

DANA Public Policy Priorities 2026

- **Nonprofit Ombudsperson:** Nonprofits face unique challenges when working with the state government, often due to complex and fragmented connections. To address this, DANA is advocating for a centralized group within State Government. This group, led by a dedicated ombudsperson and support staff, would serve as a single point of contact to navigate the needs of nonprofits partnering with the state.
- **Statewide Contract Process Reform:** Inconsistent and outdated contract processes across state agencies make it challenging for contracted service providers (both nonprofit and for-profit) to navigate. DANA advocates standardized and modernized procedures to address these issues and simplify the process for all vendors, to include:
 - Statewide indirect cost rate that matches the federal rate.
 - Standard negotiation checklist available to both State agencies and current and prospective vendors
 - Standard cost escalator language included in all multi-year contracts.
 - A statewide project to modernize the State's financial systems to streamline and minimize bureaucratic delays such as
 - Automatic payment schedules with delinquent payment penalty built in
 - Electronic contract execution
 - Simplified application and reporting processes
- **Advance State Contract Data Transparency**
 - Advocate for legislation requiring disclosure of contract award amounts, linking contract IDs to expenditure records, and standardizing reporting across agencies to ensure equitable funding, improve oversight, and build public trust in the use of taxpayer dollars.
- **Delaware Nonprofit Nonpartisanship Protection**
 - Advance legislation to establish a state-level Johnson Amendment, protecting nonprofit organizations from political coercion and preserving their nonpartisan integrity.
- **Equitable Investment for Nonprofit Workforce:** Unlike for-profits, nonprofit employers lack equal access to state support, despite reinvesting all benefits back into the community. DANA advocates for enhanced state investment to address this disparity and strengthen nonprofit operations.
- **Public Funding for Delaware Complete Count Coordination:** Delaware needs sustained public investment to ensure a coordinated and effective Complete Count for Census 2030 as well as the establishment of the Delaware Complete Count Commission, including:
 - Support for partnerships with community-based organizations to reach historically under-counted populations and ensure every Delaware resident is counted.
 - Development of a centralized outreach and communications strategy to align efforts across state agencies, nonprofits, and local governments.
 - These investments will ensure Delaware receives its fair share of federal funding and representation for the decade ahead, strengthening communities statewide.
- **Grant-In-Aid Reform:** make the Grant-In-Aid process more transparent, accountable, and the funding more responsive and reliable.
- **Increased Nonprofit Representation on State Boards and Commissions**
 - Advocate for greater nonprofit representation on state boards and commissions to ensure nonprofit voices are included in policymaking.