A Public Policy Screening and Analysis Tool

This Public Policy Screening and Analysis Tool can be used by charitable nonprofits to help determine how, when and why they engage in advocacy and lobbying activities. This list is not meant to be exhaustive and may be used in conjunction with other tools, such as an Equity Lens or Public Policy Agenda.

Screening:

Knowledge – Is there sufficient information available to make an informed recommendation?

Timing – Is there sufficient time to address the issue?

Impact – What measured difference could our advocacy make?

Would our involvement help advance equity and inclusion, reducing disparities?

Would our involvement advance our mission and draw on our expertise, positioning, and knowledge? Do we have a unique contribution to add?

Would our involvement add value to the effort, and do we receive value to our organization and constituents through our involvement?

Analysis:

Scope – Who does the issue affect and to what degree?

Does the policy in question affect the issue or populations we serve in a significant way?

Do we have the capacity to be effective advocates on this issue?

Content – What is the form of the issue?

Current or proposed law; request for participation; request to publicly support a position?

Partners – Who else is engaged? Would engagement create conflicts with existing partners?

Collaboration – What opportunities for new partnerships can come from engagement?

Fundraising – How will involvement with the issue affect the organizations ability to raise funds?

Input – From whom do we need input?