

Maryland Nonprofits

2009 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

The Public Policy Committee has reviewed the results of our member survey on policy issues, and submitted the following recommendations which have been adopted by the Board of Directors as the Association's policy priorities for the coming year.

1. **FUNDING VITAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES** -- Even with revenue increases adopted in the last year, Maryland has been reducing support for important public services, and has failed to address critical unmet needs of people and communities. In the wealthiest state in the U.S. we continue to invest less of our resources in state and local services than most states. We now face many more reductions that threaten the health, safety, education and well-being of children, seniors, vulnerable adults, and our communities. The priority of our government should be the welfare of our people. The Governor and Legislature should find real efficiencies in operations, or the additional resources necessary to avoid budget cuts that aggravate our existing, unacceptable situation.
2. **ACCESS TO ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL MARYLANDERS** -- The increasing number of uninsured Marylanders, the lack of access to adequate health care for many of the people served by all sectors of the nonprofit community, and the increasing burden on nonprofit employers trying to provide adequate insurance for our employees, requires that our Association call on state policy-makers to act to extend access to adequate care to all Marylanders. We will work with other advocates to identify specific proposals consistent with this objective that are in the best interests of, and can be supported by a substantial majority of our members.
3. **BUDGET TRANSPARENCY** -- Maryland Nonprofits will continue to lead an effort to achieve greater transparency in Maryland's budget process. Reductions or inadequacies of funding or services caused by financial constraints should be fully disclosed to the nonprofit community and the public. Legislation similar to House Bill 109 and Senate Bill 692 of 2008 in effect should be introduced in 2009.

We will continue to pursue reform of state procurement practices through the work of the Task Force to Study State Procurement of Health and Social Services, and to liberalize unnecessarily burdensome and costly audit requirements for nonprofits in funding and regulatory programs.

We will also continue to review and comment on other legislative issues based on our past positions and Principles for Public Policy Action.

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Maryland Nonprofits' Principles for Public Policy Action

Recognize And Support The Need For Adequate Public Investment In Community Programs And Services

Strengthen The Role And Participation Of The People In The Direction Of Their Government

Broaden The Involvement And Increase The Effectiveness Of Nonprofit Organizations As Advocates For The People And Communities They Serve

Promote And Strengthen The Nonprofit Sector's Relationship With Government

Increase Philanthropy And Volunteerism In Maryland

These are discussed on our web site at

http://www.marylandnonprofits.org/html/policy/02_01.asp

To get involved with our public policy efforts please contact Henry Bogdan, Director of Public Policy, at hbogdan@mdnonprofit.org or 410-727-6367