

The Massachusetts Council of Nonprofits is dedicated to uniting and strengthening the entire nonprofit sector in the Commonwealth. Our priorities are consistent with our mission and reflect our values through the promotion of public policy that supports nonprofit operations, employees, volunteers, and constituents.

The nonprofit sector comprises more than 17% of the private workforce in Massachusetts and greatly contributes not only to the wellbeing of our communities, our civil society, and to our economy. MCN is committed to elevating the voice of the sector in conversations with government officials, both elected and appointed, who are policy decision-makers. Through our advocacy work, MCN strives to educate and promote the importance of the nonprofit sector for not only our local communities, but the entire Commonwealth.

While MCN primarily advocates on the state level, we also engage on the local level when appropriate, and increasingly the federal level as well. MCN focuses on the issue areas outlined below.

Protecting Nonprofit Status and Budgets

2026 continues to be a perilous time for nonprofits as proposed policies target the sector and the people it serves. MCN opposes policies on the local, state, and federal levels that threaten the ability of nonprofits to continue to operate and provide necessary services by way of funding cuts or policy changes that impact giving.

Additionally, although nonprofits are legally tax-exempt organizations, proposals to require payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) and bills that would levy taxes on nonprofits are proposed each legislative session. MCN advocates for the legal recognition of the benefits nonprofits provide and the corollary tax-exempt status afforded. Nonprofit organizations must continue to be fully tax-exempt in order to maximize operations and fully realize their missions.

MCN will also advocate on the federal level to oppose any tax or administrative changes that would negatively impact nonprofits or their employees, and will advocate for the adoption of employment-related tax credits for nonprofits that are offered to for-profit businesses.

Encouraging Sector Engagement and Donations

MCN is focused on promoting policies that will encourage not only monetary donations to bolster budgets but individuals' engagement with the sector to help increase capacity for organizations. MCN opposes any policy that would negatively impact giving in the Commonwealth and supports those that encourage donations of time and resources.

MCN supports maintaining the universal charitable deduction as it currently exists in Massachusetts, and expanding the federal deduction, beyond its current limits, which incentivizes donations. Allowing taxpayers to claim a deduction for charitable contributions without a floor or cap brings increased donations and larger budgets to nonprofits. MCN also supports increasing the federal mileage reimbursement rate for volunteers, among other policies that encourage public volunteerism.

Reduce Operational Costs and Burdens and Strengthen Grants

MCN will continue to work to identify barriers to nonprofit operations and advocate for changes that enable nonprofits to work and thrive more efficiently. As state law requires regular filings and review of nonprofit financials and other documents, MCN will work to ensure the mandates are feasible and not overly burdensome in terms of cost, time, or otherwise.

As employee benefit and insurance costs rise, MCN will work creatively to consider solutions that will help lower such costs. Further, MCN supports nonprofit reimbursement rates that are competitive with government services, promotes the expanded use of unrestricted operating grants, and advocates fully funding grants and contracts.

Policies That Strengthen and Care for the Nonprofit Workforce

MCN is aware of the difficulties that nonprofits face to attract and retain workers. Additionally, MCN knows that nationally, the nonprofit workforce is struggling financially. Long-lasting effects from the pandemic and the current stress resulting from the chaotic changes of this federal administration contribute to burnout and mental health struggles for the workforce. MCN will focus on identifying and advocating for solutions that not only help to lower the cost of living for people in Massachusetts, but also seek to increase pay and other benefits for the nonprofit workforce. MCN will continue to engage in areas such as housing, transportation, childcare, healthcare, and mental health support.

Connect with MCN

As the Massachusetts legislative session continues, and changes occur in the federal administration and Congress, MCN is committed to staying up to date on pending legislation, regulations, and rules. MCN will advocate tirelessly on behalf of the Commonwealth's nonprofits. Please be in touch with Jess Seney, our Senior Policy Advisor, with any thoughts or questions. Her email is jseney@macouncilofnonprofits.org.

The Massachusetts Council of Nonprofits (MCN) is the voice of the nonprofit sector; a statewide organization that brings together all parts of the nonprofit ecosystem — from nonprofits to funders, community and business leaders, and elected officials — to help nonprofits grow and raise the sector's voice on critical issues. MCN has over 700 nonprofit and affiliate members from all regions of the Commonwealth.