

Forefront PUBLIC POLICY + ADVOCACY

Forefront is an Illinois statewide association serving operating nonprofit organizations, grantmakers, advisors, and allies. Our mission is to build a united and thriving social impact sector that has a transformative impact on the wellbeing and economic security of communities, and promotes equity across the state of Illinois. We provide education, advocacy, thought leadership, and facilitate collective action across issues that are important to our members and the sector.

ILLINOIS + SOCIAL IMPACT SECTOR



11.4 %

The percentage of private employment in Illinois covered by nonprofits.



\$133 billion

The amount of revenue generated by nonprofits in Illinois.



6,281

Number of foundations + grantmakers in Illinois.



50,780

Number of nonprofits in Illinois.

Giving USA: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2021 (2022). Chicago: Giving USA Foundation.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2018, August 31). Nonprofits account for 12.3 million jobs, 10.2 percent of private sector employment, in 2016. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved February 2, 2023, from <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2018/nonprofits-account-for-12-3-million-jobs-10-2-percent-of-private-sector-employment-in-2016.htm>

Candid Disclaimer: The data has been retrieved from Candid and is subject to revision. For more information on giving to and by foundations, see <https://candid.org/use-our-data/about-our-data>

OUR ADVOCACY

In support of our almost 1,000 statewide members, Forefront's Policy and Government Affairs team works year-round at the federal, state, and local levels to advocate for policies that will support and advance the work of nonprofits, foundations, and other social impact organizations. Our policy agenda, guided by our expert and diverse statewide policy committee, provide a framework for how we determine if various legislation and regulations are favorable to the Illinois social impact sector.

OUR POSITIONS

- We are deeply committed to advancing racial justice and equity.
- We defend democratic participation and civic engagement.
- We promote innovative public-private partnerships.
- We defend and support our sector's workforce.
- We work to improve economic security for sector employers and Illinois residents.
- We support equitable tax policy for charitable organizations, communities, families, and individuals.
- We build trust among our sector, government officials, and the general public.

NATIONAL NETWORK



**2023 FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA** PRIORITY LEGISLATION**CHARITABLE ACT** H.R. 3435 / S. 566

After the successful Universal Charitable Deduction (UCD) in 2020 and 2021, the need is clear for continuation of universal incentives to promote charitable giving. After the expiration of the UCD, giving dropped 10.5% in 2022. Those in need receive \$2.50 in benefit for each \$1 in tax benefit from the charitable deduction, but only 12% of taxpayers have access to the current deduction. This is fundamentally unfair, and making the charitable deduction universal caused clear increases in giving at the exact amount the deduction was set at. This would be an important step to shore up resources for nonprofits doing essential work in communities around the country.

NONPROFIT SEAT ACT H.R. 3245

The social impact sector employs 11% of the Illinois workforce and 10% of the workforce nationally, and partners with governments at all levels to provide essential services and promote the public good. Yet, there is no one in the federal government charged with ensuring the challenges and concerns of our sector are heard or addressed. The Nonprofit Stakeholders Engaging and Advancing Together (SEAT) Act would establish a new White House Office on Nonprofit Sector Partnership, among other provisions, to achieve this goal.

POST-GRADUATION SCHOLARSHIPS H.R. 3582 / S. 1757

Post-graduation scholarship grant programs can stimulate regional economic growth, strengthen a community's workforce, and help address the growing student debt crisis. Federal law should treat post-graduation scholarships like traditional scholarships, a charitable activity. These programs are growing in popularity in the philanthropic world, and this bill, which removes the tax burden for recipients, is targeted to communities most in need of more skilled workers.

VOLUNTEER DRIVER TAX APPRECIATION ACT H.R. 3032 / S. 3020

Currently, volunteers who support nonprofits are restricted to deducting only 14 cents per mile, and have to pay income taxes on any reimbursements for mileage at the standard business rate (65.5 cents per mile). Aligning the volunteer and standard business mileage rates would provide an important incentive for volunteer drivers to return to assisting members of their community. Nonprofits rely on volunteers for important services, and promoting volunteerism by standardizing the mileage rate is important to reverse declining volunteer rates.

STREAMLINING FEDERAL GRANTS ACT S. 2286 / H.R. 5934

Nonprofits have significant interest in working with the federal government on a variety of shared priorities, and often are important recipients of federal grants. However, the federal grant process is in need of reform, and this bill would take steps to do that, improving the effectiveness and performance of federal grants and cooperative agreements. It seeks to help grantees overcome bureaucratic obstructions, provides for clarified and simplified NOFOs, facilitates greater coordination among federal agencies delivering public services, and elevates the importance of training and assistance for prospective grantees to access federal programs.