



Cause Collective Advocacy Policy and Procedure

Cause Collective seeks to build the capacity of the nonprofit sector in Lincoln and Lancaster County by monitoring and taking action on public policy issues which affect the sector as a whole.

Cause Collective's advocacy work:

- Creates a voice for nonprofits on public policy issues
- Educates nonprofits about their rights and responsibilities as advocates and the skills needed to engage effectively in advocacy
- Communicates with legislators regarding the public policy issues which affect the nonprofit sector

Advocacy Criteria

Cause Collective primarily takes positions on issues that have city/countywide impact, are broad-based in nature, and affect Lincoln/Lancaster County's nonprofit community at large. We evaluate how legislation impacts its mission and whether or not issues are substantially damaging to one constituent group over another. Positions will be categorized within two types:

ANNUAL: Our annual position agenda will be developed by the Advocacy Committee and subsequently submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. These will typically be, but not limited to, issues at the state level coinciding with the Nebraska Legislative session. Once the annual position agenda has been approved Cause Collective may take action to advocate or lobby on any agenda related legislation without further voting process; the Advocacy Committee and Board of Directors will be informed of all lobbying activities as they occur.

SPECIAL REQUEST: These positions are ones brought to the committee from within the membership or an outside request – such as a request to sign a letter of support/against. For special requests, the Advocacy Committee, and subsequently the Board of Directors, will either hold a meeting to discuss and vote on the request or will follow an email voting procedure of having a confirmed quorum available to vote, and majority position on what action to take if approved.

In either case, the Advocacy Committee will use the criteria below to decide if action will be taken on an issue and whether the action is in support of, against, or to monitor the issue.

Criteria for determining Cause Collective positions:

1. Does acting on this issue expand public awareness of issues that affect nonprofit organizations?
2. Does this issue affect the interests of the nonprofit community at large in a significant way?
3. Do we anticipate there will be general support and non-controversial among its members on the position to be taken?
4. Are we perceived as an appropriate advocate for the position to be taken?



Advocacy Procedures

1. Cause Collective takes action and implements appropriate organizational positions on legislative or other public policy issues which:
 - a. Have city or county wide application
 - b. Have local or limited application but are determined to have local policy significance
 - c. Have general relevance to the creation, management, operation, administration, and well-being of nonprofit organizations in Lincoln/Lancaster County
 - d. Are of broad, community-wide importance and are likely to have such a significant impact on the people and causes nonprofits serve that it is appropriate for the voice of the nonprofit sector to be represented

2. In cases in which no reasonable consensus lies among the Advocacy Committee or the Board on a significant issue affecting nonprofits, and decides not to take a position on the particular issue, Cause Collective may still play a role in monitoring and providing information or updates to both its members and legislators on the various opinions within the sector.

3. Cause Collective supports its member organizations in their advocacy activities on particular sub-sector issues by providing technical assistance and consultation; training in generic voter engagement; lobbying and advocacy skills; training in lobbying laws and regulations; opportunities for nonprofit organizations to discuss and strategize around issues of significance; and opportunities for nonprofit organizations to discuss issues with their legislators.

4. Cause Collective public policy positions will remain consistent with our mission and with policies adopted by the board of directors.

5. When Cause Collective has indicated that it will either support, oppose or remain neutral in relation to a particular issue, it does not preclude any Cause Collective member from promoting their stance as it relates to the member's specific agency. However, should the member's view be in opposition to that taken by Cause Collective, the agency is prohibited from associating Cause Collective to their respective position on the subject.