



Public Policy Update

2009 Policy Agenda

Keeping in mind the Delaware Association of Nonprofit Agencies (DANA) is committed to any actions that will strengthen the nonprofit sector or the overall constituents we serve, the public policy committee proposes this agenda to be adopted by the board and shared with all nonprofits in Delaware:

1. DANA recognizes that the nonprofit sector is dependent on its tax-exempt status to be as effective as possible. We will promote the importance, versatility, strength, and effectiveness of the nonprofit sector to ensure decision-makers at all levels recognize its value.
2. DANA will promote the funding of vital programs and services within our state. With changes in the economy, and recent DEFAC reports, we now face many more reductions that threaten the health, safety, education and well-being of children, seniors, vulnerable adults, and our communities. We will work to bring together nonprofits and stakeholders to ensure everyone is involved in the discussions that will affect the quality-of-life of our citizens.

DANA will study the issues of funding transparency. We will encourage the new administration, in this era of accountability, to disclose reductions or inadequacies of funding or services caused by financial constraint throughout the entire budget process. We will also request that funding reductions to vital services be accompanied by an explanation.

DANA will specifically request that the decision making process in programs like these be made more transparent:

- Grant-in-aid
- Block grants
- Health fund

3. DANA will work with other interested parties, through the Forward Together program, to study procurement issues in our state. We will examine service delivery options, contracting processes, and all other issues that affect how our nonprofits contract with the state to serve the citizens. We will include stakeholders from all levels, and share recommendations with the nonprofit community and policymakers.

Other areas of concern for DANA:

- Health insurance reform, including state pools and regulation
- Education of nonprofits and state officials about fairness of corporate fees and structuring
- Promotion of volunteerism, including changing IRS regulations to more fairly give volunteers tax deductions for mileage

For more information, contact the Delaware Association of Nonprofit Agencies at 302-777-5500 or DANA@delawarenonprofit.org.