



ICoF Public Policy Agenda 2022

The Iowa Council of Foundations advocates for policies and regulations that strengthen and grow philanthropy in Iowa. Our work is guided by our Public Policy Process and Decision Framework and the leadership of the ICoF staff, Public Policy Committee and Board of Directors. The following are specific areas of public policy we are currently monitoring and/or engaging on at the state and federal levels.

Key State of Iowa Policy Positions

County Endowment Fund Program Policy Statement:

The ICoF supports public policy that protects, preserves, enhances, grows, and strengthens the County Endowment Fund Program. We work in partnership with the Community Foundations CEO Network and their lobbyist to advance public policy efforts pertaining to the CEF in Iowa.

Endow Iowa Tax Credit Policy Statement:

The ICoF supports public policy that protects, preserves, enhances, grows, and strengthens the Endow Iowa Tax Credit program. We work in partnership with the Community Foundations CEO Network and their lobbyist to advance public policy efforts pertaining to Endow Iowa.

Nonprofit Pandemic Recovery Policy Statement:

The ICoF supports public policy that supports nonprofit relief, recovery and sustainability during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. We will use our voice, in partnership with key partners such as United Ways of Iowa, to lift up nonprofit needs and identify funding and policy opportunities to support the sector.

Key Federal Policy Positions

Charitable Deduction Policy Statement:

The ICoF supports public policy that encourages charitable giving. The ICoF supports making the charitable deduction available to all taxpayers (e.g., universal charitable deduction or credit).

Charitable IRA Rollover Statement:

The ICoF supports public policies that expand and enhance the charitable IRA rollover by dropping the age threshold and allowing gifts to donor advised funds.

Donor Advised Funds Policy Statement:

Proposed: The ICoF promotes the continued availability of donor advised funds as an effective charitable giving vehicle. We support fund inactivity policies and operating principles that promote transparency and public trust while protecting donor privacy, including the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. We oppose policies or regulations that are not data informed; that create unnecessary and overly burdensome requirements for sponsoring organizations; that negatively impact charitable giving; and/or that do not consider community impact.

Donor Protections Policy Statement:

The ICoF supports public policies that protect donor privacy and donor intent.

Endowments Policy Statement:

The ICoF supports public policies that protect and promote charitable endowments. We oppose legislation that would impose new regulations on existing endowment funds, including endowed donor advised funds.

Federal Philanthropic Regulations Policy Statement:

The ICoF supports a strong philanthropic sector and opposes regulations and legislation that are overly burdensome or would harm the sector's ability to thrive or serve nonprofits effectively.

Johnson Amendment Policy Statement:

The ICoF supports enforcing current law (the "Johnson Amendment") that prohibits 501(c)(3) charitable organizations from engaging in partisan campaign activities and endorsing, opposing, or contributing to political campaigns. The ICoF opposes any proposals that would weaken or repeal this protection.

Private Foundation Distribution Requirements:

The ICoF supports a data informed payout level for private foundation distributions to ensure available funds for distribution in perpetuity. We oppose any new requirement of a timeframe and mandatory payout for private foundations. We support that a private foundation's governing body continue to make decisions about sunseting or spending down during a specific timeframe.

SALT Cap Regulations:

The ICoF supports public policies that remove the SALT Cap regulations, or that would lessen the burden of these regulations on Endow Iowa donors.