as a resource for information to KNN and its members on broad public policy issues of interest to the entire sector and sub-sector issues that could have future implications for the sector as a whole.
 - Commit to remaining educated on public policy issues impacting the sector and the skills needed to effectively advocate and lobby.
 - Actively advocate on behalf of the KNN public policy agenda, encouraging the organization's board members and other nonprofits to do so.
 - Participate in advocacy efforts such as virtual meetings and KNN's Day at the Capitol.