



Since our inception, nonprofits have served as the bridge between government and community – a role that has ultimately defined America.

As a reliable and trusted source of information, you are uniquely qualified to inform the communities and nonprofits within your network about the importance of fair and equitable representation in federal policymaking.

The Issue

State of Play: Amid the global pandemic, nonprofits of all sizes and missions helped America face a generational crisis. They undertook this challenge despite steep declines in income, disrupted operations, and skyrocketing demand for help. Though Congress and the White House worked to pass legislation to help employers and local communities, it consistently misunderstood how best to support nonprofits.

It is time for a better system that prioritizes the needs and expertise of nonprofits and their communities, rather than treating our sector as an afterthought. The [Seat at the Table](#) initiative, which champions legislation and an [Executive Order on Strengthening the Nonprofit Sector and its Partnership with the Federal Government](#), acknowledges the profound impact of nonprofits and creates mechanisms for the sector to help shape and improve federal policy while also expanding opportunities for the government to work more effectively with the sector to achieve shared goals.

The [Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act](#) will serve as a companion measure to ensure the implementation of this newly developed apparatus exceeds the tenure of the current Administration. Add your organization to a [letter of support](#) for the legislation that will be shared with Congress to ensure that nonprofit expertise is permanently at the table.

What Can I Do To Help?

This toolkit is designed to support your advocacy and mobilization efforts to broaden stakeholder support for the Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act of 2022.

Curated content and resources included are as follows:

- Talking points and context to support the enclosed policy solutions and sign-on letter
- An email template with sample language to support outreach efforts to advocates and stakeholders
- A bill summary and draft text of the legislation
- Social media graphics and sample text to support digital advocacy and engagement

Outreach Letter & Email Template

Increase Support for “Seat at the Table” Legislation

Take Action Today

A well-constructed education and outreach campaign is the most effective method to amplify the sector’s collective mission to advance real change.

- Please add your organization to a [letter of support](#) for the legislation that will be shared with Congress to ensure that nonprofit expertise is at the table.
- Use the following email template to encourage your network to pledge their support for the [letter of support](#).

Call-to-Action Email to Advocates

Subject Line: Nonprofits Must Act Swiftly to Secure a Seat the Federal Table — Take Action Today!

Dear {Name},

Amid the global pandemic, nonprofits of all sizes and missions helped America face a generational crisis. Nonprofit organizations undertook this challenge despite steep declines in income, disrupted operations, and skyrocketing demand for help. Yet, despite the size and impact of the nonprofit sector, we're often left out of the conversation or consulted insufficiently when it comes to federal policy and decision-making.

Trust is the necessary precondition for making change possible, and our organizations have the expertise, the reach, and the trusted status needed to drive systemic, sustainable change.

The [Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act](#) is our best defense to ensure that nonprofit expertise is at the table. When nonprofits are afforded a formal seat at the table for policymaking conversations, their invaluable insight on the underlying issues communities face translates into transformative policies with lasting impact. Furthermore, with the Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act in place, the important work nonprofits do can scale and become more sustainable. The provisions in the legislation can provide critical data to understand our sector, reduce the amount of time you spend filing federal paperwork, and streamline the grantmaking process so you can focus on more meaningful work.

Supporting the [Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act](#) is a concrete action that nonprofits can take to make our sector more robust and better equipped to build vibrant, more equitable communities. Please review the [letter of support](#) and complete the form to add your organization today. Your support will guarantee that decisions are made with an understanding of the charitable sector's capacity to realize federal policy priorities in a way that maximizes the benefit to communities.

Sincerely,

(Organization)

Talking Points & Context

Nonprofits are a Critical Sector in our Society – A Seat at the Federal Table is Necessary to Ensure Equitable Outcomes for Nonprofits and Communities Alike

Use the following talking points and context to engage nonprofit stakeholders, constituents, and advocates:

Support the Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act of 2022

The [Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act of 2022](#) will correct longstanding inequities by establishing structures and policies to leverage the knowledge, trusted status, and reach of nonprofits to craft and implement better solutions for all.

The legislation will:

Guarantee a Seat at the Federal Table:

- The bill outlines a formal partnership between federal policymakers and nonprofit organizations to ensure the needs of nonprofits and their communities are considered at the beginning of policy development and implementation.
- For example, the Paycheck Protection Program saved millions of nonprofit jobs. Unfortunately, it was not designed with nonprofits in mind and many smaller organizations were left behind as they struggled to navigate the program and get help.
- Entities established by the bill:
 - White House Office – Led by an Assistant to the President with deep expertise in nonprofits, it ensures policies are designed with an understanding of the sector’s capacity to realize critical priorities in a way that maximizes the benefit to communities.
 - Interagency Council - Streamlines coordination across offices and departments in the Administration.
 - Federal Advisory Board – Community-based and national nonprofit and philanthropic leaders that will consult with policymakers. Appointed by the President and Congress.

Recover and Grow Nonprofit Jobs:

- After losing 1.6 million nonprofit jobs in 2020, policymakers need real-time, accurate information on what is happening in the nonprofit workforce, so they can develop better policies to protect and grow sector jobs.
- This bill will enable the government to report quarterly jobs and economic data for the sector, just as they do for other industries, so nonprofits will have data to better educate policymakers and support the organizations and employees in greatest need.

Increase Access to National Service:

- In addition to a traditional paid workforce, many nonprofits expand their capacity by partnering with national service programs, like AmeriCorps.
- Unfortunately, some nonprofits and prospective volunteers experience challenges accessing the current program. This bill calls for reforms to improve access to the program for small organizations and organizations representing underserved communities.

Lower Cost of Fundraising Across States:

- In 2020, as traditional, place-based fundraising opportunities declined, nonprofits needed to quickly adapt, some needing to raise funds outside their geographic area for the first time. Unfortunately, to do so, they needed to register in each new state separately.
- This bill supports an innovation to create a single online portal for nonprofits to register as fundraisers across multiple states, potentially saving individual nonprofits thousands of dollars in administrative costs.

Reduce Burden of Federal Funding and Regulations:

- Government funding is one of the larger sources of revenue for many nonprofits, but it often is accompanied by complex administrative requirements and regulations.
- This bill calls for a commission on federal grant reform – with strong representation from the nonprofit sector – to simplify and streamline formal partnerships with nonprofits and ultimately, enable nonprofits to put more resources toward their mission.

Protect Nonprofit Voice in Election Years:

- Every election year, policymakers propose or enact new laws and executive orders that impact nonprofits and the communities we serve. Many nonprofits report in past elections that they did not educate policymakers about how policies positively or negatively impact their missions, because they were not sure what they were legally permitted to do.
- This bill directs the Treasury Department to make recommendations that would clarify what nonprofits across the tax code are permitted to do during an election year, so nonprofit leaders' voices can be heard the next time a policy impacts their organizations' work.

Participate in Collective Nonprofit Advocacy, Needed Now More Than Ever

Despite its scale and unique understanding of community needs, the nonprofit sector is often "on the outside looking in" when federal-level policies are decided. We are on the frontlines making our communities vibrant and more equitable, but our voice is not always heard by policymakers.

The value of nonprofits and the need for a Seat at the Table:

- The greater role nonprofits play in people's lives, the more trusted they become – and this trust is the necessary precondition for making sustainable change possible. This is an invaluable asset we bring to government partners.
- Nonprofit organizations are the third largest employer of the private workforce, employing more than 12 million people in the US and representing 5.9% of overall GDP. Yet, unlike the small business sector, we have no permanent voice in federal government.
- A recent [poll](#) determined that nearly three quarters of voters (72%) believe the federal government could better solve challenges facing local communities if charities and nonprofits were officially represented within it. More efficient collaboration with the federal government means nonprofits nationwide can spend less time explaining to lawmakers the importance and uniqueness of the sector and more time fulfilling their missions.
- Support for the Seat at the Table initiative will directly lead to inclusive policy development, formulation, and implementation, resulting in stronger, more

equitable communities that foster increased opportunity for nonprofit constituents nationwide.

- Nonprofits have the expertise, the reach, and the trusted status needed to drive long-term, systemic change. No sector is closer to the realities or people on the ground or has as deep an understanding of the problems communities face.
- Nonprofits need infrastructure and resources they can plan on year after year. Leaders from across the sector can have these critical discussions and seed lasting change at the highest levels of government so that the important work of nonprofits can scale and become more sustainable.

Social Media Graphics & Sample Messaging

Use the following messages and graphics to engage in digital advocacy across your organizational platforms:

Social media toolkit items are forthcoming.